

GLCC agrees on hide and skins traceability

Hong Kong
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During its meeting held on March 30 in Hong Kong, the Global Leather Coordinating Committee (GLCC) agreed on a series of policy statements on behalf of the leather industry.

Held during the APLF Leather fair, the meeting was attended by 17 representatives from institutions such as ICHSLTA (the International Council of Hides, Skins and Leather Traders Association), ICT (the International Council of Tanners), and IULTCS (the International Union of Leather Technologists and Chemists Societies). Seeking to promote the industry's responsible and practical approach to issues liable to be raised by customers or in the media, a range of topical issues were discussed during the meeting, and a number of common actions agreed.

Subject to some final editing, the Committee agreed statements on the traceability of hides and skins and on veterinary health certificates, as well as to promote the IULTCS document "IUE 12 - Guidelines for Minimum Environmental Standards", which is to be published shortly and will define a minimum benchmark that all tanneries should be able to achieve. The Committee also agreed to consider establishing a position on Corporate Social Responsibility.

An update on leather labelling issues, where the industry continues to press for clear and accurate regulations and enforcement, was discussed. There were also updates on environmental footprinting; work is continuing on the European modelling of the Product Environmental Footprint for leather and within the FAO facilitated LEAP (Livestock Environmental Assessment and Performance) Partnership.

On the area of chemical management, the delegates agreed to co-operate in discussions with the Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals (ZDHC) initiative, to ensure that guidelines for the leather industry took full account of the specific requirements of leather. It was also agreed to share information on industry based certification schemes.

The next GLCC meeting will be hosted by IULTCS in Shanghai, China, on August 31, 2017, in co-operation with CLIA (China Leather Industry Association).

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