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Leather Pipeline says APLF made a positive impression



Our fortnightly market intelligence report, the Leather Pipeline, has said the immediate impressions of the 2017 APLF exhibition in Hong Kong were positive.

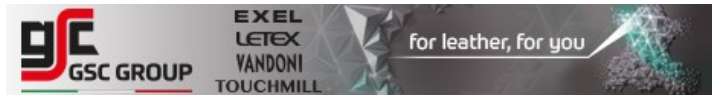
“All in all, the attendance was quite impressive and most exhibitors were satisfied in terms of visitors and activity at their booths,” the report said in its April 4 edition, the first since the event took place at the end of March.

It said automotive is still “the steadiest performer” in the leather industry but that optimism among automotive tanners is higher in some regions than in others.

The report also said that the outlook for demand in the furniture upholstery market is good, although the furniture industry is now moving into a seasonally quieter time.

Footwear struck a more sombre note among APLF exhibitors and visitors, according to Leather Pipeline. It said: “In shoes there is no improvement. Mass shoe production is happy with non-leather articles and there is no reverse trend in sight. The good news is that this has freed up raw material for other sectors. However, lower grades are a problem. In shoes it’s easier to absorb lower-quality selections because of the options available for finishing and cutting them.”

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SAM SETTER COLUMN

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