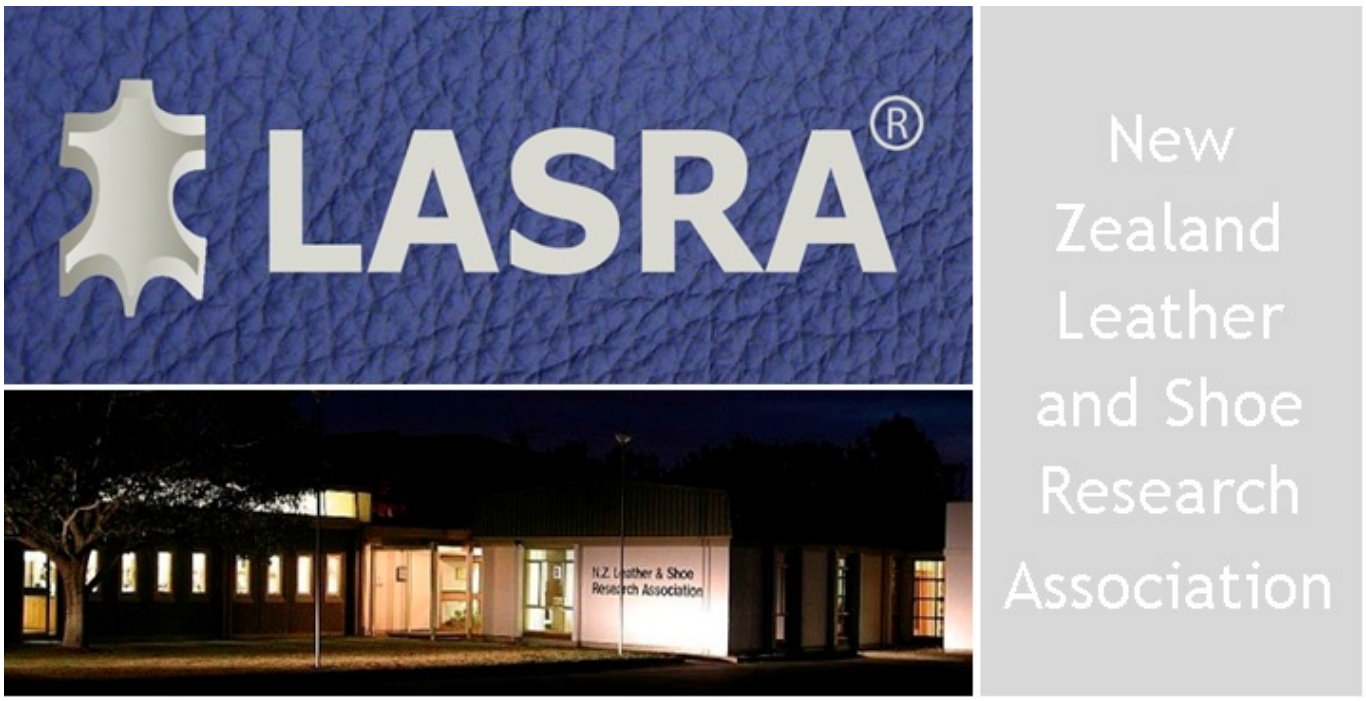
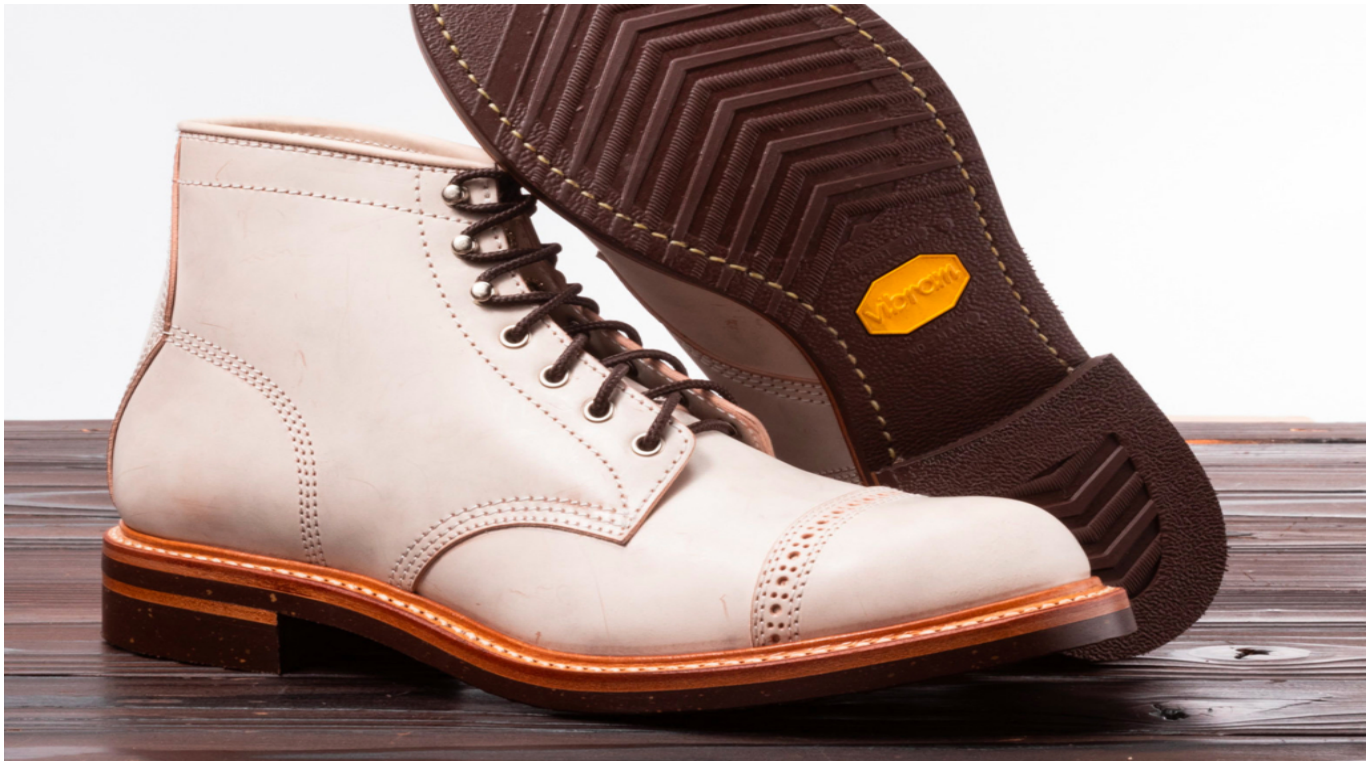


Boots are made with mythical leather



Lauded for creating some of the most coveted boots and shoes anywhere, the brand John Lofgren is releasing a very unique military-style boot, made in collaboration with Oakland-based retailer Standard & Strange.

The Combat Boot is a semi-brogue cap-toe style that stands at six inches. It’s tied tight with a swift combination of nickel eyelets and speed hooks, held together with Goodyear welt construction and grips

with Vibram soles. But the shining star of the show is the upper. Made from a rare ‘White Shadow’ shell cordovan from Japan’s famed Shinki tannery, it’s set apart from other shells thanks to its super thick waxy layer which gives it a soft white colour. Shell cordovan is already rare and is near-impossible to dye white, but this unicorn leather won’t keep its pristine shellac for long. The waxy layer will give way to the undyed shell cordovan beneath, revealing the natural flesh-tones of the hide which will patina further to deep brown tones. Availble now from the Stitchdown website.

From *gearpatrol.com*

Australian bushfires could affect thousands of cattle and sheep

Over two million cattle and eight million sheep could be affected by the ongoing bushfires in Australia. It is estimated that more than eight million sheep and two million cattle could be caught up in the current bushfire crisis across the Australian states of New South Wales (NSW) and Victoria. According to analysts from Australia’s Mecardo, specialised in the cattle, lamb, grain and wool markets, 8.6 million sheep representing 12% of the national flock, and 2.3 million cattle representing 9% of the national herd, are farmed in areas affected by the bushfires, which seem to have no end in sight.

The biggest cattle population within fire-affected regions is said to be located in the NSW Northern Tablelands, which is home to 690,000 head. The NSW Central Tablelands has 445,000 cattle, ahead of southeast NSW (379,000), Victoria’s North East (367,000), the NSW Hunter (362,000), East Gippsland (106,000). Local media have reported how a farmer was obliged to end the suffering of several cattle by shooting the injured animals.

Agriculture Victoria (AV), a commercial interface between the department and private industry, has declared a ‘State of Disaster’ for six local government areas and has encouraged livestock owners affected by the fires to report any livestock injuries. AV staff have so far conducted more than 50 initial assessments at affected properties and will continue to work with landholders to assess injured livestock. “In many cases farmers are still waiting to get access to their properties, but it’s important once they do, they examine livestock quickly and report any injuries to Agriculture Victoria”, said the organisation in a statement, adding that “landholders do not need to wait for Agriculture Victoria staff to visit to euthanise impacted livestock if they are confident they can do so humanely and safely”.

From *WTN BBC*

IULTCS president calls on all to leave egos aside

The new president of the International Union of Leather Technologists and Chemists Societies (IULTCS) has said in a new year message that the organisation must “uplift, motivate and guide” leather manufacturers around the world.

Dr Luis Zugno, technology director of leather chemicals manufacturer Buckman, took up the role of IULTCS president on January 1. He said in his message that IULTCS must use science and facts “to combat the wrong, incomplete and misleading information” about leather and products that use leather.

He said that, now more than ever, all leather industry organisations must work together on this. He commented: “Now is the time to leave egos aside. It is time to break barriers and erase boundaries and act in the best interests of all in the industry.”

From *leatherbiz.com*

CEO launches attack on lies about leather

The chief executive of Paris-based leathergoods brand Longchamp, Jean Cassegrain, has told *Le Figaro* that any brand claiming to offer 'vegan leather' is lying to the public.

In a recent interview, Mr Cassegrain told the newspaper that the term may sound on trend, but is "a lie". He said the material in question is usually vinyl. "There is so much nonsense going around on this subject," he said. He went on to extol the virtues of leather, saying it's a renewable material and pointing out that cattle are never raised for their hides. He added that humanity will never use up nature's capacity to produce the raw material required to make leather, something that we cannot say about materials deriving from fossil fuels. "Tanning has been an example of upcycling for 5,000 years," Mr Cassegrain explained. "We take a waste product and turn it into something noble. There is this image of it as a polluting industry, even though, when there are serious companies in the leather industry, as we have in France, the wastewater that flows into rivers is cleaner than the water being pumped into people's homes."

From *leatherbiz.com*

Transparent marketing can break down prejudices against leather

ILM's Editor, Isabella Griffiths, writes……. I recently had the pleasure of interviewing Nina Conrad, the Head of Supply Chain Management at Leit & Held, a young German leather goods label founded by a trio of women with an interdisciplinary background in design, interior architecture and sustainability.

The brand specialises in classic, timeless bags, laptop sleeves and wallets that build on the longevity and natural beauty of leather, hoping to inspire more conscious consumerism whereby bags are kept for more than just a season and beyond trends and fast-fashion fads. Made from full-substance, vegetable tanned cow leather and with a pure minimalist signature, the brand's key pieces actually remind me of my beloved leather messenger bag I had as a schoolgirl, but that's for another story.

To read the rest of this article click on Transparent marketing can break down prejudices against leather

From *ILM*

Scottish Leather Group teams up with Edinburgh-based water firm Business Strea

Scottish Leather Group has awarded a three-year contract worth £3 million to Edinburgh-based water firm Business Stream. Under the deal, the UK's largest leather manufacturer will receive water and wastewater services, and support with disposing of trade effluent and water efficiency. Business Stream has worked with Bridge of Weir-based Scottish Leather Group since the Scottish water market opened up in 2008.

Dr Warren Bowden, sustainability and innovation director at Scottish Leather Group, said: "It's fantastic to be working with a water retailer that understands and supports our sustainability ambitions. Over the years we have worked hard to reduce our water use to half the European industry average and we will continue to work with Business Stream to identify greater environmental and operational efficiencies."

From *insider.co.uk*

ICT General Secretary to retire

Paul Pearson, who has acted as Secretary to the International Council of Tanners (ICT) since January 1998, has announced his retirement.

Having acted as Secretary to the International Council of Tanners (ICT) since January 1998, Paul Pearson is to retire shortly after the 2020 ICT Council Meeting, which is due to take place in Hong Kong on March 30. The Executive Board of ICT said it has agreed that the Secretariat service would remain with Leather UK and that the nominated General Secretary would be Dr Kerry Senior.

Senior and Pearson are to work together until April 11, when Senior will assume the role of General Secretary. “We thank you for all the hard work you have put in over the years to support our industry and to ensure that we have accurate facts to hand when we have needed them”, said Christine Powley-Williams, addressing Paul Pearson on behalf of the International Union of Leather Technologists and Chemical Societies (IUTCS).

Pearson will remain available for consultation.

Article republished from One4Leather

‘Made In Green’ by OEKO-TEX now includes leather

Switzerland headquartered independent testing and certification system for leather and textiles, OEKO-TEX has updated its existing guidelines as well as the valid test criteria and limit values for certifications and services.

Following a transition period, all new regulations are to come into effect on April 1. Among the most important changes, the Made in Green by OEKO-TEX label, first introduced for textiles in 2015, now includes leather products. In 2019, the STeP certification was expanded to include leather production facilities and OEKO-TEX said it now goes one step further with the integration of leather products with the Made in Green label, meaning that leather articles with the label will have been tested for harmful substances in accordance with the Leather Standard by OEKO-TEX. “This ensures that consumers can also track leather goods such as clothing, shoes or furniture using a unique product ID or the specific QR code on the label to learn which countries and production facilities the article was produced in”, said the institute highlighting that to monitor compliance of the required criteria on site in the production facilities, it also conducts checks of production facilities with trained auditors.

New additions to the limit value catalogues have also been announced; after one year of observation, the carcinogenic N-nitrosamines and N-nitrosables substances have been included in both the Standard 100 and the Leather Standard, along with specific limit values for the total content of the toxic heavy metals arsenic and mercury. Furthermore, beginning of April 1, ‘Detox to Zero’ will be an obligatory element for STeP-certified facilities using large quantities of water and chemicals (wet plants). According to OEKO-TEX, a positive aspect of the new regulation is the future conformity of STeP with the Manufacturing Restricted Substance List (MRSL), the Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals (ZDHC) Initiative and the criteria for the Greenpeace Detox campaign.In 2020, OEKO-TEX said it will observe various new substances based on the latest scientific findings and conformity with precise specifications,

particularly substances newly classified as SVHC that, according to the REACH regulation for the protection of human health and the environment, have been identified as having particularly hazardous characteristics, as well as substances from the group of arylamines.

From *ILM*

New EU footwear research and technology platform

Footwear technology centres from across Europe are joining efforts to better meet future challenges in key footwear technology areas.

Under the auspice of the European Footwear Confederation (CEC), nine European footwear technology centres have agreed to join forces to push forward the footwear research agenda in Europe; CTC (France), CTCP (Portugal), CTCR (Spain), the Footwear Research Centre of Tomas Bata University (Czech Republic), INESCOP (Spain), Politecnico Calzaturiero (Italy), PFI Pirmasens (Germany), Lukasiewicz-IPS Institute of Leather Industry (Poland) and SATRA (UK).

Initiated during the CEC's General Assembly in Brussels on November 25, the platform's ambition is to further footwear research and knowledge creation collectively in Europe to the benefit of footwear companies. According to the CEC, the next stages of the process will be to set a clearly delineated research agenda and to organise thematic working groups on strategic topics such as advanced materials, innovative design solutions, better fit and comfort, smart technologies and a more sustainable and circular product life cycle."The ultimate objective of this platform is to help create a new generation of high-value, distinctly European footwear products for every consumer to enjoy", said the CEC. The initiative is open to other industry-related technology centres and interested organisations are welcome to apply by contacting CEC.

From *ILM*

LHCA industry association launched

The merger was the result of a year-long effort to bring the two associations together. Based in Washington DC, the LHCA combines the membership, expertise and resources of its predecessor organisations. Stephen Sothmann, former president of the USHSLA assumes the helm as President of LHCA as John Wittenborn, former President of the LIA, retired at the end of 2019 after 15 years leading LIA and more than 34 years working in the leather industry. "The formation of the Leather and Hide Council of America represents an exciting and historically significant turning point for the U.S. leather industry", said Sothmann. "The new LHCA establishes a strong, cohesive and vibrant association that will serve as the premier voice of the entire leather supply chain, both in the U.S. and abroad", he added.

The LHCA has a diverse membership of approximately 75 companies, including meatpackers, hides and skins processors, traders, leather tanners, finished leather goods producers, footwear companies, chemical suppliers, machinery producers, trade media and market reporters. According to the LHCA, the organisation is also now better equipped due to its integrated membership, "to confront existing and emerging challenges to the industry, and to seize new opportunities", including lending additional resources to its global marketing campaign, "Real Leather. Stay Different.", which seeks to celebrate the versatility, beauty and sustainability of U.S. leather.

From *ILM*

Successful DNA tagging of leather at one of the world's largest tanneries

Applied DNA Sciences to present results of Pilot in Asia at the SATRA Sustainable Footwear Forum in Wyndham Way, UK, 5 December.

The work follows a successful research project undertaken within the UK that demonstrated SigNature® DNA could be successfully used to trace the hide of an animal from a farm to the product in a store. Traceability is essential when supporting claims of sustainability or the humane treatment of the animals. Further work in commercial tanneries by the Applied DNA UK team took place following the research project in other tanneries to identify the most practical ways to use SigNature DNA technology in the leather supply chain. We believe our research identified the most efficient and cost-effective methods to apply DNA at specific points in the leather-tanning process map.

The work recently carried out in Asia was focused on tagging both suede and numerous polyurethane leather finishes in a variety of different colours. "The results are validation of previous work we carried out and we now look forward to the opportunity to apply our technology for the leather industry to help provide much needed traceability for the various stakeholders," said Dr. James Hayward, president and CEO, Applied DNA. "We are pleased by the interest shown across the leather industry in offering to leather supply chains."

On November 13, 2019 at Tapestry headquarters in New York City, MeiLin Wan, Vice President for Textiles at Applied DNA will be spoke about their latest developments in DNA traceability at the "Leather Compliance and Sustainability" conference hosted by Eurofins/ BLC. The Company feels that effective traceability of materials up the supply chain is the best way to manage sustainability risk and mitigate against potential environmental and social challenges.

Applied DNA has developed its CertainT® system for marking leather through the leather value chain by using a DNA tag. This molecular-based technology can help protect leather products, brands, entire supply chains, and consumers from theft, counterfeiting, fraud and diversion.

From *businesswire.com*

Over 21,000 REACH substances listed by ECHA

Divided into five pools, the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) has published a list of over 21,000 REACH registered substances mapped in its 'chemical universe'.

According to ECHA, the mapping of registered substances, also called the chemical universe, is a planning and monitoring tool that helps Member States and EU authorities focus on substances of (potential) concern and identify appropriate regulatory actions, where needed. For companies and other stakeholders, publishing the mapping provides additional transparency on the work of authorities and the progress made in regulating chemicals. Over 21,000 substances have been divided into five pools based on the regulatory actions in place, initiated or considered for them. ECHA said the listing also highlights that there are still thousands of substances for which possible actions have not yet been determined.

The five pools regard 'regulatory risk management ongoing' for substances with confirmed hazards for human health and the environment; 'regulatory risk management under consideration' for substances

that are currently being considered for regulatory risk management, ‘data generation’ for substances that require additional information to conclude whether further regulatory action is needed, ‘currently no further actions proposed’ for substances for which authorities have not proposed further regulatory action at the moment; and ‘not yet assigned’ for substances currently registered under REACH but not yet assigned to any of the other pools.“We are currently focusing mostly on the substances registered for volumes greater than 100 tonnes per year, where we aim to assign each substance to one of the pools by the end of 2020. For all registered substances, the work should be concluded by 2027”, said Jack de Bruijn, Director for Prioritisation and Integration, ECHA. “For many substances, further hazard data will need to be generated as non-compliant registrations are hampering progress. To that end, we have a joint action plan with the Commission to improve compliance of registrations to ensure they contain the necessary information to establish safe use”, he added.

From *ILM*

ILM launches leather industry Podcast series

International Leather Maker (ILM), the leading news and business information service for the leather industry, has launched a new Podcast series, available to listen to and download for free. Click here to listen to recent episodes or go to Apple Podcast. There are also direct links to the ILM Podcast channel from the ILM website.

‘View from the top’ provides listeners with invaluable insight and perspective on the global leather industry through opinion, comment and more from ILM’s authoritative and experienced editorial team, industry experts and influencers. There are two free to download episodes each month, about 15-20 minutes in duration, educating listeners on a variety of topics and trends and what this means for the future of the leather sector. The podcast also features leather industry related content covering hot topics such as new technologies, key markets, industry surveys, the latest in environmental sustainability technologies as well as exclusive interviews and viewpoints. Episodes are designed to appeal to all parts of the supply chain, including tanners, suppliers, brands and retailers.The latest podcasts are; 'Protecting the reputation of leather' and 'Leather as a sustainable material'.

To listen or download free podcast episodes, click here.From *ILM*

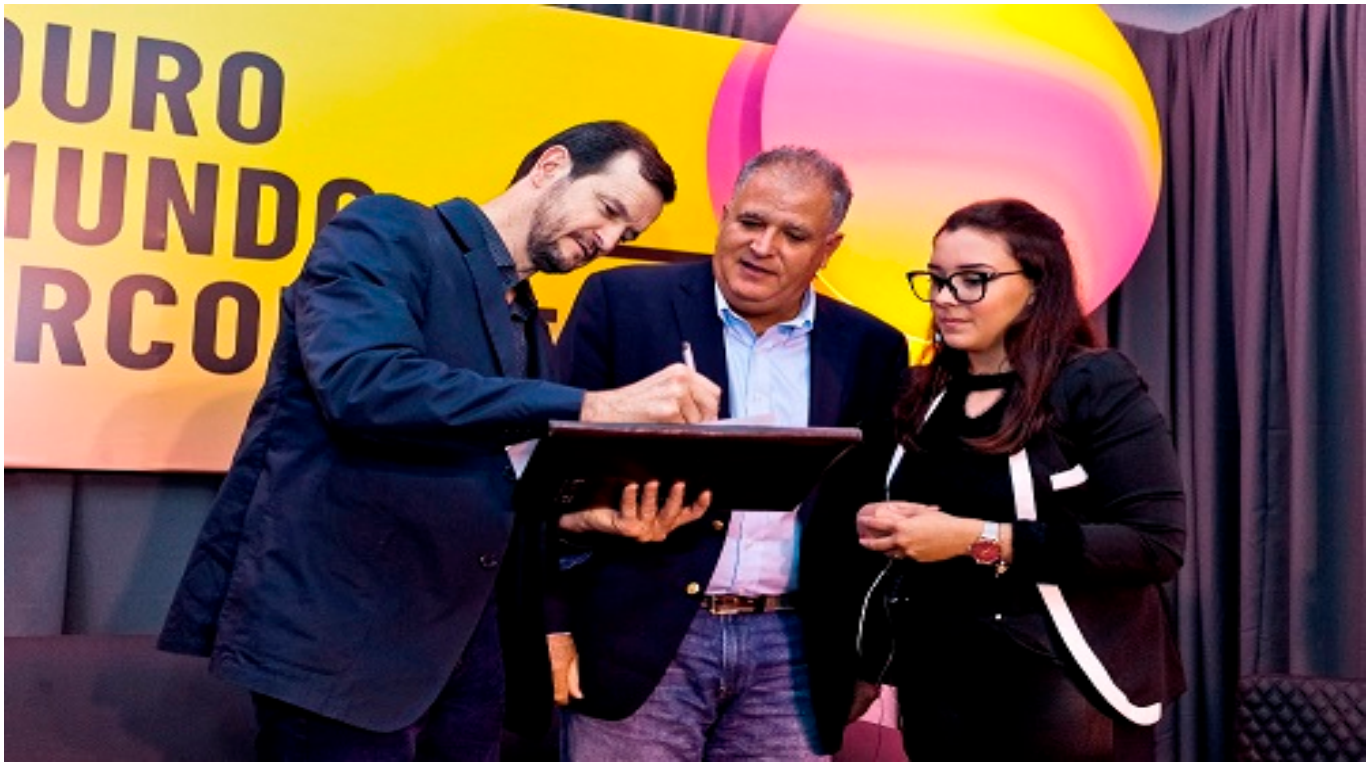
Lanxess leather trends for Spring-Summer 2021

The specialty chemicals supplier is unveiling its leather trends for the Spring-Summer 2021 season to customers.

Based around two themes, Vigoroso Impulso and Fraganza Marina, colours from Lanxess’ previous collection, such as yellow, green and purple are still present but with more subdued shades and cream tones. Floral and marine colours, greens and blues are complemented with yellows, moving into grey tones. In January 2020, Lanxess is to present a custom-made collection with leather patterns showing the innovations for the Spring-Summer 2021 season. These patterns are said to reflect future leather fashion in terms of colours, textures, feel and overall appearance. The recipes and practical processing instructions in the sample collection provide tanners with valuable tips on how to implement the new trends. Detailed information on LANXESS products for the leather industry can be found at http://leather.lanxess.com

From *lanxess.com*

Usaflex signs agreement with the Brazilian Leather Certification of Sustainability



Part of the Usaflex (shoe industry and brand in Brazil) mission is to ensure the quality of the leathers used in producing their shoes. Recently they signed a Cooperation Agreement with the Brazilian Leather Certification of Sustainability (CSCB) with the objective of encouraging its leather suppliers to participate in and also be recognized by the program, which disseminates best practices in the tanning sector based on the pillars of society, environment, and economy. The signing ceremony took place during the CSCB Sustainability Forum on November 7 with Sergio Bocayuva, CEO of Usaflex.

CSCB certified tannery industries are those dedicated to improving their work on issues such as raw material traceability, animal welfare, reduced water and electricity consumption, quality control, and worker health and safety, among others. With the signing of the agreement, Usaflex assures its customers a movement towards incentivizing that all the leathers used in production come from tanneries that prioritize these points and sustainability as a whole in their production processes.

For Bocayuva, this is an agreement that harmonizes perfectly with the Usaflex values. “Sustainability is a demand of ours and of all our audiences too, which requires a careful, broad look at the work of the entire production chain,” he says. Usaflex is one of the largest leather sector customers in Brazil. Most of its production in women's and men's shoes, in addition to handbags and wallets, is done in leather which stands out with attributes like comfort and aesthetic refinement.

In addition to its 200 franchise stores, Usaflex has products for sale at over 7,400 points in multi-brand chains. In the international market, they're already present in 51 countries, four of which already have 17 brand licensed stores.

From *aplf.com*

Vegetable tanning: Back to the future

With a commercial network spreading over 60 countries around the world and a total turnover of over 140 million euros, the Italian company Silvateam is the world leader in the production, extraction and commercialisation of vegetable extracts, tannins and their derivatives. Today, it is benefitting greatly from the renewed interest in vegetable leather tanning, which had fallen in obsolescence but is now back into favour as it is deemed less harmful and less polluting than chrome tanning. This is a trend cheerfully endorsed by Antonio Battaglia, the company's Leather Division Director and descendant of the founder.

The origins of the Silvateam Group date back 165 years, when in 1854 Carlo Giuseppe Battaglia built his first factory based at Corsaglia di Frabosa, in the province of Cuneo, Piedmont region, for the extraction of tannins from chestnut wood. It was originally established to answer the demand of "weighing" (to restore or increase the weight) of silk produced by factories in Lyon, France.

Today, Silvateam offers solutions for all applications in the leather industry, including garments, furnishings, leather goods, automotive upholstery, leather soles and shoe uppers. The leather industry represents 60 per cent of the company's business.

Apart from producing natural tannins from chestnut, it also produces tannins from quebracho, tara, gambier and myrobalan, synthetic tannins with a low environmental impact, as well as oils and fat liquors, tanning auxiliaries and selective resins.

A third of these products are sold in liquid form which, although more expensive than powder, is easier and safer to use by tanners.

Silvateam has always been committed to human safety and environmental conservation, according to Battaglia. From the beginning, the company has been concerned about environmental conservation especially the correct use of natural resources on which it relies. "We assure that all our vegetable tannings come from renewable plantations certified by local authorities," says Battaglia. It was also one of the earlier companies to calculate and openly publish its carbon footprint.

In terms of Social Corporate responsibility, using vegetable tannins also means promoting the economy and employment in mountainous and rural areas. In Argentina for example, where Silvateam has been established in the province of Chaco since the beginning of the 1900's its presence in the region has contributed to promoting the social and economic well-being of employees. "Silvateam is committed to the improvement of the local communities where it operates," affirms Battaglia.

From *aplf.com*

Mine sale means further reduction of Lanxess ties to chrome

Leather chemicals manufacturer Lanxess will further reduce its ties to chrome tanning. It announced in August that it was selling its chrome chemicals business to Brother Enterprises, a Chinese leather chemicals producer. This announcement focused on the sale to Brother of its factory at Newcastle in South Africa.

In a new announcement on November 18, the company said it had found a buyer for its majority stake in a chrome mine near Rustenburg. Lanxess owns 74% of the mine, which it will sell to Clover Alloys, subject to the approval of the relevant authorities. Both companies expect the planned sale to be complete by the end of 2020. A 26% shareholding in the mine will remain in the hands of Dirlem, an

entity that represents employees and some private investors. “We have focused our portfolio on specialty chemicals in recent years and are systematically continuing along this path,” said Rainier van Roessel, a member of the Lanxess board of management, on making the announcement. “Following the sale of our chrome chemicals business, it is therefore strategically logical to divest our stake in the chrome ore mine.”

From *leatherbiz.com*

Successful technical conference for AICC Veneto

The eleventh annual technical conference of the Veneto division of Italy’s AICC took place in Chiampo on November 15. AICC is Italy’s national association of leather chemists.

In a packed early-evening programme, there were presentations from leather chemicals and tanning machinery manufacturers on technological innovations for the leather industry. Speakers came from the Netherlands, Spain and Germany, as well as Italy. Sponsors of the event were TFL, Corichem, Codyeco, Bergi, Silvateam, Cartigliano, Stahl, GSC Group and Gemata.

There were 260 delegates in the room, including a group of students from ITS Galileo Galilei in Arzignano, a specialist technical education institution for the leather industry. AICC president, Roberto Mecenero, said at the start of the event that it was important for these young delegates in particular to note the increasingly international nature of the conference. He said this would show them that it’s important not just to think about their own companies, their own district or their own country. “We have to have an international outlook,” he said. He read out a message from the incoming president of the International Union of Leather Technologisits and Chemists Societies (IULTCS), Luis Zugno, that stressed the importance of having industry bodies work together to counteract false information about leather and create “a positive future” for the material.

Representing IULTCS at the event was incoming IULTCS vice-president, Jean-Pierre Gualino. “We are facing a difficult time,” Mr Gualino said. “There is so much fake news around. We need to help defend leather, but not just that; we need to be more aggressive on social media about this. We transform waste into a luxury product. Who else can do that?”
From *leatherbiz.com*

Virtual Footwear Retailing - Bringing the real world and digital world together

Buying footwear is generally done in a brick & mortar store. The customer knows more or less what style and uses the shoes required should fulfill and he can then find the correct size and colour, try them on and if all is well pay and take the newly purchased shoes home. He may have previously done some research on the internet. Some shoes are hand-made by skilled artisans and used to be ordered from catalogues before the invention of the internet. But there were always limitations as the designer and manufacturer of the footwear also had limited options as data on customer preferences was limited to broad strokes.

But now there is another way that individualizes the purchasing process and includes an unparalleled online experience or Customer Journey to have a perfect fit, preferred design, colours, materials and accessories and which then arrives directly to your door.

This is Virtual Retailing and – as the name implies – engages the customer solely online. The steps are:

Customer-Customization – Design – Materials - Accessories – Payment- Manufacture – Delivery

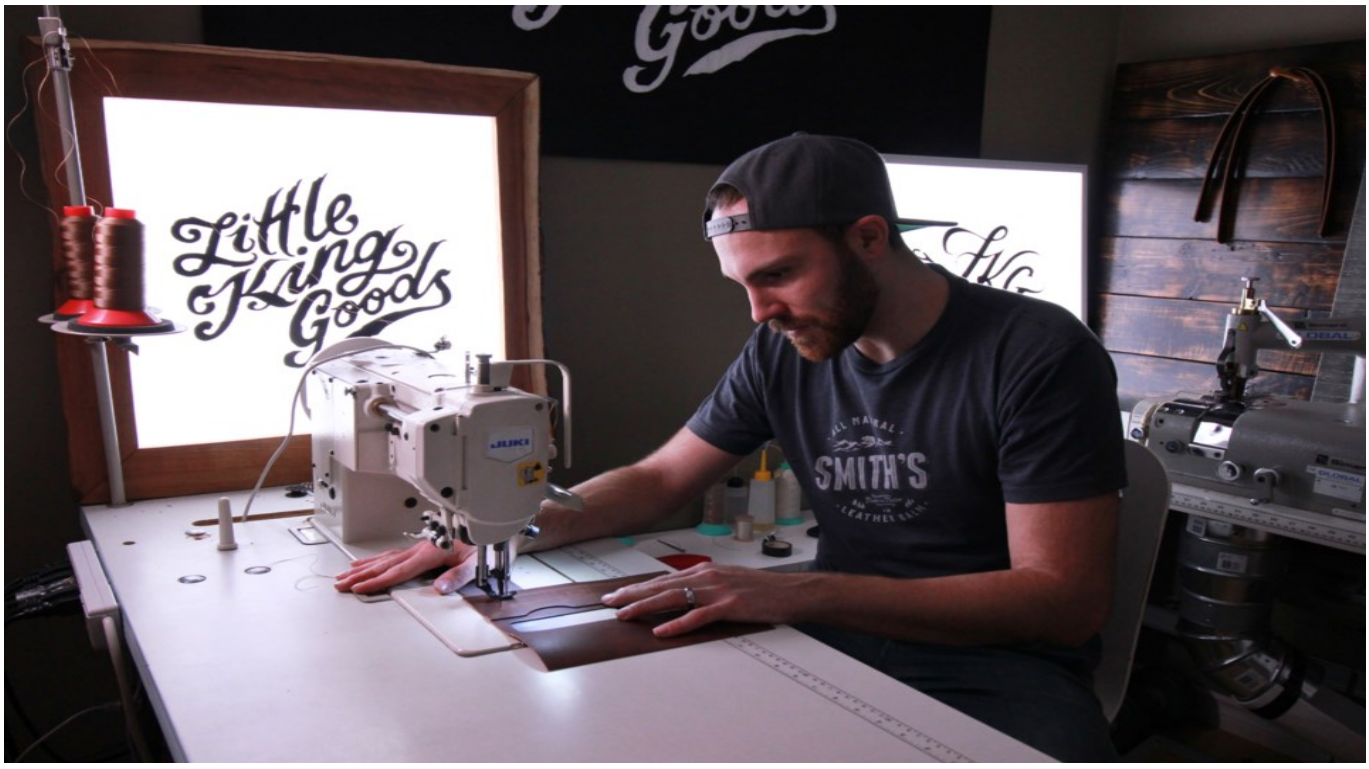
This system has been designed and implemented by a company based in Italy and co-founded by Andrey Golub who is CEO & CTO of ELSE Corp- a Virtual Retail Company (E.L.S.E. - Exclusive Luxury Shopping Experience).

The interface between the customer and ELSE allows detailed information about customer likes and dislikes to be registered and stored. The more buyers that use ELSE will allow a definitive data-scape to be developed of the shoe buying public. The long-term aim is to offer Mass Customization to the consumer from designers and manufacturers using a Virtual Retailing Platform.

Virtual Retailing will form another element of Omnichannel Retailing in the footwear and fashion industries and is also part of the challenges and opportunities of new technologies related to digital and traditional distribution channels.

From *APLF*

Canadian man goes from electrician to YouTube leather star in three years



Ryan Savin first touched a piece of leather in 2016. Three years later, he changed his career, became a skilled leather craftsman, has 180,000 subscribers to his YouTube channel, and a flourishing leather brand. His one-man leather business, Little King Goods sells minimalistic-looking wallets, journals, tote bags, iPad covers, belts and cable collectors — all of which he designs and builds himself in addition to posting YouTube videos of himself crafting each product.

Wanting a leather camera strap led Savin to buy some leather and a DIY kit on Amazon to try his hand at crafting a leather strap himself. “I knew nothing about leather so it was a really long journey to get

here. But I fell in love with it. As soon as I picked it up and I'm like oh my God, this reminds me of my grandpa's old bags and belts." Savin says his products are based on three words: clean, simple, and rugged.

From *https://www.guelphtoday.com*

Nomad Launches Hydrophobic Leather 'Active Straps'

Popular accessory company Nomad has released a new range of premium Apple Watch bands made from hydrophobic leather and designed for "heavy everyday use." The new Active Straps are water and sweat-resistant, and feature ventilation channels on the underside of the leather to ensure the bands remain comfortable and breathable during workouts. Nomad says the bands are "built for sport," but the look is more formal than sporty, and the bands can be rinsed with water after a workout so they're ready to wear for a night out.

The new Active Strap ?Apple Watch? bands are available in both black and mocha leather, and customers also have the option to choose between black hardware and silver hardware on the stainless steel accents. The Active Strap is available for 42mm and 44mm ?Apple Watch? models, in one size that fits wrists ranging from 150mm to 210mm. The Active Strap costs $69.95 and can be ordered on Nomad's website from today.

From *https://www.macrumors.com/*

Burberry named 'North Star that UK luxury can follow'

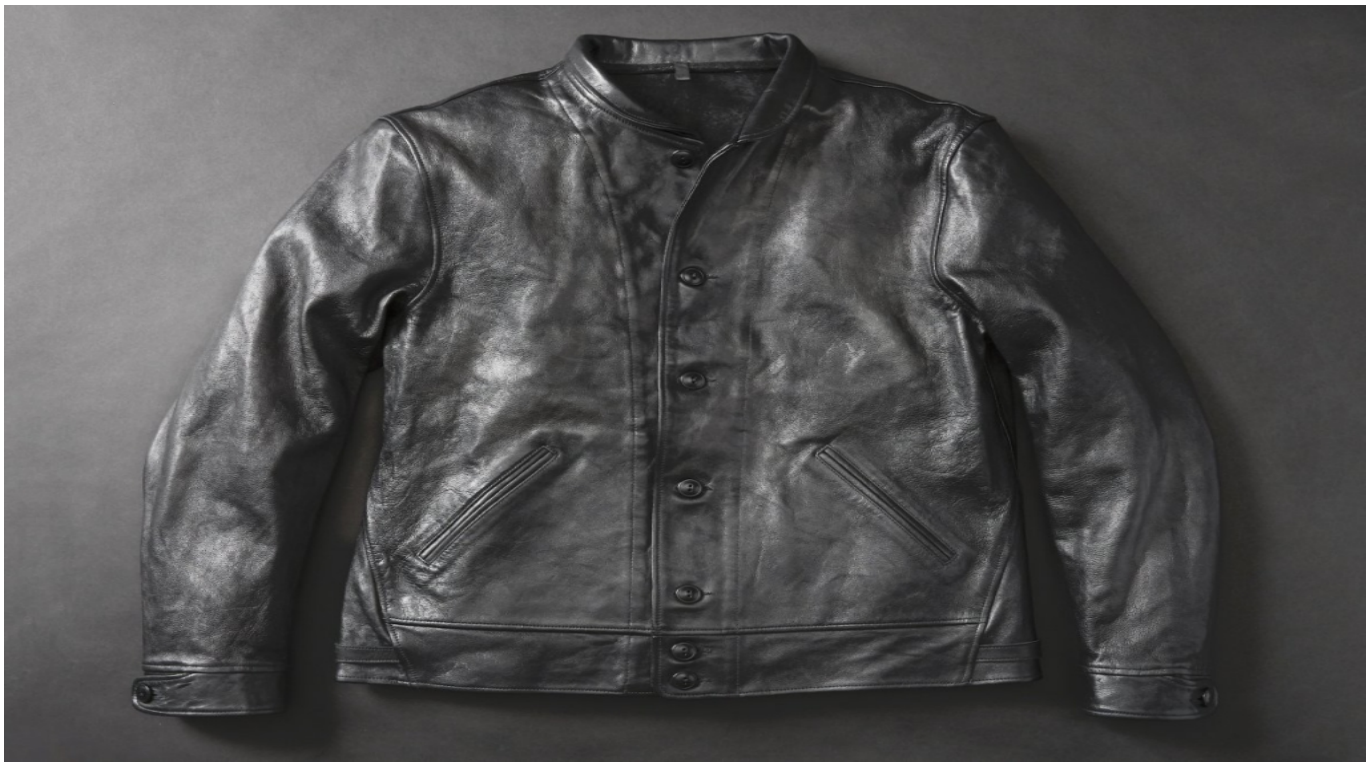
Fashion group Burberry has been named the UK brand "most dedicated to making the world a better place" at the luxury-focused Walpole Awards. Organisers say the Luxury with a Heart award "recognises impactful sustainability initiatives and those using the power of their voice to speak out on behalf of others".

Pam Batty, vice-president of corporate responsibility at Burberry, said: “We have had environmental and social programmes in place for more than 15 years and recently made some exciting developments, including setting two ambitious science-based targets covering our extended supply chain.” Helen Brocklebank, CEO of Walpole, added: “Whilst Burberry has always had sustainability and citizenship at the heart of its business, it’s been hugely exciting to see how fast it has been moving the dial over the last two years. It’s the North Star every British luxury brand can follow.”

Leathergoods brand Symthson was the winner in the British Luxury Overseas category, while leather footwear company Church’s won Maker of the Year. Manolo Blahnik was celebrated in the Creative Collaboration category for a partnership with the Wallace Collection.

Walpole is the official body for the UK luxury industry.

Levi's make exact replica of Albert Einstein's iconic leather jacket



The historic Menlo Cossack Jacket is available in black for a limited time and available on Levi.com and in select stores for $US1,200. Levi’s acquired Einstein’s original jacket in a 2016 auction. The clothing company previously released the garment in a 2018 collection in brown.

ECCO awarded for waterless tanning technology

The Danish shoe manufacturer and retailer has won the Popular Science’s magazine ‘Best of What’s New’ award for 2019 for its DriTan technology.

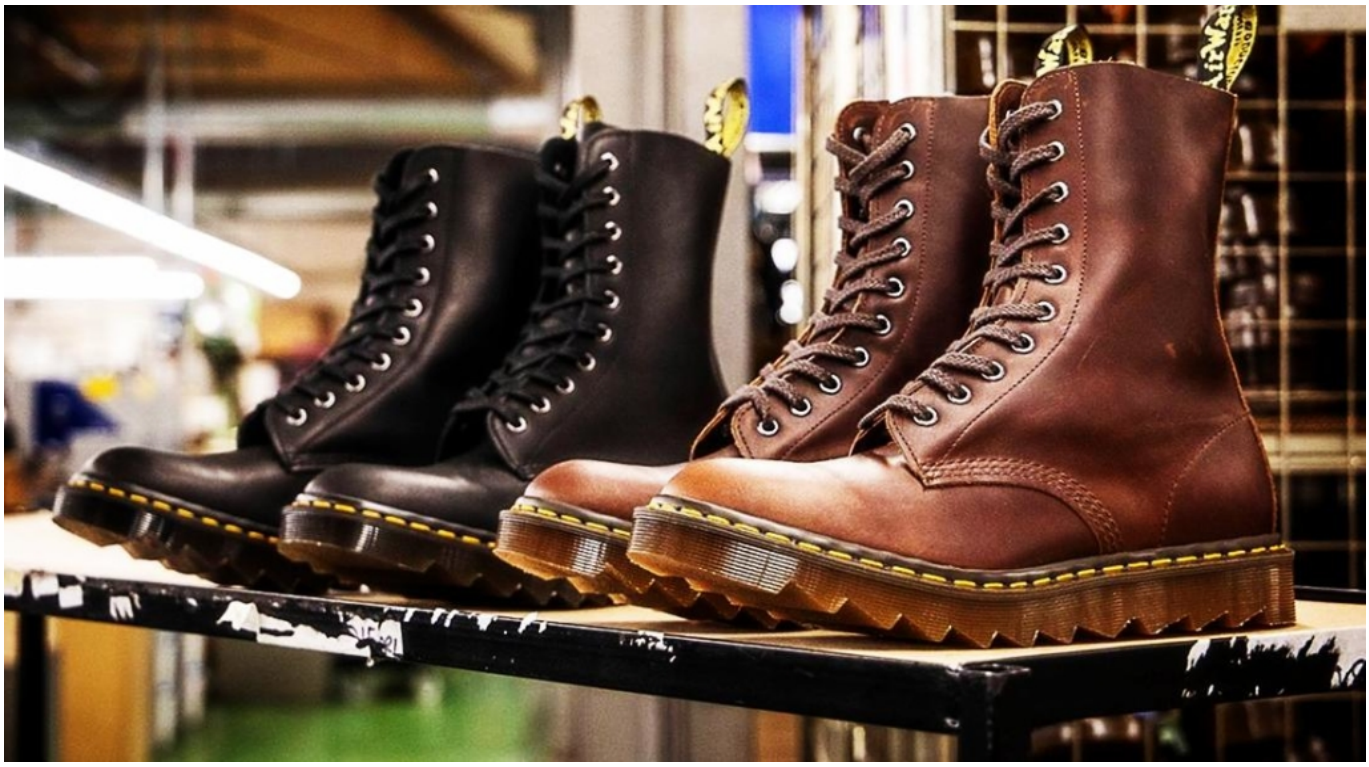
ECCO announced its DriTan technology has been recognised for innovation in the recreation category and has been awarded with Popular Science’*s* ‘Best of What’s New’ for 2019. DriTan is the company’s

revolutionary new technology that tackles the issue of water scarcity. “ECCO started with a very simple question, how can we tan leather without water, and is it even possible? Since the company owns all of its tanneries, we recognised that we were in a unique position to make the first step in developing a more sustainable tanning process”, said Thomas Gøgisg, Head of Applied Research, ECCO. “After five years of extensive research and development, DriTan was introduced, and we’ve made the first solid step towards water-free leather manufacturing. Recognition such as this from Popular Science is an incredible honour.”

Implemented at its tannery in the Netherlands, ECCO says DriTan will save 20 litres of water per hide, equal to 25 million litres of water annually, and will also eliminate 600 tonnes of sludge. Using only the moisture already present in the hides, DriTan technology produces leather that is indistinguishable from traditionally tanned leather in terms of quality, characteristics and stability, according to the tanner. ECCO said that plans to share this water-saving technology with the leather tanning industry are already underway.

From *ILM*

Dr Martens opens first NZ store in Auckland



The store in the Westfield Newmarket mall, Auckland, will stock the largest range of styles available in New Zealand including Originals, Made in England, full vegan ranges, global collaborations, and accessories collections.

We've come a long way; from modest work-wear boots to one of the most culturally relevant brands of the modern era," Hapgood said. The brand, which turns 60 next year, has long history in New Zealand. But until now the boots were sold as a range in larger shoe stores and online.

Kiwi shoe company Accent Group, which owns the international distribution rights for Dr Martens, also

has the rights to Timberlands, Sketchers and Vans shoes. Accent was bought in 2015 by the Australian RCG Group.

From *stuff.co.nz*

What's new December 2019: papers added to the LASRA Library

Innovative Approach to Sustainable Leather Tanning Process using a Lactic Acid Based Agent

by Malgorzata Kowalska, Anna Zbikowska and Magdalena Wozniak

The objective of the present study was to evaluate selected properties of leather samples treated with innovative lactic acid-based agents, applied during the soaking process. The quality of leathers soaked in the baths containing agents based on the organic lactic acid was compared to the products obtained by traditional tanning, in which surfactants were used during the leather soaking process. The obtained results showed that the hides soaked using the eco-compound met the same quality requirements as those soaked in traditional surfactants. The study has proven that the surfactants, which are universally applied during the traditional leather tanning technology, can be replaced with an environmentally friendly agent which effectively reduces effluent pollution as well as its quantity. The proposed method has been successfully tested by one of the largest tanneries in Poland and is in the process of implementation, thus becoming an ecotechnology.

JALCA December 2019

Enzymatic Reactions and Phylogenetic Analysis of Haloversatile Bacteria Isolated from Çamalti Saltern Salt Samples used in the Leather Industry

by P. Caglayan

Çamalti Saltern is one of the large seawater-based saltern located in Izmir, Turkey. The crude solar salt from Çamalti Saltern is used in leather industry. This type of salt may harbor viable microbial population which can spoil leather products during the curing process for hide/skins. Therefore, the objectives of this research were to isolate haloversatile bacteria from salt samples collected from Çamalti Saltern, to identify these isolates using both conventional and molecular methods, and to determine their hydrolytic enzymes such as protease, lecithinase, cellulase, lipase, deoxyribonuclease, pullulanase, amylase, urease, caseinase, xylanase and esterase. In addition, damage caused by lipase and protease producing haloversatile bacteria to the structure of salted sheep skins was examined. The effects of different salt concentrations, pH and temperature values on the growth of haloversatile isolates were also investigated. Sixty-nine isolates of aerobic *Bacteria* showing different colony morphology, pigmentation, colony shape, and size were selected for characterization of the isolates. Phylogenetic analysis showed isolates belonging to the genera *Staphylococcus* (9 species), *Exiguobacterium* (3 species), Bacillus (11 species), Microbacterium (3 species), Gordonia (1 species), Kocuria (3 species), Paracoccus (2 species), *Micrococcus* (2 species), *Acinetobacter* (1 species), *Brevibacterium* (1 species), Pseudomonas (1 species), Agrococcus (1 species), Sanguibacter (1 species) and Virgibacillus (1 species). The haloversatile isolates were able to produce different enzymes such as catalase (100%), oxidase (80%), protease (52%), lecithinase (51%), cellulase (33%), lipase (23%), deoxyribonuclease (17%), pullulanase (10%), amylase (7%), urease (4%) and caseinase (4%). Scanning electron micrographs of sheep skins showed that catabolic activities of haloversatile bacterial species found in

crude salt were responsible for decomposition of skins. When the crude salt containing haloversatile bacteria is used as a preservative for skins, these haloversatile bacteria may damage skin structure.

JALCA December 2019

The Suitability of Leather as an Alternative Material for Sustaining Vessel Production in Ghana

by Baidu, K. A. O., Essuman, E. K., Asubonteng, K, Boahin, J. O. B.

Anecdotal evidence and a further report from leather experts show that there is close to no enlightenment of the production of leather vessels in Ghanaian leather industries. This study was, therefore, conducted as a result of the need to add leather as supplementary material to the traditional materials such as clay, metal, wood and half-gourd used for producing vessels in Ghana. The purpose of the study was to find out how Ghanaian indigenous leather could be used in the production of leather vessels. The qualitative study employed three key techniques, namely: ‘Cuir bouilli’ leather hardening methods, the sand pounding technique, and assemblage and construction technique. Based on the results, the baking and hot wax methods adversely affected the indigenous leather positively in the hardening of the leather. The results also show that using only one part of the leather (the back, belly or butt) affected the quality of the leather vessels, but incorporating the various parts of the hide helped improve the quality and durability of the leather vessels. The implications of the results and future research directions are also presented. This study has, therefore, expanded the usefulness of the Ghanaian indigenous vegetable tanned leather apart from the conventional usage for making shoes, bags and belts.

JALCA December 2019

Closed-Loop Processing: Management in Existing Tanneries and New-Builds Designed for Purpose

by Richard Daniels, Jiasheng Su, Falei Zhang, Zhuangdou Zhang

Closed-loop processing for unhairing/liming and tannage is established technology for the processing of raw hides to the wet blue state.

This approach produces a high value product and, as part of sustainable manufacture, is significant. Savings are gained in chemicals, water and energy and reductions in the wastewater load. In effluent treatment, both the sulfide oxidation stage and chrome recovery/regeneration systems are eliminated. Both sulfate and chloride are minimised, and a reduction in solid waste generation.

In November 2018 new-build tanneries with radically different layouts were at an advanced stage of construction and installation of new equipment. These were designed to management and technical requirements of this specific technology.

In addition, the technology had made the transition from bovine manufacture to nappa leathers production in a major sheepskin tannery. And within small scale operations – bovine hides, bovine bellies, sheep and goat skins - chrome tannage was taking place with processing adapted around the prevailing conditions and tanners requirements.

JALCA December 2019

Cleaner chrome tanning – technology of chrome-reduced tanning without salt, pickling and short procedure

by Luo Jian-Xun; Feng Yan-Juan

Tannery effluents with high salinity and containing chromium have a serious environmental impact. The traditional chrome tannage that involved the use of sodium chloride, acid and chromium is one of the main origins of salt and chromium pollution. In this study, a non-pickle, chrome-reduced tanning technology was developed. The novel chrome-free agent SL can be directly employed to tan bated bovine hide producing wet-white. The shaved wet-white was pre-treated by a poly-carboxylate auxiliary agent PAA and tanned by chrome powder. It was found that the shrinkage temperature of the wet-white tanned by SL reached over 80°C, the optimal consumption of poly-carboxylate auxiliary agent was 1.5-2wt% based on the weight of the shaved wet-white, the better chrome-reduced tanning conditions were that the wet-white was tanned with 3-4wt% chromium powder for 150-180 minutes at room temperature when the initial pH value was 3.0-3.5. The next processes were same as those of a traditional chrome tannage. Meanwhile, the shrinkage temperature of the leather tanned by the chrome-reduced tannage reached more than 95°C, the absorption of chromium was 96%, the content of Cr2O3 in the effluent was under 200mg/L. For the chrome-reduced tanned leather,the absorption of dyestuff and fat-liquor reached 99.5% and 82.5% respectively. Compared with the traditional chrome tanning process, not only was the conventional pickling process eliminated, the process was shortened and reduced the pollution of sodium chloride. The process can reduce by 50% the consumption of chrome powder, improve the absorption of chromium and reduce the content of Cr2O3 in effluent.

From *JSLTC* Nov/Dec 2019

Advanced diagnostics and innovative solutions for leather defects: The problem of yellowing

by Florio, C.; Aveta, R.; Calvanese, G.; Naviglio, B.

Providing peculiar enhanced features to leather items is a factor of primary importance for the marketing of high-end articles; although tanning production is oriented to satisfy a wide market range, it is mainly in the ?high end? and ?premium luxury? categories that the quality properties of the material are more expressed, indeed. It is particularly on this market segment that the main current challenges have been focussed, according to the growing requirement of technological innovation, sustainability and product quality. Light-coloured leathers, with particular reference to white items, belong to the category of materials designed especially for the luxury market. For this type of articles, the uniformity of colour and the agreeable appeal of the overall surface appearance are crucial requirements for the most international fashion and luxury brands. One of the most common and undesirable defects of this type of article is the alteration of the colour,
with particular reference to the localised or diffused effects of yellowing of the surface of the material. There are several causes able to contribute to the production of this type of defects, due to the complexity of the matrix and to the variability of traditional or innovative production processes used: from the intrinsic fragility, photosensitivity and thermo-sensitivity of the finishing polymers, to the chemical instability of some components of the finishing pigments, further the presence of photosensitive chemical additives, the migration of skin components or assembly components of the manufactured articles (fats, fillers, plasticisers, glues etc.), up to the indirect contribution of environmental and thermo-climatic factors

able to affect negatively the performance of the material. SSIP, which has always been involved in research and consulting activities for the leather industry with regards to defect monitoring, through this work, would offer an overview of all the main tools for advanced diagnostics (with particular reference to Scanning Electronic Microscopy and to chromatographic and spectroscopic methods) aimed to the identification of the causes of yellowing, beside to explore innovative solutions for the development of strategies for the resolution and/or minimisation of the problem of yellowing. The technical solutions will include innovative tanning processes, innovative finishing methods, and leather surface treatments carried out in order to provide a sensible attenuation of surface absorption of IR and UV-visible radiation.

From *JSLTC* Nov/Dec 2019

The tanning performance of dialdehyde cellulose prepared by electrochemical oxidation system

by Hui Chen; Yao Hu; Shu-Qing Li; Li-Wei Chen; Jie Yi; Zhihua Shan; Rui Dai

The aim of this study was to develop a new dialdehyde cellulose tanning agent and discuss its tanning performance. Firstly, cellulose was dissolved with sodium hydroxide and urea. Secondly, dialdehyde cellulose was prepared by an electrochemical oxidation system. The obtained dialdehyde cellulose contained 68.48% aldehyde groups. The reaction between dialdehyde cellulose and gelatin has been verified by the determination by Fourier transformed infrared testing. When pickled goatskin was tanned with dialdehyde cellulose, the optimal conditions were, dosage of dialdehyde cellulose 25%, initial pH4.5, tanning temperature 35°C. The tanned goat garment crust leather had a shrinkage temperature 82.2°C, tensile strength 28.23MPa, elongation at break 48.35%, all of which meet the standard for goat garment leather. After ageing for 20 days, all characteristics remained stable indicating that dialdehyde cellulose is a feasible and eco-friendly tanning agent.

From *JSLTC* Nov/Dec 2019

Retanning mechanism of polyacrylic acid from the point of fibre motion

by Zou Xianglong; Fang Qi; Chai Yuye; Li Zhongyu

The retanning mechanism of PAA was studied from the point of fibre motion. The stress state of collagen fibres retanned with PAA was analysed and the structure of retanned leather was characterised by SEM and strain-stress analysis. The results show that PAA mainly interacts with collagen fibres by adhesive force (AF) between collagen fibres and capillary flow. As PAA dosage increases, AF increases and the collagen fibre?s array becomes more disordered.

From *JSLTC* Nov/Dec 2019

Physical properties of chrome-tanned Nile perch (Lates niloticus) fish leather

by Wairimu, Peter Maina; Ollengo, Moses A.; Nthiga, Esther W.

The aim of this study was to utilise the Nile perch fish skins which are usually a waste from fish filleting companies to make leather and then to determine its physical properties. The skins were processed into leather using chromium(III) sulphate. The physical properties of leathers were determined using standard IUP methods which include: Tensile strength, Tear strength, Flexing endurance,

Shrinkage temperature, Grain crack and Grain burst tests. The results demonstrated that the tensile, tear strength and elongation of the leather varied depending on the direction and location of the collagen fibres. The properties of the Nile perch leather were satisfying enough for the material to be used in the manufacture of high grade leather products. The study showed that the fish skins can supplement sources of raw materials in the leather industry and reduce the environmental pollution caused by disposing of the skins to the environment.

From *JSLTC* Nov/Dec 2019

Application of Mn-doped Mesoporous TiO2 in tannery wastewater treatment

by Xiu He; Xiaocong Wang; Baozhen Cheng; Shan Cheng; Shan Cao; Jianfei Zhou

Treatment of tannery wastewater is a challenging task because of its complex components, deep colour and high concentration of suspended solids. This study aims to develop a treatment system that can effectively reduce the pollutants in tannery wastewater to an environmentally acceptable level. Manganese (Mn)-doped mesoporous titanium dioxide (TiO2) was successfully synthesized via a solgel method using butyl titanate as a precursor and surfactant P123 as a template. When the dosage of Mn in the mesoporous TiO2 was 0.4%, the degradation rate of organic pollutants was nearly 90% after 8 hours of treatment with metal halide. The as-prepared products showed excellent photocatalytic activity even sunlight was used as an illuminant. The degradation rate of organic pollutants reached 87.5% when sunlight was used for excitation. Results of this study can be used as a reference in purifying various types of industrial wastewater.

From *JSLTC* Nov/Dec 2019

Efficient removal of total nitrogen from tannery wastewater by promoting denitrification with sodium acetate

by Ma Xiaojian; Zhou Jianfei; Zeng Yunhang; Shi Bi

Total nitrogen (TN) in tannery wastewater is difficult to remove completely, because the low C/N ratio of the wastewater leads to inadequate denitrification. Sodium acetate was used as an extra carbon source to improve the denitrification efficiency and the TN removal. The appropriate COD/TN ratio for denitrification using sodium acetate was 5.1, at which the TN concentration of tannery wastewater decreased by 95%. A much faster removal of TN was obtained by adding sodium acetate in denitrification than by adding common glucose. These results showed that sodium acetate was a high-quality carbon source for a complete and rapid denitrification of tannery wastewater. The denitrification efficiency decreased with decreasing temperature and increasing chloride concentration. However, when the carbon source was made sufficient by adding sodium acetate, complete denitrification was still obtained even at 15°C or 10000mg/L of chloride concentration.

From *JSLTC* Nov/Dec 2019

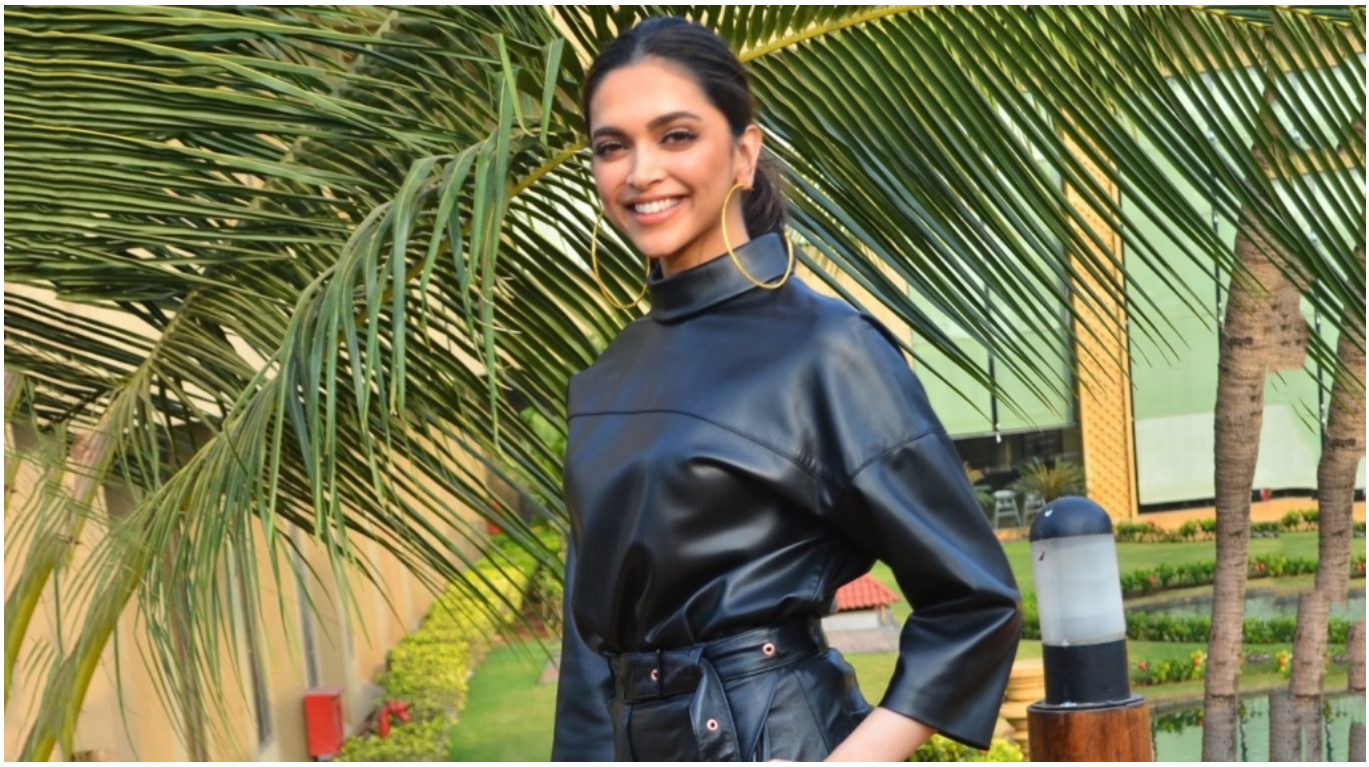
On the application of automated machine vision for leather defect inspection and grading: A survey

by Aslam, Masood; Khan, Tariw M.; Naqvi, Syed S.; Holmes, Geoff ; Naffa, Rafea

Reliably and effectively detecting and classifying leather surface defects is of great importance to tanneries and industries that use leather as a major raw material such as leather footwear and handbag manufacturers. This paper presents a detailed and methodical review of the leather surface defects, their effects on leather quality grading and automated visual inspection methods for leather defect inspection. A detailed review of inspection methods based on leather defect detection using image analysis methods is presented, which are usually classified as heuristic or basic machine learning based methods. Due to the recent success of deep learning methods in various related fields, various architectures of deep learning are discussed that are tailored to image classification, detection, and segmentation. In general, visual inspection applications, where recent CNN architectures are classified, compared, and a detailed review is
subsequently presented on the role of deep learning methods in leather defect detection. Finally, research guidelines are presented to fellow researchers regarding data augmentation, leather quality quantification, and simultaneous defect inspection methods, which need to be investigated in the future to make progress in this crucial area of research.

IEEE Access 2019

Fashion Spotlight:



Bollywood actress Deepika Padukone spotted in striking leather ensemble at Chhapaak promotions in Mumbai