



# Technical Specifications

for the use of the trademark  
**Pelle Conciata al Vegetale in Toscana**

in combination with  
ICEC Sustainability mark



**Second Edition - February 23rd., 2021**

# TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

## enclosed to the REGULATIONS FOR THE USE OF THE TRADEMARK “PELLE CONCIATA AL VEGETALE IN TOSCANA – Made in Italy”

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### PRELIMINARY REQUIREMENTS

#### A - Material: Hides/Leather

A1) The material must be “leather” as defined in the European Union’s Directive 94/11/EC and the Italian Law Decree 68/2020.

In this document, the terms “leather” or “hides” (“pelle”, as in the trademark) shall be generically intended as either hide or leather.

A2) Hides may derive from any type of raw material (animal, geographical origin of the raw material) and be intended, when finished, for any use (e.g. leather items, footwear, furniture, saddleries, clothing), provided that all the requirements established in these technical specifications are fulfilled.

A3) The Consortium Member and licensor of the Trademark Tuscan Vegetable Tanned Leather (hereinafter Tannery) shall always have an **updated list** available with the name and/or commercial code of the leather produced in full compliance with the requirements of these specifications, which can therefore be marked with the logo “PELLE CONCIATA AL VEGETALE IN TOSCANA – Made in Italy” (hereinafter the “Trademark”). Said updated list must be periodically made available to the Consortium, whenever the Consortium may so require, and to the Control Body entrusted by the Consortium during inspections.

#### B – Tanning method: Vegetable tanning

B.1) The tanning process must be vegetable-based and can be made with different recipes, provided that all the requirements established in these technical specifications are fulfilled for the hides.

The qualitative definition of VEGETABLE TANNING, according to the International Glossary of Leather Terms is: *“Hides, exclusively tanned with vegetable tanning materials or with said materials and the addition of small amounts of other ingredients used only to facilitate the tanning process or to improve or change the tanned material, but not in such amounts as to considerably alter the essential features of the vegetable tanning of the product”*.

Commercial definition provided by the EN15987 standard.

## PRODUCT REQUIREMENTS (STEP 1)

All the requirements specified in step 1 must be met for finished leathers that want to use the "Pelle Conciata al Vegetale in Toscana" trademark (*Tuscan Vegetable Tanned Leather*)

### REQUIREMENT 1.1 - Essential quality requirements for veg-tanned finished hide

Based on mandatory requirements and Consumer Health & Safety requirements, UNI 10885 requirements, supplementary quality requirements fixed by the Consortium, the finished leathers shall be tested in Accredia qualified laboratories as follows:

<i>CHARACTERISTIC</i>	<i>METHOD</i>	<i>LIMIT</i>
Chromium VI	UNI EN ISO 17075-2	Absent (method detection limit $\leq 3$ ppm)
Free Formaldehyde	UNI EN ISO 17226-1 (HPLC)	$\leq 75$ ppm
Pentachlorophenol and tetrachlorophenol	UNI EN ISO 17070	$\leq 1$ ppm
Azo colouring agents	UNI EN ISO 17234-1 UNI EN ISO 17234-2	Absent (the requirement regarding the content of each individual ammine indicated in the 2002/61/EC Directive is conventionally expressed as "Absent" when content is $\leq 30$ mg/kg)
pH and Delta pH	UNI EN ISO 4045	pH $\geq 3.2$ and Delta pH $\leq 0.7$
Total Chromium, Aluminium, Titanium, Zirconium, Iron content	UNI EN ISO 17072-2	$\leq 0.1\%$ (1000 ppm)
Cadmium Cobalt Nickel Lead	UNI EN ISO 17072-1	$\leq 1$ mg/kg $\leq 4$ mg/kg $\leq 4$ mg/kg $\leq 3$ mg/kg

*As regards any dated normative references, subsequent amendments or revisions made later to said publications are valid exclusively if they have been introduced in this table as updates or revisions. For undated references, the last edition of the publication referred to (including updates) shall apply.*

For the purpose of a significant sampling of the hides for requirement 1.1, the Tannery shall have **an updated list available of the finished leathers**, as described in section A3. This list must be provided, upon request, to the Control Body designated by the Consortium for inspections and to the Consortium before the inspections. Sampling involves the collection and the analysis of no.1 finished leather in each biennial inspection. It will take place on the basis of indications that the Consortium will give to the Control Body, taking into account criteria such as issue of tags, critical issues, technical characteristics, etc .. in order to make the sampling of the finished leather meaningful.

### REQUIREMENT 1.2 - Origin from the Tuscan territory and origin of the tanning process in Tuscany

The Consortium Member, who acts as Licensor of the Trademark (the Tannery), must necessarily have registered offices and operating premises in Tuscany.

Finished leathers are identified as originating in the Tuscan geographical area if, in accordance with the UNI EN 16484 standard, they have undergone the entire manufacturing processes of the qualifying phases in Tuscany (minimum retanning, dyeing and fatliquoring). As established by the Consortium, pursuant to this

specification, tanning is also to be considered a qualifying phase. Mechanical operations and finishing are not classified as qualifying steps.

*Note: the finishing phase is considered to have been carried out in Tuscany. If it is carried out in geographical areas outside Tuscany, the tannery will have to declare where it is carried out.*

If (some or all of) the processing of the qualifying phases were entrusted by the tannery to subcontractors:

- a) The outsourcers must have registered offices and operating premises in Tuscany, although they must not necessarily be members of the Consortium;
- b) The Tannery that entrusts the operations to subcontractors must demonstrate that within its production plant it is in any case able to carry out the production phases independently, which it outsources to third parties (having the necessary equipment and facilities for the implementation of those processing steps is mandatory).

The purchase by the tannery of raw or pre-tanned hides is allowed by any supplier.

The purchase by the tannery of leathers in stages subsequent to the pre-tanning is allowed by the Consortium as long as the suppliers who have carried out the qualifying phases are consortium companies and the leathers purchased comply with the requirements of this specification.

*Note: a dry semi-finished leather (e.g. crust) imported as such in Tuscany means that it has undergone qualifying phases outside the Tuscan territory. Therefore it does not fall within the cases of applicability of this specification and the Consortium logo.*

The Tannery must have an **updated list of the outsourcers and suppliers** involved in the leather production process described above, with indication of the registered offices and operating premises for each of them and of the type of qualifying processing steps performed. This list must be provided, upon request, to the bodies designated by the Consortium for the control of this requirement 1.2.

Definitions:

- for **pre-tanning** we mean, for the purposes of this specification, the processes that the leather undergoes from raw to pre-tanned hides (soaking, liming and preparation for tanning)
- **tanning**, for the purpose of this specification, refers to the set of operations that, starting from the pre-tanning, are carried out on the hides, in drums or in pits, to ensure the penetration of the vegetable tanning agents into the structure of the hide, transforming it into leather.

### **REQUIREMENT 1.3 – Raw hides traceability**

For the purposes of these Regulations, traceability means the ability to follow and identify the creation of a product through specific stages of the production / handling process.

By origin we mean the country where the animal is slaughtered (ie the country where the raw hide is generated).

The requirement is to collect and document data on the complete traceability of the origin of the raw hides upstream of the tanning activity. The information concerns, where available, the countries and places of animal's slaughterhouses, the countries and places where animals are reared in farms.

Everything must be referable to purchase orders and lots entering the tannery (detected over a minimum period of 12 months) and the related information must be verifiable. Self-declarations are not accepted. The final result will be expressed through a rating that measures the degree of control that the tannery has over its supplies.

- *Note: The inspections to be conducted within Step1 are general inspections of the premises of the Tannery, which also include the review of documents and records regarding outsourcers and suppliers. Only in cases of insufficient objective and documentary evidence necessary to demonstrate compliance with this specification, the Bodies appointed by the Consortium for controls may reserve the right to request on-site checks from subcontractors and suppliers.*

## COMPANY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS (STEP 2)

All the requirements specified in step 1 and step 2 must be met and maintained by the (active) consortium companies, that want to use the sustainability label issued by ICEC.



Upon completion of the corporate sustainability process, the management of the legislative requirements applicable to the environment, health and safety of workers, and social responsibility will be verified in the Tannery.

*Note: The company may undertake further improvement plans in addition to the mandatory aspects; these elements fall outside the control requirements set out in these Specifications.*

The subsequent minimum requirements of the company management system concern all the employees, production sites, and activities carried out by the Tannery necessary for the production of the finished leathers that are the subject of the checks in step 1.

For any stages of production entrusted to subcontractors, the Tannery is required to manage the qualification of these subcontractors on the aspects relating to the qualification requirements.

The Laws and Regulations whose management will be controlled are those in force, applicable on the subject, as well as specific to the tanning sector and the processing cycle carried out.

### **REQUIREMENT 2.1 – ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

Through a legislative control checklist, the management of environmental obligations will be assessed in the Tannery.

Subject of controls: environmental impacts e.g. water, wastewater, waste, emissions, noise, etc ..

Reference: legislative compliance requirements specified in the UNI EN ISO 14001 standard.

### **REQUIREMENT 2.3 - HEALTH AND SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IN THE WORKPLACE**

Through a legislative control checklist, the management of health and safety obligations will be assessed in the Tannery.

Subject of controls: safety and health aspects in the company: prevention, accidents, risk minimization, use of PPE, etc ..

Reference: legislative compliance requirements specified in the UNI EN ISO 45001 standard

### **REQUIREMENT 2.3 - SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

Through a legislative control checklist, the management of social obligations will be assessed in the Tannery.  
Subject of controls: ethical aspects e.g. workers' rights, human rights, non-discrimination, etc ...  
Reference: legislative compliance requirements foreseen by the SA8000 standard / code of conduct for the tanning sector.

*Note: the checks provided for in step 2 are generally carried out on site at the Tannery. Controls will also be carried out at the same company for what concerns subcontractors and suppliers at a documentary level. Only in cases of insufficient objective and documentary evidence necessary to demonstrate compliance with this specification, the Bodies appointed by the Consortium for controls may reserve the right to request on-site checks by subcontractors or suppliers.*