

Natural Leather Certification

Certification and traceability of natural leather from raw hides to consumers avoiding chromium tanning



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Environmental impact of leather

The IVN Natural Leather Standard defines requirements for the production of high quality leathers – high quality in terms of technical, ecological and human health parameters. Several substances commonly used in leather tanning, such as chromium salts, are harmful or toxic to human health and/or the environment. Chromium salts are discharged via the waste water into the environment, where they may even lead to the pollution of ground and drinking water. Both, disposal as well as incineration of chromium tanned leather products causes the release of harmful substances. Additionally, chromium salts pose a direct health hazards for workers and consumers, as they are known to cause contact dermatitis and eczema in susceptible individuals. **Alternatives like vegetable tanning can serve the consumers demand for leather products, such as upholstery and shoe wear, produced under less environmental harmful conditions, and are therefore accepted within the IVN NATURAL LEATHER standard.**

The certification covers the whole processing chain; from husbandry to raw hides, through environmentally and socially responsible manufacturing up to labeling of the leather in order to provide a credible assurance to the end consumer. **Traceability is achieved by the implication of all production stages.**

Key Elements of the IVN NATURAL LEATHER standard

- All inputs have to meet basic requirements of toxicity and biodegradability
- No chromium tanning, no glyoxal, no short-chain chlorinated paraffins
- The place of slaughter must be documented, no raw hides from endangered species
- Environmental policy required in manufacturing sites
- Social criteria (based on ILO core conventions) are compulsory
- Dual system of quality assurance consisting of an on-site inspection and a safety net of targeted residue testing



Worldwide Application

Leather products are purchased and processed internationally; consequently people all around the world are aware of the hazardous substances used in leather tanning and the associated environmental and health threats.

The IVN NATURAL LEATHER Standard can be compared to the to the Global Organic textile Standard (GOTS) for textiles as it contains similar restrictions on hazardous substances and contains similar social standards for all production steps. IVN is known globally because of their engagement for the GOTS in the textile sector. Our partnership with some of the largest textile processing and manufacturing groups, with large retailers and long-term organic pioneers is a key factor to reach a large segment of new consumers of natural leather products.

Final products, produced and manufactured in compliance with all compulsory criteria of the NATURAL LEATHER Standard may be labelled with the term "Natural Leather IVN certified".



IMO – Your Specialist for Sustainable Leather and Textile Certification

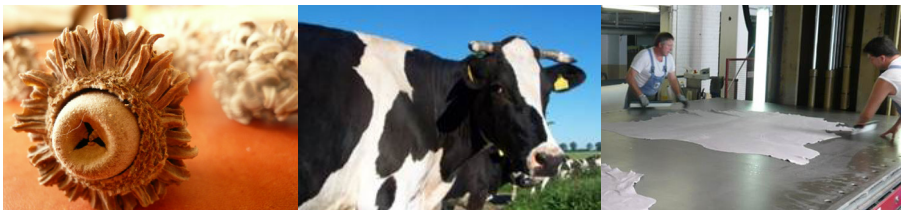
IMO's qualification as natural textile certification body is based on years of leading experience in the field of ecological and social quality assurance along the global leather and textile production chains.

IMO is offering verification of appropriate dyes and auxiliary agents to be used for textile pretreatment, dyeing, printing and finishing to the chemical suppliers. Respective approved positive lists for GOTS are available for clients on request via the web-based at: <http://gots-positivelist.imo.ch>.

IMO is a specialist in certification of organic husbandry, hides, skins and leather products.

IMO has developed effective online services for a monitoring of the supply chain adapted to the needs of the textile sector (WorldTrace).

IMO is an expert in the field of Fairtrade and Social Accountability, schemes that become more and more important in the international leather and textile market. Audits according to the Fair For Life Social & FairTrade Programme and according to natural textile standards may be combined with cost-effective benefits.



TRUST IN QUALITY. WORLDWIDE.

Quality assurance of sustainable products.

Learn more about certification of natural leather and textiles at www.naturtextil.com, www.global-standard.org, www.organicexchange.org, www.gots-positivelist.imo.ch, www.fairforlife.net, www.imo.ch or contact textile@imo.ch.



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