



ICT



Press Release

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Global Leather Coordinating Committee Meets in Shanghai

A meeting of the Global Leather Coordinating Committee (GLCC) took place in Shanghai on September 2nd, 2016, the last day of the All China Leather Exhibition. There were 12 representatives present from the constituencies of the International Council of Tanners (ICT), the International Council of Hides, Skins and Leather Traders Associations (ICHSLTA), and the International Union of Leather Technologists and Chemists Societies (IULTCS). The agenda of the meeting included ongoing topics of common interest to the trade and ways to increase the profile of leather in the global marketplace.

Demands from consumers and leather users, or brands, on increased traceability, environmental standards and chemical management were the main topics discussed. The group generally agreed that the leather industry as a whole must do a better job of providing the necessary resources to educate brands, consumers and the general public about these, and other, important issues.

To that end, it was decided that the three organisations would begin working together to compile statements and information in order to educate, reassure and respond to brands' and consumers' queries related to leather production globally. The information, once gathered, will be posted online, readily available, and easily accessible for anyone seeking accurate information about the industry. Initial topics covered will include traceability, animal welfare, environmental standards, and chemical management, with the scope potentially expanding in the future.

The group, via its constituency and various national and international membership organisations, seeks to become a resource for the public regarding questions about the source or production practices of the leather industry globally.

In addition, the GLCC considered ongoing topics of importance to the leather industry globally at the meeting. Items such as the EU's pilot Product Environmental Footprint Category Rules (PEFCRs) for leather, the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations' Livestock Environmental and Assessment Project (LEAP), proposed hides and skins standards by the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) and the Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals (ZDHC) guidelines were all discussed.

The next GLCC meeting will be organised by the ICT in 2017.

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