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**Leather — Raw hides — Guidelines for
preservation of hides**



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Published in Switzerland

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Foreword

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The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

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For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 120, *Leather*, Subcommittee SC 1, *Raw hides and skins, including pickled pelts*.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

Introduction

This document has been developed to define processes of preservation that lead to higher quality of preserved hides. Such preserved hides are subsequently subjected to further treatments for manufacturing of leather and eventually for production of leather goods.

This document has indicated preservation procedures that should be followed to prevent either of the following situations:

- conditions occurring through the preservation treatments which affect the processability of hides;
- various defects that can form on hides due to inadequate preservation conditions and during the period of storage and delivery to users.

Leather — Raw hides — Guidelines for preservation of hides

1 Scope

This document defines various preservation methods for raw hides. These preservation methods are intended to suppress microbiological activity and to maintain the quality and commercial value of the hides during storage.

This document applies to all raw hides of cattle and horses.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>

3.1 hide

raw outer covering of a mature or fully grown animal of the larger kind

4 Characteristics of salt and auxiliary substances used in preservation processes

4.1 Characteristics of salt

For preservation by salting, clean salt should be used. Halophilic bacteria get acclimatised to salt media and can grow even in the presence of high salt concentrations. During bacterial growth, they produce pink, red or violet pigments on salted hides, known as red-heat. Sea or lake salt tends to be more susceptible to contamination risk and development of red-heat. Hence, using rock salt is advantageous as it is free from chemical impurities.

Salt used in preservation processes should preferably contain 98 % sodium chloride (NaCl) of total dry weight and should not contain clumped particles. The impurities should not exceed the limits indicated below, otherwise the salt could negatively affect the quality of the finished product:

- Total calcium (Ca) and magnesium (Mg) compounds in salt: 2 %.
- Total iron (Fe) compounds: 0,01 %.

Particle size of salt is also important for achieving effective preservation. If salt particles are very fine, salt tends to form pasty patches with uneven coverage. However, if salt particles are very coarse, they could immediately fall off the hide while handling. Particle size also affects speed of dissolution. Therefore, to ensure an appropriate dissolution, the particle size of salt should be between 2 mm and 3 mm.

4.2 Quantity of salt

To ensure proper dehydration of raw hides, the quantity of salt should be 25 % to 30 % of the fresh weight.