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**Raw sheep skins —**  
**Part 1:**  
Descriptions of defects

*Peaux brutes de moutons —*  
*Partie 1: Descriptions des défauts*



## Foreword

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Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

International Standard ISO 4683-1 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 120, *Leather*, Subcommittee SC 1, *Raw hides and skins, including pickled pelts*.

ISO 4683 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Raw sheep skins*:

- *Part 1: Descriptions of defects*
- *Part 2: Designation and presentation*

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## Raw sheep skins —

### Part 1: Descriptions of defects

#### 1 Scope

This part of ISO 4683 describes the defects which may occur on raw sheep skins (see note 1). It is applicable to fresh and cured (air dried, wet salted or dry salted) sheep skins.

**NOTE 1** Those defects which may appear only during or after tanning, without there being any indication of their presence on the raw skins, have also been listed in this part of ISO 4683.

#### 2 Defects

The defects listed in this part of ISO 4683 are divided into the following three categories:

- a) Ante-mortem defects,
- b) Post-mortem defects, and
- c) Preserving defects.

##### 2.1 Ante-mortem defects

###### 2.1.1 Abscesses; cysts

Either tearing or hardening of the dermis caused by the presence of raised lumps on woolled sheep skins.

###### 2.1.2 Defects peculiar to wool-on skin

- a) Fibre diameter and fibre growth irregularities that lead to fibre weakness and breakage; and
- b) Wool/hair slips (tendency towards loss of wool/hair, as a result of illness).

###### 2.1.3 Canary yellow wool

Canary yellow wool is wool with a bright yellow unscourable stain within the wool staple. It is caused by micro-organisms that grow in the fleece when it is damp and warm, e.g. in wet, humid summers. The condition can cause weakening of the wool fibres.