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**Leather — Bovine wet blue —  
Specification**

*Cuir — Peaux de bovins à l'état "bleu humide" — Spécifications*



**3.4**

**dosset**

double back part of the hide remaining after the belly has been removed

**3.5**

**shoulder**

fore part of the hide covering the shoulders and the neck of the animal, with or without the head

**3.6**

**butt**

part of the hide remaining after the belly and the shoulder have been removed

**3.7**

**side**

half a whole hide with offal (head, shoulder and belly) attached, obtained by dividing it along the line of the backbone

**3.8**

**culatta**

rear part of the bovine hide, comprising the butt, the belly middles and the hind shanks

**3.9**

**front**

fore part of the bovine hide, consisting of the shoulders and fore shanks

## 4 Requirements

### 4.1 Raw material

Bovine wet blue hides shall be processed from cured or fresh hides or part hides.

### 4.2 Form and trimming

**4.2.1** Bovine wet blue hide shall be in one or more of the following forms, as specified by the purchaser:

- a) whole hides;
- b) bellies;
- c) dossets (double backs);
- d) shoulders;
- e) butts;
- f) sides;
- g) culattas;
- h) fronts.

**4.2.2** The trim shall be as agreed between the supplier and purchaser.

### 4.3 Tanning

After pretanning operations, bovine hides or part hides shall be tanned with basic chromium sulfate as the primary tanning agent. The cut cross-section shall be such that the hide is completely penetrated by

the bluish colour of the chromium sulfate when examined visually. Tanning shall be carried out at a pH of 3,0 or above.

#### 4.4 Fungicidal additives

Fungicides shall be used to inhibit mould growths in bovine wet blue leather.

Fungicides used to inhibit mould growth and pigmentation should be effective and should not cause a health hazard. The types of fungicide used and their dosage should preferably be agreed between the purchaser and the supplier

Fungicides should preferably be applied in quantities appropriate to ensure storage for up to 4 months at the temperature and humidity prevailing during storage or transportation.

#### 4.5 Presentation

Bovine wet blue leather shall be well fleshed, and the grain side shall be free from hair, including short hair and fine hair. The size and grading shall be as agreed between the interested parties.

The wet blue leather should preferably have a tight grain and be free from creases, drum folds and stains caused by iron salts. At least 95 % of the number of pieces in a lot should be free from stains caused by chromium salts, and the aggregate of the stained area in any one piece should not exceed 10 % of the total area of the piece.

#### 4.6 Shrinkage temperature

The shrinkage temperature shall meet the requirements for either low chrome tannage or full chrome tannage given in [Table 1](#), when determined using the method given in ISO 3380.

**Table 1 — Shrinkage temperature**

Tannage	Shrinkage temperature
Low chrome tannage	Minimum 85 °C
Full chrome tannage	Minimum 100 °C

#### 4.7 Chemical requirements

Bovine wet blue leather shall conform with the requirements given in [Table 2](#). The sample should be cut into small pieces without conditioning, in accordance with ISO 4044.

**Table 2 — Chemical requirements**

Characteristic	Requirement
Volatile matter	>50 % of dry mass of leather or as otherwise agreed between the interested parties
Matter soluble in dichloromethane	<2 % of dry mass of leather or as agreed between the interested parties
pH of water extract	≥3,2
A minimum shrinkage temperature of 85 °C normally requires minimum chromic oxide content of 1,0 % relative to the dry mass, as determined by the method given by ISO 5398-1. Similarly, a minimum shrinkage temperature of 100 °C requires minimum chromic oxide content of 3,5 %.	
NOTE Regulations on chemical substances can differ from country to country.	