

SUSTAINABLE LEATHER FOUNDATION



Industry Led – Consumer Focused

*Transparency
you can see...*

A FRESH APPROACH

Today's society is more informed and more conscious of the effects that production and consumption have on the earth's natural resources and its ability to regenerate; the negative impacts that can damage our ecosystem, the importance of fair and humane treatment of workers, and the welfare of animals.

The leather industry has the potential to impact positively and negatively on both our environment and also as part of a sustainable economy for the future. A traditional industry, leather making is responsible for employing millions of people worldwide, producing approximately 24 billion square feet of leather annually and resulting in an economy worth in excess of \$80 billion annually. These statistics make it vital that as an industry we ensure future sustainability by:

- protecting the environment
- driving innovation for improvement
- educating and encouraging the use of best available techniques
- supporting the health and wellbeing of workforces across the value chain.

The leather industry benefits from many organisations and associations who work to support the leather industry, some specific to region or to specialist area. However, there is a need for a cohesive organisation that can combine the efforts of the industry with the needs of the consumers, and society in general; working in a more holistic way that will address the current and future responsibilities of the industry....

Welcome to the Sustainable Leather Foundation.

VISION

The Sustainable Leather Foundation's vision is to enable collective improvement and education globally, for more sustainable practices in leather manufacture and production. SLF is concerned with all aspects of sustainability – Environmental, Social and Governance. As a not-for-profit organisation, the Foundation will provide a transparent and inclusive approach to demonstrating sustainable good practice throughout the value chain. Coupled with this, the Foundation is committed to ensuring that consumers have a clear mechanism to see and understand the sustainable attributes of leather as a material, and the work that the industry does to ensure good practice.

The Foundation's objective is to bring together all leather value chain stakeholders to unite in ensuring a sustainable future for the leather industry by shining a spotlight on innovation and best practice, providing a mechanism for improvement and education, while also preserving the social and economic wellbeing of communities in less advanced regions.

Working together is key to ensure that we can accelerate the action required for our society's future needs:

Reduce ↓

Carbon Emissions
Pollution
Hazardous Chemistry
Deforestation
Land Conversion
Unfair Treatment of Workers

Increase ↑

Good Animal Husbandry & Welfare
Health & Welfare of workers
Best Practice for Machinery
Best Practice for Processing
Innovation for more Sustainable
Production
Collaborative cross-sector cooperation

STRUCTURE

The Sustainable Leather Foundation aims to provide the structure and support to enable leather manufacturers and associated facilities to work on the reduction and improvement criteria necessary to be successful.

At the heart of the Foundation is the **SLF Transparency Dashboard™**, linked to a certification standard that assesses new, or recognises existing, conformance and performance of leather manufacturers and associated facilities against the three pillars of sustainability, Environmental, Social, Governance.

SLF supports our partners using a roadmap to:

- ✓ **Identify potential risks and impacts**
- ✓ **Measure existing consumption and outputs**
 - ✓ **Agree objectives for improvement**
 - ✓ **Monitor progress**
- ✓ **Review results to provide future objectives**

SLF TRANSPARENCY DASHBOARD™

Our inclusive and transparent approach provides a consumer accessible window to sustainability performance, alongside fully transparent, detailed, data for value chain partners.

This enables better understanding of the product lifecycle management of leather articles and better-informed purchasing decisions at the consumer end.

By encouraging more secure value chain knowledge from farm to finished product, and by assessing and certifying leather manufacturers and associated facilities for their conformance and performance against the SLF Audit Standard (or other certification already in place), it is possible to independently foster better solutions and better outcomes.

The **SLF Transparency Dashboard™** approach to attainment and performance is key to transparency for both value chain customers and the end consumer, providing integrity and value.



WORKING SMARTER

Avoiding unnecessary duplication of cost and resource is a key objective of the Sustainable Leather Foundation and therefore, should a company already hold an equivalent certification from another organisation or standard provider, it can be recognised within the **SLF Transparency Dashboard™** for transparent reporting and recognition. Comprehensive sustainability metrics will be assessed and measured, either directly through the SLF Audit Standard, or by a combination of existing certifications that offer equivalency to the overarching industry and legislative requirements, encompassing:

Environmental

- Permits, Licenses, Statutory
- Environmental Management Systems
- Environmental Health & Safety
- Environmental Footprint
- Land Use
- Energy Consumption
- Water Use
- Raw Materials & Chemicals
- Machinery & Equipment
- Air Emissions
- Effluent Treatment
- Soil Contamination
- Solid Waste

Social

- Permits, Licenses, Statutory
- Age of Workers
- Compulsory Labour
- Discrimination
- Corporate Social Responsibility
- Staff Development & Representation
- Wages and Benefits
- Worker Health & Safety
- Working Hours

Governance

- Permits, Licenses, Statutory
- Ethical Business Practice
- Animal Welfare Practice
- Traceability & Procurement
- Housekeeping
- Best Available Techniques
- Process Control & Quality
- Chemical Control
- Restricted Substances
- Occupational Health & Safety
- PR & Communication

Accessibility is another key objective of SLF and to ensure this, leather manufacturers and associated facilities will not be excluded from partnership on the basis of non-conformance or non-certification in one or more areas. Instead, partnership will enable companies to demonstrate what they can comply with and where their outstanding areas of concern or improvement are, in order to give a fully transparent mechanism that supports continued improvement across the three pillars of sustainability.

AUDIT CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

The guiding principle of our certification program is A.I.M.:

Accessible

- SLF is available to all. You don't need to pass an audit before you can become a Partner of SLF. We encourage all stakeholders to become partners in order that we can support the improvement with our tools to create a Sustainability Roadmap that is tailored to the needs of the individual facility.
- By providing access to the SLF tools and resource, facilities will benefit from an increased potential for change at a pace to suit their abilities.

Inclusive

- Our program works whether you are a small organisation with 10 or less employees, or whether you are a multi-national organisation with thousands of employees.
- SLF's system is inclusive and recognises certification that is already in place from other credible 3rd party organisations. This avoids duplication of effort and allows for freedom of choice when working with brands, suppliers and certification companies.

Modular

- The SLF Transparency Dashboard™ is designed to be modular. Once a facility becomes a partner of SLF, their existing certification is mapped onto the three ESG modules. SLF's Audit Standard can then be used to complete any outstanding sections if required. A tannery with no certification can start with just one module or with single sections in each module and build up their certification over a time frame that is designed around their ability/need.

Our Audit Standard covers the three pillars of sustainability: Environmental, Social and Governance. For a sustainable business of the future, these three elements must be considered holistically and be ingrained as part of the everyday strategic thinking of the senior management team and right down to the workers in production. The modules can be worked on individually or together and the accompanying Standards & Benchmarks give detailed understanding of what is required at audit.

ROUTES TO PARTNERSHIP

Our partners enable the Foundation to conduct the work we do, and they are extremely important in helping us accomplish our goals. Partnership with the Sustainable Leather Foundation demonstrates a shared goal of improvement, best practice, collaboration and innovation and we welcome partners from across the value chain.

Our partners benefit from being part of a community that is committed to adopting best sustainability standards and is focused on driving positive transformative change. Furthermore, our partners benefit from the following:

For All Partners

- **Access to a multi-stakeholder platform that supports training, development & improvement**
- **Access to a Transparency Dashboard™ that provides real time certification results, performance metrics and conformance data**
- **The opportunity to actively work within, and/or chair & co-ordinate Technical, Consumer & Industry focused Collaboration Hubs**
- **Access to SLF materials and logos**
- **Access to meetings, workshops & other events**
- **Newsletters & periodic updates**

For Compliance Partners

In addition to the general partnership benefits, compliance partners will also benefit from:

- **A Certification Programme to demonstrate conformance and performance against the 3 pillars of Environmental, Social and Governance good practice**
- **Additional recognition for technological innovation, social or sustainability projects, that are not auditable elements or that exceed the norms of the Sustainable Leather Foundation Standard**
- **The ability to display certifications from multiple organisations in one platform**

For Licensed Partners

In addition to the general partnership benefits, licensed partners will also benefit from:

- **Licensing to use trademarked logos and claims on product and POS materials.**
- **Support through QR technology to direct consumers to factual, relevant information about products**
- **Support with use of claims language**
- **Access to a Transparency Dashboard™ that provides certification, performance and compliance data of value chain suppliers**



COLLABORATION: WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

The power of partnership and collaboration cannot be under-estimated. The Foundation is committed to working with other organisations in order to foster greater impact and improvement for the sustainable future of the leather value chain.

Working together with:



**Material
Exchange**

SUPPORTER OF THE
**TERRA
CARTA**
For Nature, People & Planet



UNECE



WWF

OEKO-TEX®
CONFIDENCE IN LEATHER
LEATHER STANDARD 

Industry Associations:

leather UK

LEATHER HIDE
COUNCIL OF AMERICA



UNIC 
ITALIAN TANNERIES



*"Let's Be The Change That
Secures The Future"*

THE SUSTAINABLE LEATHER FOUNDATION IS A NOT-FOR-PROFIT, COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY, AND IS SET UP AND REGISTERED IN THE UK, AT COMPANIES HOUSE REG NO. 12739406. THE FOUNDATION IS INDEPENDENT OF ANY COMMERCIAL INTEREST OR BIAS.

The Foundation is governed under Articles of Association which can be accessed here:

[Articles of Association - Sustainable Leather Foundation](#)



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