



Minutes of Meeting of the Global Leather Coordinating Committee (GLCC)

Monday, 30 March, 2015 (11.30-13.30)

HKCEC, Hong Kong

Hosted by ICHSLTA (room jointly rented by all 3 organisations)

1. Welcome & Introductions

This was the GLCC's 7th meeting and Nick Winters welcomed delegates from the different organisations

2. Presentation by Mrs Lyn Ip - Sr Director, Environment, Health & Safety (Global Supply Chains), Adidas Group on ZDHC and questions about ZDHC

Mrs Ip addressed the group presenting the campaign initiated by 18 global brands on ZDHC (Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals), which aims at restricting the use of hazardous chemical substances in the textile and leather industries. The ZDHC aspires to achieve a zero discharge of identified substances in the future but faces numerous challenges. One challenge is to get chemical companies to collaborate in eliminating certain chemicals used and replacing them with eco-friendly substitutes. The ZDHC also relies on engaging with industry stakeholders in order to achieve their goals. An achievement so far has been the agreement by a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) on the adaptation of the textile MRSL for leather industry. There has also been communication regarding cooperation on an industry audit.

The Group wanted to know if the ZDHC wants to incorporate audits that are already in place such as those being carried out by LWG. Mrs Ip reiterated their wish to work with current stakeholders and avoid overlap where possible.

Her presentation is available to members.

3. GLCC –Mission, Organisation, Structure and roles

The GLCC confirmed the status-quo to the current GLCC role in meeting once or twice per year, and that it was still premature to take the organisation to the next step of launching a global International Leather Mark (ILM).

One of the problems being that some leather industries and tanneries are still working without having implemented sustainable technology. The aim is to get one label recognised by all brands in order to promote the unique quality of the leather and achieve transparency, sustainability and coherence.

A majority of ICHSLTA and IULTCS members were positive in supporting a future ILM brand but expressed some caution on how it could be implemented in reality. The President of ICHSLTA put forward the proposition to engage discussions with Leather Naturally and The Leather Working Group, which was supported by IULTCS; however ICT's position has not changed since the meeting in Milan and subsequently the group decided to maintain the status-quo.

ICHSLTA suggested other ways of communication needed to be found other than talking to industry peers and that direct channels in contact with the wider public and the final users should be explored.

4. Chemical Management – Critical Chemical substances in leather

Campbell Page of IULTCS commented that the proposed new Standard, EN ISO/DIS 20137 - (Guideline for testing critical chemicals in leather) has been issued as a draft. The final draft version should be completed by October 2015, with final approval in early 2016.

5. GLCC's common statement on the safe use of Chrome in the tanning process

The GLCC is in an observation phase at the moment about the safety of using chrome in the tanning of leather materials. Realistic tests need to be put into place. The information about chrome tanning needs to be clearer and made readily available for the tanners who feel pushed into a solution which is not clear to them. ICT expressed a high concern on the chemical management issue and particularly on chrome use. There is a growing confusion among clients on that, also caused by the multiplication of initiatives on the issue. Tanners are requested by brands and clients in general to comply with RSL and chemical tests/requirements that are inapplicable or inadequate or useless; some chemicals producers, laboratories and consultants often take advantage of the lack of related know-how in the brands in order to approach them directly and sell eco "easy solutions", without involving tanners on the feasibility

6. Position Statements – Animal Welfare, Sustainability

Both ICT and ICHSLTA have published their own versions and statements pertaining to Animal Welfare and Sustainability. They both adhere to similar legislations in place in North America and the EU.

The President of ICHSLTA asked if GLCC should take a global position on the Animal Welfare issue. It was decided that this was premature and politically sensitive. Statements should be left as they are with ICT and ICHSLTA.

7. Update on EU Pilot Project and Discussion on Carbon Footprint and Life Cycle Analysis

In the absence of Gustavo Gonzalez-Quijano the leader of the Leather Pilot study in Brussels, Nick Winters presented updates from the French COW MODEL WORKING GROUP representative. The ICT secretary confirmed the leather allocation at 3,5% of the carcass value. The ICT is a partner in the Pilot Project and engaged with the FAO's LEAP program.

- **Conclusions of the Joint Research Centre:**
The Joint Research Centre (JRC) technical report issued for the meat industry by the steering committee recommends an economic allocation of upstream burdens as a "default model" to the leather industry, taking into account a 3 year average hide price. The leather industry has voiced its opposition to such a method and wants hides to be considered as waste with zero burden. The meat industry has requested that economic allocation is very difficult to calculate in such a complex market and insists on using a physical allocation based on dry weight of the products.

Elton Hurlow of IULTCS says that the durability of the leather, which is one of its best attributes and part of a more comprehensive LCA, should be included where possible in sustainability calculations.

- **The Steering Committee in Brussels concludes that:**
The pilots are welcome to test alternative methodologies in addition to the default model. After the screening phase, all pilots are invited to also test other alternatives in their EF supporting studies and the EU Steering Committee has approved the scope and choice of representative product for the continuation of the Pilot Project to develop and test an alternative methodology for leather. Those will then be evaluated by the EF Technical Advisory Board / Steering Committee as potential replacement of the current default. The methodologies described in this document are based on the discussions of the CMWG. Where consensus was not reached, the JRC had the responsibility to finalise a workable model.
- **Timeline:**
A three-year pilot is now on-going to develop PEFCRs through a multi-stakeholder process. The first 16 pilots started in November 2013. The second wave of pilots started in 2014 including 11 food, feed and drink products. The pilots, consisting of various stakeholders, have the tasks to develop PEFCRs in a process that includes public consultations and reviews by the Steering Committee of the PEF project.

8. Progress of Database on Standards, Regulations & Veterinary Certificates

Paul Pearson from ICT confirmed that the database had continued to be updated on the website www.leathercouncil.org.

Labelling is a big issue in the standards and regulations for manufacturing of leather. It was reported that the revised European (CEN) Standard for leather terminology was due to be

published in April, and this would prohibit the use of the term “leather” – including use in conjunction with other words such as “synthetic”- for any materials that did not meet the strict definition of leather. However, the European Commission appears reluctant to introduce leather labelling legislation. IULTCS raised the question of "how to increase the value of finished leather?" and all agreed that this is a main priority for all industry stakeholders. ICT and ICHSLTA continue to defend free trade. Stephen Sothmann of ICHSLTA gave a brief update on his paper concerning the “legality” of trade barriers which can be seen in the February issue of Leather International and on the ICHSLTA website www.ichslta.com. However it was repeated that at the GLCC would not hold an official position on trade barriers.

Next meeting:

The next meeting is penciled in for Milan in September, 2015. ICT will be hosting this meeting as UNIC and ICT are organizing a World Leather Congress on 8 September (the day before Lineapelle and during the period of the World Expo in Milan). The IULTCS is hosting a World Congress in Brazil from 24th to 27th November and invites the Committee to attend. The first option would be Milan due to easier access for the majority.

LIST OF ATTENDEES:

Campbell Page – IULTCS
Dietrich Tegtmeier – IULTCS
Thomas Yu – IULTCS
Etevaldo Zilli – IULTCS
Elton Hurlow – IULTCS
Lyn Ip – Guest IULTCS
Louise Manning - ICHSLTA
Nick Winters - ICHSLTA
Steve Sothmann - ICHSLTA
Luca Boltri - ICT
Jose Fenando Bello - ICT
Rogerio de Souza Cunha - ICT
Chen Zhanguang – ICT/IULTCS
John Wittenborn - ICT
Paul Pearson - ICT
Rino Mastrotto - ICT
Li Yuzhong - ICT
Stan Ku Sheng Hsien - ICT