



Leather Impact Accelerator (LIA)

Hide Traceability & Supply Chain Mapping Guidelines: Leather Production 1.0

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Introduction

The leather production traceability component of LIA is driven by companies that make the LIA Brand Commitment. This commitment requires brands to engage in mapping and implementing a traceability system in their leather production supply chains and is measured over an agreed timeframe.

The desired outcome of this commitment is to see an increase in supply chain mapping down to slaughterhouse and the implementation of traceability systems and systems. Increased transparency in the leather production value chain could inherently reduce environmental, social and quality risks as well as improve transparent communication with stakeholders and consumers.

The Brand Commitment is explained in the ‘How to Participate’ section for brands and retailers in the LIA website.

Scope

The scope of the traceability guidelines for LIA is from finished leather to slaughterhouse; finished goods manufacturers and suppliers are not included.



The scope of LIA is limited to bovine leather.

Timeframe

The brand can choose a timeframe suitable to achieve traceability in its leather production value chain for all bovine leather. We suggest five years, and the maximum is 10 years.

Leather Production Supply Chain Mapping Requirements

“Supply chain mapping is the process of engaging with direct suppliers to discover indirect suppliers, resulting in an understanding of the end-to-end supply chain for a material, a product, or a brand. Supply chain mapping is based on supplier disclosure.”
(SourceMap)

A supplier is considered to be “mapped” under the LIA brand commitment if the following information is gathered at the minimum:

- Company name
- Address of head office and all production sites
- Contact person and contact details (email and/or telephone number)

Sub-contractors are also expected to be identified in the brand’s supply chain map.

The brand is under no obligation to use a specific system to map its supply chains. However, there are several well-known supply chain mapping systems that may be resourceful for an organization, some examples are listed below.

Established supply chain mapping systems:

- SourceMap (<https://www.sourcemap.com/>)
- Common Objective (<https://www.commonobjective.co>)
- SupplyShift (<https://www.supplyshift.net>)
- ChainPoint (<https://www.chainpoint.com/>)
- Historic Futures (<http://historicfutures.com/>)

Leather Production Traceability Requirements

“Supply chain traceability is the process of tracking every commercial transaction in the end-to-end supply chain to account for the time and place where every step occurred in the supply chain of a unit, batch or lot of finished good.” (SourceMap)

A traceability system is recognized under the LIA brand commitment if:

- It allows individual hide identification
- It allows individual hide traceability – batch traceability is recognized beyond tanning if the slaughterhouse of origin can be identified for all hides of the batch.
- It uses an in- or on-product tracer
- It is linked to a robust data system that can identify the slaughterhouse of origin and all supplier transactions to finished leather

Traceability can be achieved through linking several traceability systems in the supply chain.

In-Product Tracers

The identifier is embedded into the product at its location of origin. It is considered permanent and can typically only be disabled by physically destroying the product.

Examples (please note that not all these examples are applicable to the leather production supply chain):

Tracer type	Examples Brands
Fluorescent	IntegriTex, In-Code, Stardust, FiberTrace
DNA molecule	Haelixa, AppliedDNA, Identigen
Isotopes	Oritain
Microbiome	CoreBiome, Phylagen
Ink	Stardust, DigiMarc

On-Product Tracers

The identifier is applied onto the product at its location of origin, and is physically attached to the product. It can, however, be physically or chemically removed.

Examples (please note that not all these examples are applicable to the leather production supply chain):

Tracer type	Examples Brands
NFC	SMART Textiles, In-Code,
RFID	Arfidex, UBSolutions,
Barcodes	GS1
Physical Stamping	Gibson Stamp
Laser Marking	CTC CO ₂ Laser System

LIA-Recognized Traceability Systems

There are no mandatory or industry wide adopted systems for traceability. However, Leather Working Group does audit the ability of tanneries to trace their material back to the slaughterhouse. Therefore, if a brand can demonstrate that a supplier has 100% traceability back to the slaughterhouse, audited by LWG, this will be accepted as meeting the criteria.

Textile Exchange is also engaged with the UNECE project for enhancing transparency and traceability in the garment and footwear sector. The aim of the project is to create a standard that can be adopted globally within the leather sector for garments and footwear. It is hoped that the leather production traceability component of the LIA will be able to recognise this system when it has been developed.

National Wildlife Federation (NWF) have a system called Visipecc which is designed to provide traceability and visibility in Brazil to ensure deforestation free sourcing. Compliance with this system could also be recognised under the LIA traceability component.