



Standard Terminology Relating to Leather^{1,2}

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INTRODUCTION

These definitions are divided into two groups: the first group covers general terms, and the second group covers definitions applicable to sampling.

The definitions of general terms include some of those encountered by personnel concerned with specifications and procurement of hides, leather and leather products by the Federal Government.

The definitions applicable to sampling are mainly to be used in connection with the sampling for, and testing of, physical and chemical properties.

Terms adequately defined by unabridged dictionaries are not generally included.

GENERAL TERMS

alligator—a general term used for leather made from the skins of all aquatic species with a grain similar to the american alligator which cannot be killed legally and, therefore, is not used by the United States industry.

alligator-grained leather—leather of various types, such as calf, sheep or cattlehide embossed to resemble the grain of alligator hide.

alum leather—leather produced by alum tannage, usually in combination with other substances. Before the invention of chrome-tanning this was the principal method of tanning with mineral agents.

aniline dyed leather—leather which has been colored by transparent dyes as distinguished from leather treated by pigments or other opaque material.

aniline finish—a clear finish with little or no pigmentation.

antelope finish suede—applied to lambskin, goatskin, or calfskin, sueded and finished to resemble antelope.

antelope leather—a fine, soft leather made from an antelope skin, velvety in texture and sheen, sueded on the flesh side. This leather is so rare, that for practical purposes, it is virtually nonexistent.

apron leathers—any one of several varieties of leather used in connection with textile machinery and blacksmith aprons. Comber and Gill Box apron leather is soft, mellow, tough leather, tanned from steerhides, heavily stuffed and boarded or otherwise softened. Rub Roll apron leather is a flexible but firm, dry, strong leather.

aspergillus niger—one of the most common mold growths found on vegetable tanning vats and on leather, usually greenish or blackish in color.

automobile leather—see **upholstery leather**.

back—a crop with the head trimmed off behind the horn holes. (OZUP in Fig. 1.)

bactericide—a chemical that kills bacteria.

bag leather—a general term for leathers used in traveling bags and suitcases. It does not include the light leathers employed for women's fancy handbags. The staple material for bag and case leather at present is leather made from the hides of animals of the bovine species, but heavy sealskins and goatskins are also used.

bark tannage—leather tanned by use of vegetable tannins found in barks, wood, and other plant derivatives, as distinguished from mineral tannages.

barkometer—a hydrometer used for determining the specific gravity of tanning solutions. A specific gravity of 1.000 is equivalent of 0 deg barkometer (Bk), and each additional degree Bk is equivalent to an increase of 0.001 in specific gravity.

baseball leather—leather used for covers of baseballs. The better grades of balls have covers of alum-tanned horsehide front leather. Some cheaper grades are made of kip and sheepskins.

¹ This terminology is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D31 on Leather and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D31.91 on Terminology.

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² These definitions have been developed in cooperation with the American Leather Chemists Assn. (Definitions of Terms X1-1961).