Traceability of hides, skins and leather

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UNIC and the Italian Tanning Industry

UNIC is the Italian Tanners’ Association founded in 1946, member of Confindustria, private association officially representing the Italian tanning industry.

**World leader** for value, quality, style & design, technology, sustainability

- **turnover:** 5 billion €ur (est. 2013)  
- **export:** 3.7 billion €ur  
- **employees:** 17,567  
- **companies:** 1,262  
- **share on EU turnover:** 65%  
- **share on world turnover:** 16%

**Headquarter:** Milan

- **Branches:**
  - **In Italy** Arzignano (VI), S. Croce s/Arno (PI), Solofra (AV), Rome  
  - **Abroad** Guangzhou, China

- **Member of ICT (International Council of Tanners - United Kingdom) and Cotance (EU Confederation of tanners - Bruxelles)**
Key phases of the supply chain

- **Process**: raw hides/skins ⇒ leather manufactured products

- **Tanning process**: chemical and mechanical operations

- **Tanning products**: raw ➔ wet blue ➔ crust ➔ finished leather

- **Animal typologies processed**: 99% bovine + sheep + goat, 1% swine + crocodiles + pythons + deers + kangaroos...
  ⇒ reptile leather on the highest range of the market
Sustainability and Traceability

**Sustainability** is a key factor for Italian tanners
- minimizing the environmental impact
- empowering the social responsibility
- widespread/enriching the certification tools
- “decripting” the strictest EU chemical regulation (eg. Reach...)
- managing the raw materials issues (eg. animal welfare...)

**Traceability** considered as an important tool to assess the sustainability of the whole leather chain:
- before, during, after the tanning process

=> But NOT AN EASY ISSUE
Traceability

• No compulsory traceability along the chain for any kind of leather. The only exceptions are some CITES products, i.e. crocodiles (implemented) and pythons (on discussion)

• Traceability is mainly a commercial request with ethical purposes and there are different approaches

• Key factors: info requested, operators concerned, products identification (single leather, lot), tools (tags, marks, paper/electronic documents..), management system..

• The leather chain is fragmented, and traceability is possible for some segments but very difficult to be effectively implemented along the whole chain
Traceability of reptiles

• **Upstream** the tanning: the biggest concern (animal welfare, population control, environmental impact of breeding...)

• **During** the tanning process: quite common, even if is is not possible to make it “in continuum” (mainly due to the mechanical operations), mainly for quality and cost management control

• **Downstream** the tanning process: very different attitudes and objectives
CITES tags for crocodiles

- **Tag info:** ISO country of origin, unique serial ID number, standard species code, year of harvest
- **Tag type:** tamper-resistant, self-locking, heat resistance, inertia to precessing (only approved manufacturers)
- **Products:** raw skins/semiprocessed/finished leather internationally traded (parts/entire); No consumer goods
CITES and Traceability in Italy (1)

- Italy is the most important market for **CITES reptile skins**, as the main producer of CITES reptile leather

- Specific transparency requirements: implemented through the **Detention Register** for the species of annex A and B (Environment Ministry Decree 8/2002, Law 150/1992)

- The register lists all the company **loading** and **unloading** of the **CITES specimens or derivative products** and must be made available to public authority (CFS) for controls

- In the leather supply chain, **tanners, leather traders and manufacturers of shoes, leathergoods and any leather products** are required to keep it
The lines must be numbered consecutively. Each line contains a single operation. The lines must be numbered consecutively. Each line contains a single operation.

**Load to be recorded within 15 days from receipt of goods.**

**Typo of acquisition:**
- A = purchase
- B = custody
- C = free purchase
- D = donation
- E = discovery
- F = other

**Source:**
- W = wild
- R = ranching
- C = captive breeding
- U = unknown

**CITES Document:**
- N°, date, Country issuing the CITES document on specimens (CITES document provided by the supplier)

**Document of acquisition:**
- A = invoice
- B = custody contract
- C = free transfer
- D = donation
- E = other (DDT)

**Identification:**
- Only for crocodiles (each skin tagged)

**Quantity:**
- As referred in the purchase document

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**Table Example:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>N°</th>
<th>Data</th>
<th>Name scientific</th>
<th>Name comune</th>
<th>Typo acquis.</th>
<th>Fonte</th>
<th>Tipo Doc.</th>
<th>Doc. CITES</th>
<th>Identificazione</th>
<th>Quantità</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>22/01</td>
<td>PYTHON RETICULATUS</td>
<td>PYTHON RETICULATO</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>2354/64515-23/65</td>
<td>2354/64515</td>
<td>2,164,11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Example Entry:**

- **Python reticulatus**
- **Python reticulatus**
- **22/01**
- **A** (purchase)
- **W** (wild)
- **E**
- **2354/64515-23/65**
- **2,164,11**
The first column must contain the same data included in the related load.

The consumed quantity for the production of the article consumed to be inserted in the same measure unit indicated in the load (and in the purchase).

Exit reason:
A = death
B = sale
C = custody
D = escape (only for live animals)
E = theft
F = other

Exit document:
A = invoice
B = custody contract
C = free transfer
D = donation
E = other (DDT)

Exit place:
Specify the location where the product is destined.

Milano

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**SCARICO**

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<td>Python reticulatus</td>
<td>Pituze reticulato</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>E</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>28/07/48</td>
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<td>A</td>
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Python skins traceability

- **CITES CoP16** decided that a traceability system must be elaborated for python skins trade

- **Intense debate** on methodology, system boundaries...

- Based on a survey made for this purpose, Italian tanners expressed **three main requirements** for the constitution of a traceability system:
  - no conflict with the various production process operations
  - no further big complication for the current logistics and administrative management
  - not too expensive to be implemented