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## **Leather goods and accessories Production guideline**

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## **Foreword**

This Ethiopian Standard has been prepared under the direction of Technical Committee for Leather and Leather Products(TC 74) and published by the Ethiopian Standards Agency (ESA).

Draft of the standard has been presented by Ethiopian Leather Industry Development Institute.

Acknowledgment has been made for the organization for its concern to contribute to the effort of national standardization.

# Leather goods and accessories production guideline

## 1. Scope

This Ethiopian standard explains guideline for leather goods and accessories production.

## 2. Normative references

No reference required

## 3. Terms and Definitions

For the purpose of this standard, the following definitions shall apply.

### 3.1.

#### Leather goods

Applied and generally confined to articles made mainly of leathers and intended to carry personal belongings. Some articles are carried in pockets and some are carried in hand or shoulder. The wide range of materials used in leather goods production: leather, non-leather (synthetics or artificial materials, textile fabrics).

#### 3.1.1.

##### Small leather goods

Carried in pocket and made from cow-calf, buff calf, goat, sheep, pig and exotic skins with different finishes. The thickness of leather required for making small leather goods is about 0.7 to 0.9mm. e.g. coin purse, coin pouch, key case, wallet, spectacle case, passport case, watch strap, etc.

#### 3.1.2.

##### medium leather goods

Made from cowhides with different finishes and the thickness required for making the medium type of leather goods is about 0.9 mm to 1.1 mm. e.g. under-arm case, wrist bag, zip folio bag, medium school bag, shopping bag, shaving kit, Ladies Hand Bag, gents shoulder bag, etc. Some of the medium leather goods include the following.

#### 3.1.3.

##### Heavy Leather Goods

Made from buff and cow uppers and softy uppers with different finishes and the thickness required for making heavy/ luggage leather goods is about 1.2 mm to 1.6 mm. e.g. portfolio bag, medical representative bag, briefcase, travel bag, travel suitcase, etc.

#### 3.1.4.

##### Leather Goods Accessories

Leather goods accessories are different components like buckles, zippers, Velcro, rivets, metal chain, puller, key holder, lock, and frame used in leather goods as per the design and customer's requirement which should be made from metals and other accessories made from polymeric materials.

## 4. Classification of Leather Goods

Leather goods should be classified into three groups, small leather goods, medium leather goods and heavy leather goods.

## 5. General Leather Goods Manufacturing Process Description

The steps involved in the manufacture of leather goods should follow the following steps.

### **5.1. Designing and pattern making**

The first step involved in the manufacture of leather goods should begin with designing and pattern making. The item, to be manufactured should be designed as per the choice of the buyers or as per the market demand. The different patterns for different sizes should be made and the total requirement of raw material for a particular item should be estimated. It should be done in two ways. Either buyer sends design ideas or designer make a sample design on the basis of the current trend.

### **5.2. Material Sourcing and Selection**

Then Sample materials should be sourced from different buyers to make the sample. Raw materials procured from the market should be selected and sorted as per the quality into different grades. Different grades of raw materials are taken for manufacture of different components of various articles.

There should be a proper selection of leather, lining and other accessories. Then get the style no from the merchandiser. Then place the work-order for material for sample making. Do regular follow up with the sample team to make sure your sample gets ready as per designer specification within the given time.

### **5.3. Sample Development, Costing and Presentation**

From those materials and patterns, the sample is made with the consultation with the designer. And it is sent to the merchandiser for approval. Costing and presentation of the samples to the buyers shall follow sample approval.

### **5.4. Clicking or cutting**

Clicking or cutting operation should be carried out to cut different components of leather goods as per the approved design or size. While clicking, it must be ensured to click the right component from the right area of the leather. Defected portion of leather should be carefully clicked so that the defective portion does not spoil the appearance of the finished product. Lining material should also be clicked in this section. Clicking can be carried out mechanically using clicking press and also manually using clicking knives. The former method should be recommended for large production quantity.

### **5.5. Skiving**

During skiving operation the thickness of certain edge of leather are reduced by the help of skiving machine / skiving knife to allow seams to be produced without the bulkiness. This operation also ensures a uniform thickness to each edge of the item produced.

### **5.6. Closing**

Closing operation should an operation in which different components of leather goods are assembled and joined together. Closing should be done by stitching and pasting. Clothing should be done by industrial sewing machines. Pasting should be done with synthetic adhesives.

### **5.7. Finishing, Quality Checking and Packing**

#### **5.7.1. Finishing**

Finishing should be done to enhance the aesthetic look of leather goods by covering the defects that might have occurred during long production process and handling during the operation thereby increasing the market value of the product. In this process finally the goods should be polished to give a shining appearance.

### 5.7.2. Quality Control

The following quality parameters should be checked for the produced leather goods

#### 5.7.2.1. Leather

After finishing operation, the goods should finally be inspected, packed properly and kept ready for dispatch to the market. After finishing the product, the leather used to make the specific leather goods should be checked for leather defects like Pox mark, tick mark, Leather looseness, grain mismatches, Leather Scratch, Dye patch.

#### 5.7.2.2. Shape of the Product

The shape of the Product should be a big quality issue. If the shape is not good then the item is a low-quality product, and it was not going on in the market. For the better shape, you have to give the perfect backing materials.

#### 5.7.2.3. Drop length

Buyers should check the drop length. So it should also be a big factor. Designers should give the perfect drop length on the purpose of the bag.

#### 5.7.2.4. Fittings

While checking, fittings are important to check carefully. If there is any fitting quality issue, the whole bag should be rejected or sent back for repairing.

#### 5.7.2.5. Trimming

Trimming should be done carefully. If in the time of trimming any leather part is cut, then the item is rejected to change. It should be checked carefully where trimming is done.

#### 5.7.2.6. Stitching

Stitching is a vital case to enhance quality. Any little thing with stitching is wrong. Then it should be rejected to repair. In the time of stitching, there are many problems that come out. The correct thread, the quality of the stitching, all should be checked.

## Organization and Objectives

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### ESA's objectives are:-

- ❖ Develop Ethiopian standards and establish a system that enable to check whether goods and services are in compliance with the required standards,
- ❖ Facilitate the country's technology transfer through the use of standards,
- ❖ Develop national standards for local products and services so as to make them competitive in the international market.

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