

LEATHER NEWS INDIA

September 2023

Volume : 14 Issue : 9

Price : Rs. 100/-

- **Annual General Meeting of Council for Leather Exports,
September 27, 2023, Chennai**



COUNCIL FOR LEATHER EXPORTS

(Sponsored by Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India)

E-Commerce Portal of CLE

<https://leatherindia.biz>



E-Commerce business has grown substantially in the recent years. The global E-Commerce market was about US\$ 5.70 trillion in 2022.

Considering the huge business prospects offered by E-Commerce, Council For Leather Exports (CLE) has developed a dedicated E-Commerce portal **<https://leatherindia.biz>**

Initially the portal will be Business to Business wherein profiles and product ranges/photograph of companies will be hosted. Each company has been given a separate log-in ID and hence the enquiries sent to a particular company can be seen only by that company.

In this portal, the profiles as well as product ranges of companies are hosted. The buyer can choose "N" number of products and send the enquiries to the companies directly.

This portal will be the perfect place to get all the information & details regarding the **products** and **services** of Indian companies of leather, leather products and footwear.

This portal also has an enquiry form for an overseas investors, through which the investors can approach CLE for support in carrying forward their investment project proposals.

For any further suggestions or clarifications regarding e-commerce portal, please write to **ad-tp@cleindia.com**



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(Sponsored by Ministry of Commerce
& Industry, Government of India)

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The Council for Leather Exports was set up in July 1984. The Council functions under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India. The Council is entrusted with export promotion activities and overall development of the Indian leather industry. The Council's activities also include promoting Foreign Direct Investments and Joint Ventures in the Indian leather industry. The CLE serves as a bridge between Indian leather exporters and buyers all over the world.

LEATHER NEWS INDIA

September 2023 Volume : 14 Issue : 9 Price Rs.100/-

BROUGHT OUT BY

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5 Chairman Column

6 From the Editor

7 National

- Annual General Meeting of Council for Leather Exports, Sept. 27, 2023, Chennai
- IFCOMA 12th Edition SHOETECH Mumbai 2023 , 4th & 5th September 2023. Nehru Centre, Mumbai
- Annual General Meeting of Indian Shoe Federation (ISF) and Indian Finished Leather Manufacturers & Exporters Association (IFLMEA) - “CSIR-CLRI Scientist Shri Mohamed Sadiq honoured with Lifetime Achievement Award”
- Quality Control Orders (QCOs) implementation in the footwear sector – Import of footwear soles permitted for use in the production for exports purpose – Gazette Notification issued
- Scheme of Inspection and Testing made optional for micro and small-scale manufacturers of Consumer Footwear and Footwear Components - Notification issued by BIS
- CLE along with BIS organizes 3rd edition of Industry Outreach Event (Webinar) on QCOs for Footwear Sector on 13.09.2023
- FAQs on QCOs - Article
- Dieless Cutting System - Article by: Central Footwear Training Institute (CFTI), Chennai
- An overview of bacterial cellulose production and its application
- AGM of Consortium of Shoes & Products Manufacturers Association (CSPM) held on 14.09.2023
- Season 59 @ Modeurop and Fashion Trend Pool
- Hindi Divas Samaroh – 2023 & Third Akhil Bhartiya Rajbhasha Sammelan, 14-15 September, 2023

48 International

- KABO Styl International Fair 2023 at Brno Czech Republic from 19th to 21st August 2023
- Mipel, Milan, Italy, Sept. 17-20, 2023
- Lineapelle, Milan, Italy , Sept. 19-21, 2023
- Magic Show, New York, Sept. 19-21, 2023
- The Green Deal Industrial Plan presented to improve the competitiveness of European industry with net zero emissions - contributed by MODAPIEL&ACCESORIES , Italy)
- Clampdown on Vegan Bandwagon – Contributed by World Leather Magazine, UK
- A big success for fashion and side sectors trade fairs (contributed by MPA Style Magazines, Italy)

74 Regional

- Interaction Meeting of Hon'ble Ministers of Government of Tamil Nadu with the Leather Industry, Aug. 1, 2023, Ranipet
- Meeting on “Brand Promotion of Indian Brands Sub-Scheme of IFLDP” held on 26th September 2023 at Kolkata

Dear Members

Export of Leather, Leather products and Footwear for the period April-Aug 2023 touched US\$ 2085.85 million as against the performance of US\$ 2377.34 million in April-Aug 2022, recording a decline of -12.26%. The declining trend in exports is a cause for concern. However, the recently held major international leather fairs including the Lineapelle and Mipel + Micam fairs in Italy have registered a significance increase in the business visitors, which shows the resurgence of the market. Hence, I sincerely hope that we will also witness return to the export growth mode in the coming months.

The Council has been repeatedly taking-up the following two major requests of the industry so as to ensure sustainable growth and enhance price competitiveness.

- Allowing all value added leathers including crust leathers for export without any export duty, inspection, testing or certification or norms.
- Reinstatement of Basic Customs duty exemption on wet blue crust and finished leathers.

I have taken-up this request at various forums with the Government. I hope that the Government will positively consider our requests.

CLE is organising Indian Footwear and Leather Products Show in UK during October 18-20, 2023. With the participation of 41 companies from across India, this is the largest ever stand-alone event organised by the Council for Leather Exports in the UK. I would like to thank the Indian High Commission and the British Footwear Association (BFA), for their tremendous support and guidance for this event. As you are all aware, India and UK share lot of common values and our Governments and businesses have a long history of partnerships, and the leather & footwear industry is no exception to this collaboration. We belong to the same Commonwealth family. This strong bond between our Nations gives ample scope for significantly enhancing our trade ties in the coming years, with the proposed India – UK Free Trade Agreement giving the required momentum for the upswing in trade ties.

With best wishes

Sanjay Leekha

Chairman

COUNCIL FOR LEATHER EXPORTS



Dear Members

In connection with the revision of All Industry Rates of Duty Drawback, CLE submitted detailed cost data in respect of various product categories, along with duty incidence workings. According to our workings, the DBK rates are coming out higher than the existing rates. CLE also submitted a representation to the Drawback Committee seeking the following.

- 1 All Industry Rate on Leather & other inputs procured locally to be factored for fixing AIDBK
- 2 AIDBK to be provided for Crust Leather and El Tanned Leather
- 3 DBK to be considered for uppers exported with socks
- 4 Request for Change of product description for certain non leather footwear

We are expecting the notification of enhanced Drawback Rates shortly.

You are aware that CLE had taken-up the issue of notification of revised Standard Input Output Norms (SION) for leather, leather products and footwear to enable the members to import various new inputs as well as finished, wet blue and crust leather, under Advance Authorisation Scheme. In this connection, CLE obtained inputs from members and forwarded the proposal to Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI), who examined the proposal in detail and recommended the same to the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT). Subsequently, CLE attended the meeting on SION convened by Joint DGFT and also clarified various queries raised by DGFT office.

You are aware that DGFT has notified revised SION notified for leather, leather products and footwear vide DGFT Public Notice No. 30/2023 dated 31.8.23. The following are the highlights of the Public Notice.

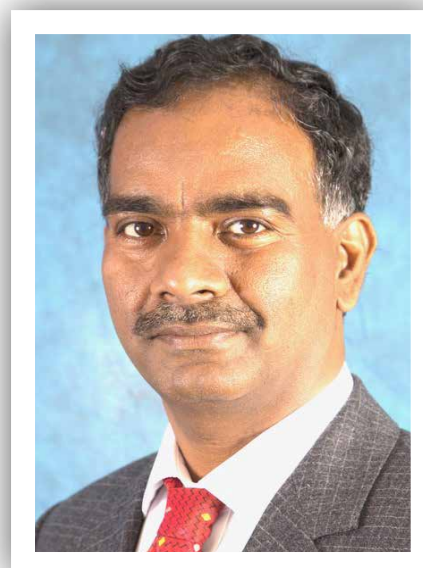
- Wet Blue and Crust Leather have been included as import items for making finished leather under SION G 7 (i.e. finished leather from hide of cow/ buffalo) and G 46 (i.e. finished leather of goat/sheep/calf)
- Finished Leather has been included as an import item for making various leather footwear/sandals/uppers/fine/fancy leather gloves.

SION has not been notified for leather garments and leather/synthetic goods including bags, wallets, industrial gloves, Leather-Cum-Synthetic Golf Gloves/ Synthetic Golf Gloves with Leather, Belts, Sport Shoes etc., CLE has taken-up this issue with the DGFT requesting revised SION for the non-notified items, along with a request that import of leathers under SION should be allowed on net-to-net basis with wastage, without any quantity restrictions

With kind regards

R. Selvam IAS

Executive Director
COUNCIL FOR LEATHER EXPORTS



39th Annual General Meeting of Council for Leather Exports

Binny Room, Hotel Taj Connemara, Chennai-600002,
27th September 2023



Chairman, CLE speaking at the AGM

The 39th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Council for Leather Exports was held at 11.30 am on September 27, 2023 at Binny Room, Hotel Taj Connemara, Chennai. 48 Members of the Council were in attendance in the AGM.

Shri Sanjay Leekha, Chairman, Council for Leather Exports took the Chair to conduct the proceedings of the meeting and called the meeting to order at 11.30 am after ascertaining that the required quorum was present.

The Chairman extended a warm welcome to the Members and read out his Speech at the AGM highlighting the various activities



undertaken and achievements made by the Council during the year 2022-23. The brief highlights of the Chairman's speech are given below

Chairman, CLE Speech at 39th AGM of CLE

In the last one year, the focus of CLE has been on taking-up requests concerning transformational changes in existing policies and procedures with the Government, so as to achieve the envisaged export target of USD 13.7 billion by 2030. We have been able to get favourable consideration of some of these requests which include notification of revised SION for footwear & finished leather, relaxation of QCO norms for import of footwear soles by exporters etc., However, some requests which include changes in export duty and export policy of leathers, reinstatement of import duty on leathers etc., have not yet been considered and these are being pursued vigorously.

Export Performance : Exports from leather and footwear sector increased from USD 4872.70 million in 2021-22 to USD 5259.53 million in 2022-23, registering 7.94% growth. However, due to the global economic slowdown, export growth started slowing down in the second half of 2022-23 itself. The continuing market slowdown has considerably affected our exports this year, with exports

registering about 11% decline during April – August 2023. This downtrend in exports is a cause of concern, but we are sure that our exports will return to the growth trajectory soon. Our efforts should be to at least reach, if not cross, last year's export value of USD 5.26 billion during this year (2023-24).

Developments concerning major markets of USA and EU : USA is now the largest importing country for Indian footwear and leather sector. Removal of US GSP for leather products has affected our exports to the tune of USD 450 million per annum. As the US Congress is reviewing reinstatement of the US GSP programme (which expired in Dec. 2020), we had taken-up the request of reinstatement of US GSP for India with the Government of India. The European Union Regulation (2013/115) of May 31, 2023 on Deforestation and Forest Degradation free supply chain will come into force from December 30, 2024 (for micro enterprises from June 30, 2025). As per this regulation, Relevant Commodities and relevant products shall not be placed or made available on the market or exported, unless the following conditions are fulfilled.

- (a) They are de-forestation free
- (b) They have been produced in accordance with relevant legislation of the country of production and
- (c) They are covered by a due diligence statement.

The EU deforestation regulation covers hides, semi-finished leathers and finished leather of cattle under HSN 4101, 4104 and 4107 respectively.

Also, the companies placing products in the EU market have to maintain geo-location of products sold in the EU market. This will be a major non-tariff barrier, which will significantly increase the cost of compliance, as it involves the entire supply chain of the leather sector. Hence, we are taking up this issue with the Government of India, for suitably taking-up with the EU Side for dropping this regulation and instead bringing in mechanisms to prevent de-forestation. CLE is also studying the implication of Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism of the European Union which will come into force from October 1, 2023.



Distinguished industry leaders and CLE members at the AGM

Export and import policy on leathers :

As per the consensus in the industry, CLE had represented to the Government that all value added leathers, including crust leathers, should be allowed freely without any norms, inspection, testing or certification and that the export duty should be levied only on raw hides and skins and wet blue leathers. CLE has also been pursuing its request for reinstatement of import duty exemption on wet blue, crust and finished leathers with the Department of Commerce and Department of Revenue. Chairman, CLE & ED, CLE had several meetings and personal discussions with Senior officials in the Department of Commerce and also Department of Revenue, requesting implementation of the changes requested in export policy and export duty on leathers and also the import duty exemption on leathers. Chairman, CLE also took-up these requests in the Export Performance Review meetings organized by Hon'ble Union Minister of Commerce and Industry. In this regard, CLE also provided detailed explanations to various queries raised by the Government. We are vigorously pursuing these requests with the Government.

Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI) : CLE has held several stakeholder meetings on PLI Scheme and submitted requests to the Government. The PLI scheme for footwear and leather industry is under consideration of the Government. We hope that the scheme will be announced soon.

Drawback : The Drawback Committee had a meeting with CLE in Chennai on April 18, 2023 wherein CLE made a detailed presentation, seeking increase in drawback rates for leather, leather products and footwear. Subsequently, CLE also submitted detailed cost data of 18 companies in respect of various

product categories, along with duty incidence workings.

According to our workings, the DBK rates are coming out higher than the existing rates. CLE also submitted a representation to the Drawback Committee seeking the following.

- 1 All Industry Rate on Leather & other inputs procured locally to be factored for fixing AIDBK
- 2 AIDBK to be provided for Crust Leather and El Tanned Leather
- 3 DBK to be considered for uppers exported with socks
- 4 Request for Change of product description for certain non leather footwear

CLE is expecting the notification of enhanced Drawback Rates shortly.

Standard Input Output Norms : CLE had taken-up the issue of notification of revised Standard Input Output Norms (SION) for leather, leather products and footwear to enable the members to import various new inputs as well as finished, wet blue and crust leather, under Advance Authorisation Scheme. In this connection, CLE obtained inputs from members and forwarded the proposal to Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI), who examined the proposal in detail and recommended the same to the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT). Subsequently, CLE attended the meeting on SION convened by Joint DGFT and also clarified various queries raised by DGFT office. DGFT has notified revised SION notified for leather, leather products and footwear vide DGFT Public Notice No. 30/2023 dated 31.8.23. The following are the highlights of the Public Notice.

- Wet Blue and Crust Leather have been included as import items for making finished leather under SION G 7 (i.e. finished leather from hide of cow/ buffalo) and G 46 (i.e. finished leather of goat/sheep/calf)
- Finished Leather has been included as an import item for making various leather footwear/sandals/uppers/fine/fancy leather gloves.

SION has not been notified for leather garments and leather/synthetic goods including bags, wallets, industrial gloves, Leather-Cum-Synthetic Golf Gloves/ Synthetic Golf Gloves with Leather, Belts, Sport Shoes etc., CLE has taken-up this issue with the DGFT requesting revised SION for the non-notified items, along with a request that import of leathers under SION should be allowed on net-to-net basis with wastage, without any quantity restrictions.

International Marketing : During 2022-23, CLE has organized Group Participation of member-exporters in 20 international specialized fairs/buyer seller meets and had also organized two Reverse BSMs (in India) and a Designers Fair, with the funding support of Government of India under MAI Scheme of the Department of Commerce and IC Scheme of the Ministry of MSME. During this year (2023-24), we have already participated in 11 overseas events and are planning participation in 14 more events during the remaining part of the financial year. In a significant stride towards fostering international trade relations and attracting foreign direct investment, CLE, in collaboration with the Department of Commerce, Government of India, and the India Taiwan Association, organized a Trade and Investment Promotion show in Taiwan during August 2023.

Similar investment and trade promotion show in Korea is planned during

October 16-18, 2023, and also in Japan during October 26-27, 2023.

Indian Footwear and Leather Development Programme (IFLDP) : CLE had undertaken maximum efforts to popularize IFLDP 2021-26 Scheme among Leather & Footwear industry members and to ensure submission of maximum applications / project proposals within the then deadline date. CLE is closely coordinating with the Industry stakeholders, CETPs / SPVs, FDDI, CSIR-CLRI, IIFT, NID, NPC, State Government Departments and DPIIT, Govt of India, for smooth implementation of the sub-schemes of IFLDP. The following are the brief highlights of the IFLDP implementation status as of now:

- **10 CETPs in the tannery sector** have submitted their upgradation project proposals with combined total project cost of Rs.945.32 crore and estimated 70% GOI grant of Rs.610.15 crore. These are under technical appraisal of the CLRI.
- **397 applications** have been filed under IDLS sub-scheme till 15.12.2022, with total project investment of Rs.1075.27 crore and GOI estimated grant of Rs.275.68 crore. As of 31.07.2023, a total of 161 applications with total project investment of Rs.309.59 Crores have been Approved with GOI grant of Rs.92.03 Crores.
- **Government of India has given 'in principle' approval for establishment of four new greenfield Mega Leather, Footwear & Accessories Clusters (MLFAC), one each in Tamil Nadu (land area of 300 acres), Maharashtra (151 acres), Bihar (62.17 acres) & Madhya Pradesh (157.37 acres). All these new**

clusters are proposed by respective State Government Departments.

- **6 project proposals of the units** involving total project cost of Rs.90 crore and GOI grant of Rs.35.25 crores have been approved for Brand Promotion of Indian Brands sub-scheme.
- **5 project proposals** (3 proposals of Government Institutions and 2 proposals of the Private Sector units) have been given approval for establishment of Design Studios at a total project cost of Rs.24.41 crores and the GOI grant is Rs.12.20 Crores. (50% funding)
- **Creation of Department of Non-Leather Products & Accessories** in the six campuses of the FDDI have been approved with total project cost of Rs.36.39 crores (100% funding).
- **Construction of Girls Hostel** at Hyderabad campus of FDDI have been approved at a project cost of Rs.15.88 crores (100% funding).

DPIIT has re-opened the NSWIS online portal from 17.07.2023, to submit the applications/project proposals under the three sub-schemes of IFLDP namely IDLS, Development of Design Studios and Brand Promotion of Indian Brands. As per the Public Notice issued by the DPIIT, the last date for submission of applications / project proposals is 30th October 2023.

CLE has disseminated this information to the industry and the CLE continues to organize the Industry Outreach Events / Webinars every Wednesday at 11.30 a.m. to provide guidance and offer clarifications to the queries of industry entrepreneurs.

Officials of CLE, FDDI and CLRI are available in this platform every Wednesday to interact with the industry, which is a major formalized set up developed by the CLE.

Furthermore, CLE has organized Industry Outreach events for other two sub-schemes Brand Promotion of Indian Brands & Development of Design Studios in close coordination with Indian Institute of Foreign Trade and National Institute of Design and requested the industry to submit the project proposals in the NSWIS portal within the deadline date. Council is taking all necessary steps with the industry to ensure the applications are filed in the portal at least one week before the deadline date of 30th October 2023.

Quality Control Order : Quality Control Order (QCO) for footwear which came into effect from 1st July 2023, applies to 4 types of footwear soles also. In view of the likely huge adverse impact due to delays in import clearances of footwear soles required for export production, CLE requested DPIIT to consider excluding Footwear Soles or exempt footwear soles meant for footwear assembled for exports, from the scope of QCOs. Accordingly, the DPIIT has issued a notification dated 1st September 2023 stating that the import consignments of footwear soles may be permitted and given import clearance at the customs based on the self-declaration by Indian importers and certification by Council for Leather Exports (CLE).

E – Commerce Portal : CLE has launched an e - commerce portal (<https://leatherindia.biz>) with the objective of hosting the profiles and products of

leading Indian companies of leather, leather products and footwear, and thereby facilitating B 2 B business as well as strengthen the supply chain enquiries. Thus, through this portal, not only buyers can enquire about products with the companies, but suppliers of components/ accessories/ machinery/chemicals can also approach the companies. We have fixed a nominal annual fee of Rs.2400 +GST for participation in this portal. More than 90 members have registered in the portal.

CLE National Export Award

: The Council distributes National Export Awards every year to member-companies for Excellent Export Performance in respect of Overall Exports and in different products. The Council organized the National Export Excellence Award Ceremony for the year 2021-22 on 3rd January 2023 at Hotel Taj Palace, Delhi. The total Number of Awards was 53.

CLE Membership : As on March 31, 2023, 2837 companies had enrolled as CLE members. In order to ensure maximum renewals of CLE membership, we had extended the last date for renewal of CLE membership upto Sept. 30, 2023 from June 30, 2023. As on 20th September 2023, 2515 members (89%) have renewed their CLE membership. Besides, 179 new companies have enrolled as CLE members as on date.

Chairman, CLE thanked the Government of India, State Governments and Institutions for their kind support to our industry. Chairman, CLE Vice – Chairman Shri Rajendra Kumar Jalan, Executive Director Shri R. Selvam; Shri Israr Ahmed, Regional Chairman (South); Shri Motilal Sethi, Regional Chairman (North); Shri Ramesh Kumar Juneja, Regional Chairman (East); Shri Naresh Bhasin, Regional Chairman



Shri R. Selvam, Executive Director, CLE reading the notice of the Annual General Meeting

(West); Shri Javed Iqbal, Regional Chairman (Central), Panel Convenors, COA Members and Regional Committee Members as well as staff and officials of CLE for their active participation and involvement in the efforts and activities of the Council.

Thereafter, the Chairman requested Shri R. Selvam, Executive Director, CLE to read the notice of the Annual General Meeting. The Executive Director read out the notice of the 39th Annual General Meeting. Thereafter, the following specific agenda items were taken up for consideration in seriatim.

Item No.1: To receive, consider & adopt the audited Balance Sheet as at 31-03-2023 and Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31-03-2023 along with report of the Auditors thereon

Shri Md.Yousuf, Managing Director of Hijaz Kuroda Gloves Company Private Limited, Chennai proposed the adoption of the Audited Balance Sheet as at 31-03-2023 and the Income & Expenditure Account for the year ended 31-03-2023 along with report of the Auditor's thereon and Shri Krishnakumar Aiyar, Managing Consultant, Blue Diamond Leders, Chennai seconded the above proposal. On being put to vote the same was unanimously approved by the Members present at the meeting.

Item No.2: To receive, consider & adopt the report of the Committee of Administration for the year 2022-23

Shri N.Theagarajan, Managing Director, Indo Skins Garments Pvt.Ltd., Chennai proposed the adoption of Report of the Committee of Administration for the year 2022-23 and Shri M.Khaleelur Rahman, Proprietor, Nibras & Co, Chennai seconded the above proposal. Thereafter the General Body unanimously adopted and approved the same.

Item No.3:To appoint an auditor / auditors for the Council for the year 2023-24 and fix their remuneration.

Shri K.R. Vijayan, Partner, Good Leather Company, Chennai proposed that M/s. Sri Sessa and Ravi, Chartered Accountants, Chennai be appointed as Auditor of the Council for the year 2023-24 with a Honorarium of Rs.1,05,000 +GST and also proposed the following panel of auditors as standby arrangement.

1.N.V. Balaji & Co., Chennai

2.R. Sundararajan & Associates,
Chennai

Dr. M. Rafeeqe Ahmed, Managing Director, Aston Shoes Pvt. Ltd., Chennai, seconded the aforementioned appointment of auditor.

Dr. M. Rafeeqe Ahmed, Former Chairman, CLE enquired about the income and expenditure details of CLE. Chairman, CLE and ED, CLE replied accordingly. Shri P.R. Aqeel Ahmed, Former Chairman, CLE also spoke about income and expenditure details of CLE.

Shri Rajendra Kumar Jalan, Vice – Chairman, CLE highlighted the market situation and growth prospects of the industry.

Shri Israr Ahmed, Regional Chairman (South), CLE delivered Vote of Thanks

The Chairman informed that the official business of the 39th Annual General Meeting is concluded.



Shri Rajendra Kumar Jalan, Vice – Chairman, CLE



Shri Israr Ahmed, Regional Chairman (South), CLE delivering Vote of Thanks



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IFCOMA 12th Edition SHOETECH Mumbai 2023 4th & 5th September 2023 at Nehru Centre, Mumbai



Inauguration of "IFCOMA 12th edition SHOETECH Mumbai 2023"

The vibrant city of Mumbai witnessed an exciting and transformative event in the world of footwear manufacturing and design – SHOETECH 2023. This annual exposition, dedicated to showcasing the latest advancements in shoe components and technology, is a pivotal moment for professionals in the footwear industry. With a focus on innovation and sustainability, this fair provided a comprehensive overview of the ever-evolving footwear landscape.

Shri H.R. Malik, Chairman, M/s. Maliks Traders, inaugurated the 12th Edition of SHOETECH Mumbai 2023, organised by IFCOMA, in the presence of Shri R. Selvam, IAS, Executive Director, CLE, and Shri Naresh Bhasin, Regional Chairman, West, CLE, at the Nehru Centre, Mumbai.

The two-day Buyer-Seller Meet-Cum Exhibition was organised by the Indian Footwear Components Manufacturers Association (IFCOMA) with the great support of the Council for Leather Exports (CLE), Sant Rohidas Leather Industries and Charmakar Development Corporation Ltd. (LIDCOM), Footwear Design & Development Institute (FDDI), and Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Ltd. (ECGC).



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Felicitation of Distinguished Guest during the “12th Edition SHOETECH 2023”



Shri Naresh Bhasin, Regional Chairman-West, Council for Leather Exports addressing event

The event commenced with a heartfelt opening, featuring Shri Sanjay Gupta, President of IFCOMA, expressing his appreciation for the attendees' support and presence. He underscored the shows vital role in meeting the varied requirements of industries that depend on top-notch components. Prominent footwear manufacturers based in Mumbai were present at the event.

Shri Naresh Bhasin, Regional Chairman-West, said "the footwear and component" industries must work on the innovation of their products. In today's time, innovation is the key to success in order to survive and grow in the industry. He thanked Mr. Sanjay Gupta, President, IFCOMA, for organising the event in Mumbai and assured the CLE western region of its full support for IFCOMA.

Shri H.R. Malik of Maliks Traders delivered a welcome note at the event. Addressing the event, he praised Shri Sanjay Gupta, President, IFCOMA, and his team for organising the event in Mumbai. He then mentioned how IFCOMA has come a long way and has been organising successful events over the years, and he wished all the best to exhibitors and IFCOMA for the two-day event. A lifetime achievement award was presented to Shri H.R. Malik, sir.

Shri R. Selvam, IAS, Executive Director-CLE, thanked the IFCOMA president for having him invited at the exhibition. In his note, he emphasized the footwear component industries in Taiwan, Vietnam, and Indonesia. He further emphasized that foreign countries, which are the size of Maharashtra, export three times as much as India. He requested that exhibitors look at these countries and try to implement their models to contribute to the growth of exports. Further, he added that CLE's role in providing service to the industry of footwear components will never be



Shri H.R. Malik, Chairman, M/s. Maliks Traders, Mumbai addressing event



Shri R Selvam, IAS, Executive Director-Council for Leather Exports addressing event



Shri Dhammajyoti Gajbhiye (IPoS), Managing Director - LIDCOM Ltd addressing event

neglected. Whatever help is needed for the footwear component industry will be taken care of by CLE.

Shri Dhamajyoti Gajbhiye (IPos), MD-LIDCOM, in his address speech, thanked IFCOMA for giving LIDCOM an opportunity to support the event and provide a trade networking dinner for exhibitors. He gave brief information on LIDCOM's role in the leather industry of Maharashtra. He assured during his speech that he would resolve the issues of footwear components in Maharashtra with the help of the corporation.

Furthermore, SHOETEC 2023 served as a hub for networking and collaboration. Attendees had the chance to connect with industry peers, explore potential partnerships, and gain valuable insights from experts. The fair's interactive nature encourages knowledge exchange and fosters a sense of community among footwear professionals.



Visitors at the Council for Leather Exports booth during the “12th Edition SHOETECH 2023”

Mumbai, with its rich cultural heritage and economic significance, provides the perfect backdrop for this gathering of footwear aficionados. As a global center for fashion and commerce, the city offers an exciting blend of tradition and innovation, making it an ideal location for a fair that celebrates the fusion of craftsmanship and technology.

SNAPSHOTS OF STALLS



Glimpse of visitors during the “12th Edition SHOETECH 2023”



Annual General Meeting of Indian Shoe Federation (ISF) and Indian Finished Leather Manufacturers & Exporters Association (IFLMEA)

“CSIR-CLRI Scientist Shri Mohamed Sadiq honoured with Lifetime Achievement Award”



In picture: (Mr Habib Hussain, Past-President ISF is reading the Award contents in the august presence of Dr M Rafeeqe Ahmed, Chairman, FARIDA Group; Shri R Selvam, IAS, Executive Director, Council for Leather Exports; Mr PR Aqeel Ahmed, President, ISF; Mr KR Vijayan, Chairman, IFLMEA and Mr Atiqur Rahman, IFLMEA

At the 31st Annual General Body Meeting of the Indian Shoe Federation (ISF) and the 40th Annual General Body Meeting of Indian Finished Leather manufacturers Association (IFLMEA) held on 8th September 2023 at Hotel TAJ Coromandel, Chennai; both ISF and IFLMEA jointly presented a “Lifetime Achievement Award” to Mr Mohamed Sadiq of CSIR-CLRI Design and Fashion Studio.

The Award was read by Mr Habib Hussain, Past-President, Indian Shoe Federation which reads as:

“Lifetime Achievement Award” for service par excellence to the Leather Industry presented to Mohamed Sadiq, CSIR-CLRI Design & Fashion Studio in recognition of and for his contributions to the Leather Sector with particular reference to his work in CSIR-CLRI on Footwear Styling and Design; R & D in Trend Forecasting, Colours and Texture Development, Shoe Design Education and Training. He has also excelled in Planning for the Indian Leather sector in the area of design, trends and global competitiveness. His signature contribution has been in enabling the ‘Travel of India in fashion forecasting for LEATHER’ - an R&D initiative for garnering global leadership. Signed by Mr Habib Hussain in his capacity as President, ISF and Mr KR Vijayan in his capacity as Chairman, IFLMEA.

The Award was handed over to Mohamed Sadiq by Dr M Rafeeqe Ahmed, Chairman, FARIDA Group



CITATION read and presented: Thereafter a CITATION was read as follows:

“Lifetime Achievement Award” for service par excellence to the Leather Industry

The achievements of Mr Mohamed Sadiq and the leadership through the 38 years (June 1986 to date) & beyond have inspired the Members of the Indian Leather & Leather Products Industry to excel in the areas of trends, colours, fashion and forecasts. He has always been alive to the dynamic needs of the industry and expeditious in his actions to ensure the growth of the sector.

It is indeed heartening to note that Mohamed Sadiq found strong support not only from the leather sector as a whole but also from the apex leather institutions and associations who are galvanising the leather sector to greater heights. Md Sadiq brought about synergy amongst Government, Trade, Institutions, Associations and the International Leather/ Leather Products associations to the discerning and this is indeed laudable!

At all times, Mohamed Sadiq is constantly matching, diluting, digressing, trespassing boundaries, inventing, experimenting and feeling to come up with a winning formula for a successful and growth-oriented Indian Leather Industry resulting in a flow of technology led innovation that is born out of a new wave of optimism.

The Industry has taken rapid strides and Md Sadiq, through CSIR-CLRI has provided the leadership for successful implementation of programmes that have helped to secure the pace of balanced growth, changes in fashion, quality and trends in the international market.

In the world scenario, India ranks among the leading Finished Leather and Leather Product producers. New Development has always contributed in building an enviable technically sound work-force and CSIR-CLRI and Team Design and Fashion Studio is proud to have played a pivotal role.

Mohamed Sadiq has acquired respect and admiration in the leather sector, both national and international through his service and the Industry together: Indian Finished Leather manufacturers and Exporters Association (IFLMEA) and the Indian Shoe Federation (ISF) wish to express their sincere appreciation for his valuable contributions with a Lifetime Achievement Award for helping the industry stay ahead of competition by bringing in ‘ideas ahead of time’.



In picture: Mohamed Sadiq of CSIR-CLRI Design and Fashion Studio stands in gratitude to the Members of ISF & IFLMEA who lauded the presentation of ‘Lifetime Achievement Award.’ The ‘Lifetime Distinction Honor’ was given by Dr. M Rafeeqe Ahmed in the esteemed presence of Mr. Habib Hussain, Mr. PR Aqeel Ahmed, Mr. KR Vijayan, Mr. R Selvam, Mr. DVD Vasu, Mr. Atiqur Rahman, and Mr. Salman Parpia.

In his acceptance speech intertwined 'life's lessons through various life stories and Mohamed Sadiq spoke on the lessons learnt in his lifetime:

- No hardship is difficult to overcome if you are focused on your goal. Success will always follow.
- It's also best to have four aces up one's sleeve to beat competition.
- Seizing opportunity at the right time and converting it to a lasting success.
- Synergy amongst partners is the route to success.
- A small reprimand goes a long way to correct one's path for sustained success in life's many examinations.
- We need to change with changing times; we need to constantly upgrade and modernize.
- Pain and suffering are always inevitable. Really, SOME men must, I think, have great sadness on Earth.

In his concluding remarks, Mohamed Sadiq said: "Life has been full of experiences, but, there were also the joys and opportunities." I take this opportunity to thank my parents, my sister, my wife, my son, my Teachers, my mentors, Members of the Indian Leather fraternity my friends, my Director and colleagues for their love and affection. The wisdom and teachings that Mother CLRI gave – none can replace.

I remain in gratitude to all the Directors of CLRI under whom I have worked and to the current Director Dr Sreeram, to all my colleagues with whom I worked and to my colleagues present here: Dayalan, Vinoth, Suresh, Sathiyaraj – you mean a lot to me. To all colleagues who have helped me in my growth in my organization – my sincere thanks. The Industry – you have always been steadfast in your support and I can't thank you enough for keeping me not only in your thoughts but also in your hearts.

'Many more acknowledgements are due and I have reserved all this gratitude to express them in my farewell speech when I retire from office on 31st May 2024 (eight months later),' he said.

For this wonderful felicitation I bow in humility and in eternal gratitude.



In picture: Team CSIR-CLRI Design & Fashion Studio (L to R): Mr R Sathiyaraj, Dr D Suresh Kumar, Mr P. Vinoth Kumar and Mr K Dayalan joined Mohamed Sadiq on the dais and expressed their gratitude to the Members of ISF & IFLMEA.

**Address by Mr Habib Hussain,
President, Indian Shoe
Federation:**

“You can’t see the rainbow looking at the ground”

“You can’t see the rainbow looking at the ground,” said Mr Habib Hussain, President, Indian Shoe Federation in his opening remarks at the 30th Annual General Body Meeting held on 8th September 2023 at Hotel Taj Coromandel, Chennai. The president of ISF continued stating “We have talked enough of the difficult times. Let us be optimistic about the future!



Mr Habib Hussain, President, Indian Shoe Federation spoke on the occasion of the 31st Annual General Meeting of the Indian Shoe Federation

There is a future, a different future. How to seize the opportunity should be our goal? You can’t drive with one foot on the break looking at the rear window. We need ‘PLAN and ‘VISION.’ ‘Supply Chain’ is very important added Mr Hussain. There is a strong felt need to building a supply chain. At the moment, we are not linked; we need to work together and build a supply chain with strong details.

It’s time to invest in the FUTURE and these include the need for creative skills and strong systems. We should be able to attract MBA’s, IIM’s to this Industry. FUTURE is on “Indian Model” and not Chinese model/ Italian model. Indian model wherein we will become a digitized factory in our business that has ‘transparency’ deep down to the shop floor. The President said that Mr Jinna Rafeeq of Kothari is bringing up the change and that really is the future.

Thirty-day turn arounds are coming! We need to have factories that are working on 80% capacity. This way, we can even attract public funds. Let us not think on yesterday’s business model, he urged.

We should work towards 99.5% on-time delivery. 0.1% to maximum 1.0% should be the rejection rate.

In conclusion, Mr Habib Hussain said that “A Hugely Optimistic Future awaits.” Mr Hussain expressed his gratitude to Dr M Rafeeq Ahmed, Mr M Mohammed Hashim, Mr T Rafeeq Ahmed and to the stalwarts for making him what he is today.



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Mr PRAqeel Ahmed, the newly elected President of ISF; in his remarks traced the history of the Indian

Shoe Federation and its formation almost thirty-two years back with doyens like Mr V Balraman, Late K Ameenur Rahman and Mr M Mohammed Hashim. Mr Aqeel Ahmed thanked Dr M rafeeqe Ahmed for the opportunity given to him to lead the Industry and Mr Aqeel said that he hopes to make ISF a very successful association. The business trends are currently not good and this is likely to continue for another six months.

Today's competition, said Mr Aqeel is: "MEVERSUS ME." We have to fight and compete among ourselves. President, ISF said that Vietnam has increased its market share by 11%. Vietnam model

is capturing the world. With many investments in Tamil Nadu from Vietnam; TN is almost 50% of Vietnam area, he said; while appreciating the Tamil Nadu Government Policy for attracting investments.

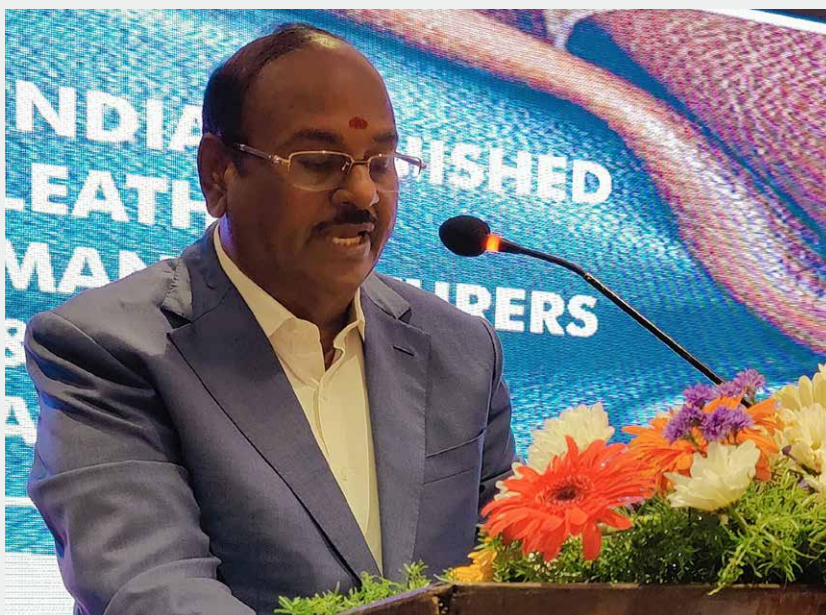
In conclusion, Mr PRAqeel Ahmed said that India has a mere 0.5% market share in the non-leather footwear segment. Industry is going through turbulent times; but, good times are coming, he said.



Mr PRAqeel Ahmed, Newly-elected President of Indian Shoe Federation spoke on the occasion of the 31st Annual General Body Meeting of Indian Shoe Federation.

Beyond the optimism seen at the recently concluded Garma Fair, has not translated into orders. This means that we are embracing for another slow season which is the Spring Summer 2024 season. I must compliment Members of our fraternity for adapting to the changing seasons swiftly and making new developments for the Autumn Winter 24/25 season. Member Exporters have realized that enquiries are coming in the direction of water-proof leathers, oily and greasy leathers for shoes. May I reiterate that there is a renewed interest in leathers for leather garments in the form of sheep skins and suedes. As Chairman, IFLMEA, I acknowledge the Fashion trend inputs from CSIR-CLRI who have been working closely with both MODEUROP & FASHION TREND POOL and bringing us seasonal updates. CSIR-CLRI has geared the discerning with the Trends in Colours & Leathers for the Spring Summer 2025 season as well.

We wish to thank Dr KJ Sreeram, Director, CSIR-CLRI for his engagement and involvement in the R&D jointly with the Industry, Quality Assurance services, seasonal Fashion Forecasts and above all providing well-qualified human resource for the Industry.



Mr KR Vijayan, Chairman, Indian Finished Leather Manufacturers & Exporters Association delivering his speech on the occasion of the 40th Annual General Body Meeting of IFLMEA.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr R Selvam, IAS, Executive Director, Council for Leather Exports congratulated Mohamed sadiq for the Award received by him. The Executive Director spoke very optimistically on the Industry stating that:” There are signs of phenomenal growth in both leather and non-leather footwear; also, in textile footwear.” Efforts by Individual companies need to pick-up for a bright scope for the Industry for the next three decades or more.



Mr R Selvam, IAS, Executive Director, Council for Leather Exports addressing the gathering of ISF & IFLMEA Members.

Congratulating IFLMEA for their ‘milestone’ AGM; Dr M Rafeeq Ahmed said that “40 years is a big milestone! He traced the Journey of IFLMEA, beginning naming of the association as IFLMEA. In these days, he continued, Crust manufacturing was very strong and a few manufacturers desired to declare “Crust” as Finished leather owing to the demand from France. IFLMEA, worked towards protecting of the exports of CRUSTS. IFLMEA insisted on value addition and hence ‘Finished Leather,’ he said.

Dr Rafeeq Ahmed advised the Office bearers of IFLMEA to look into controlling the cost of tanning, and cost of chemicals being used.

He urged that IFLMEA must come out with a plan that ‘tanning costs’ should not become prohibitive. He also recalled that the Tanning Sector’s capacity used to be 70%

and today it just about 35%. These measures are important for IFLMEA as it steps into its fifth decade as otherwise, it would make the existence of small tanners very difficult.



Dr M Rafeeq Ahmed, Chairman, FARIDA Group addressed the gathering on that day. Seen in the picture are eminent personalities like: Mr T rafeeq Ahmed, Mr Motilal Sethi, Mr Jinnah Rafiq, Mr KSK Rafiq, Mr Manoj Bhaiya, Mr Sateesh Jadhav, Mr Khalle ur Rahman, Mr Vimalan amongst others.

Quality Control Orders (QCOs) implementation in the footwear sector – Import of footwear soles permitted for use in the production for exports purpose – Gazette Notification issued

The Quality Control Orders (QCOs) for Footwear Sector is currently under implementation for notified footwear products from 01.07.2023 and Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) shall be the certifying and enforcing authority for the goods or articles mentioned in the QCO Orders. The notified footwear products cannot be sold / traded in domestic market or imported into India, without a BIS license.

In the Quality Control Order (QCO) No.4670001-2022-Leather dated: 03.06.2022, Footwear made from all Rubber and all Polymeric material and its components (Quality Control) Order, 2022, apart from the Footwear (finished products), the following 4 items – footwear soles (components) have been included under QCOs.

As the inclusion of footwear soles in the QCOs will have its adverse impact on the footwear exports industry while importing the items for export purposes, the CLE has taken up the matter with authorities concerned in the Government of India and requested them to allow the import clearance of footwear soles meant for production or assembly of footwear for export purpose.

In this background, Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade (DPIIT), Government of India has issued the Order dated 1st September 2023 and the Order was published in the Gazette of India dated 4th September 2023. In terms of the said Order, four items of the footwear soles given in the Table, are

S. No.	Goods or Articles (Components)	Indian Standard	Title of Indian Standards
3	Moulded solid rubber soles and heels	IS 5676 : 1995	Moulded solid rubber soles and heels – specification
4	Rubber microcellular sheets for soles and heels	IS 6664 : 1992	Rubber microcellular sheets for soles and heels – specification
5	Solid PVC soles and heels	IS 6719 : 1972	Specification for solid PVC soles and heels
10	Polyurethane sole, semi rigid	IS 13893 : 1994	Polyurethane sole, semi rigid - specification

permitted for import clearance for the purpose of production or assembling of footwear for exports, based on the self-declaration by the Importer and certification by the Council for Leather Exports (CLE) as per the details mentioned in the order.

Accordingly, the following are internal procedures devised by CLE to provide certification to the importers:

- The applicant unit will prepare a 'self-declaration' in its Letter Head duly mentioning the particulars as per 'format' given.
- The applicant unit will submit the above 'self-declaration' along with a covering Letter addressed to the nearest Regional Office / Extension Office of the CLE by E-mail, explaining the import particulars as per 'format' given.
- In order to meet the administrative expenses involved in providing certification, the CLE has fixed 'service charges' @ 1% of the CIF value as per Invoice / Bill of Entry + 18% GST. However, minimum service charges would be Rs.5000 + 18% GST. This is payable via Bank Transfer or instant money transfer to the bank account of CLE as mentioned below (or through Debit card / Credit card / G Pay directly at the Regional / Extension Office concerned.

CLE has circulated the above information vide circular dated: 08.09.2023 along with the Notifications issued by DPIIT, Govt. of India and the formats to be submitted by the applicant.

All the above relevant details were hosted in the CLE website www.leaseindia.org and kept in public domain. These can be accessed from homepage itself.

Members may kindly take note and approach nearest Regional / Extension Offices of CLE if you have any import consignment of footwear soles to be cleared from the Customs.

(Refer CLE Circular No.CLE-HO/PTLM/BIS/2023-24, Dated: 08.09.2023)

Scheme of Inspection and Testing made optional for micro and small-scale manufacturers of Consumer Footwear and Footwear Components - Notification issued by BIS

Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has issued a Notification vide Ref: CMD-2/G-94 dated 14.09.2023 regarding the Scheme of Inspection and Testing (SIT) made OPTIONAL for Micro and SmallScale Manufacturers of Consumer Footwear and Footwear Components. The BIS has relaxed the scheme of inspection and testing for micro and small scale manufacturers of the notified products, to name a few, it is not compulsory for the micro and small scale units for maintaining a suitable equipped and staffed laboratory, it is not compulsory to maintain test records etc. The changes made in the product manuals of the respective products as per the Notification is given below for the perusal of the members.

- Product manuals of the following consumer footwear and footwear components products have been revised in order to make compliance to the Scheme of Inspection and Testing (SIT) optional for micro, and small-scale units with respect to the following requirements of the SIT.

- o Clause 1 (Laboratory): i.e. requirement of maintaining a suitable equipped and staffed lab is not compulsory
- o Clause 2 (Test records): i.e. requirement of maintaining test records is not compulsory

- o Clause 3 (Packing and Marking): i.e. shall be followed by all
- o Clause 4 (Control Unit) and Clause 5 (Levels of Control): i.e. Conducting tests as indicated under levels of control is not compulsory
- o Clause 6 (Rejection): i.e. shall be followed by all
- The aforementioned changes have been made in the product manuals of the following products:
 - a) Sandals and Slippers (IS 6721 : 2023)
 - b) Hawai Chappals (IS 10702 : 2023)
 - c) Sports Footwear (IS 15844 : 2010, IS 15844 (Part 1) : 2023, IS 15844 (Part 2) : 2023)
 - d) Canvas Shoes and Boots with Rubber Sole (IS 3735 : 1996, IS 3736 : 1995)
 - e) Moulded Solid Rubber Soles and Heels (IS 5676 : 1995)
 - f) Rubber Microcellular Sheets for Soles and Heels (IS 6664 : 1992)
 - g) Solid PVC Soles and Heels (IS 6719 : 1972)
 - h) Polyurethane Sole, Semirigid (IS 13893 : 1994)
- However, all units shall ensure compliance of their products to the requirements of the Indian Standard and the requirements of SIT with respect to the above mentioned Clauses.

CLE has circulated the above information vide circular dated: 21.09.2023 along with the Notification issued by the BIS. These details were hosted in the CLE website www.leetcodeindia.org and kept in public domain. These can be accessed from homepage itself.

Members are requested to refer to the product manuals (IS) for the above products for revisions made by BIS. Product manuals can be accessed from BIS website (www.bis.gov.in) through: (<https://www.bis.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/notification-for-footwear-SIT-relaxation-merged.pdf>)

(Refer: CLE Circular No.CLE-HO/PTLM/BIS/2023-24, Dated: 21.09.2023)



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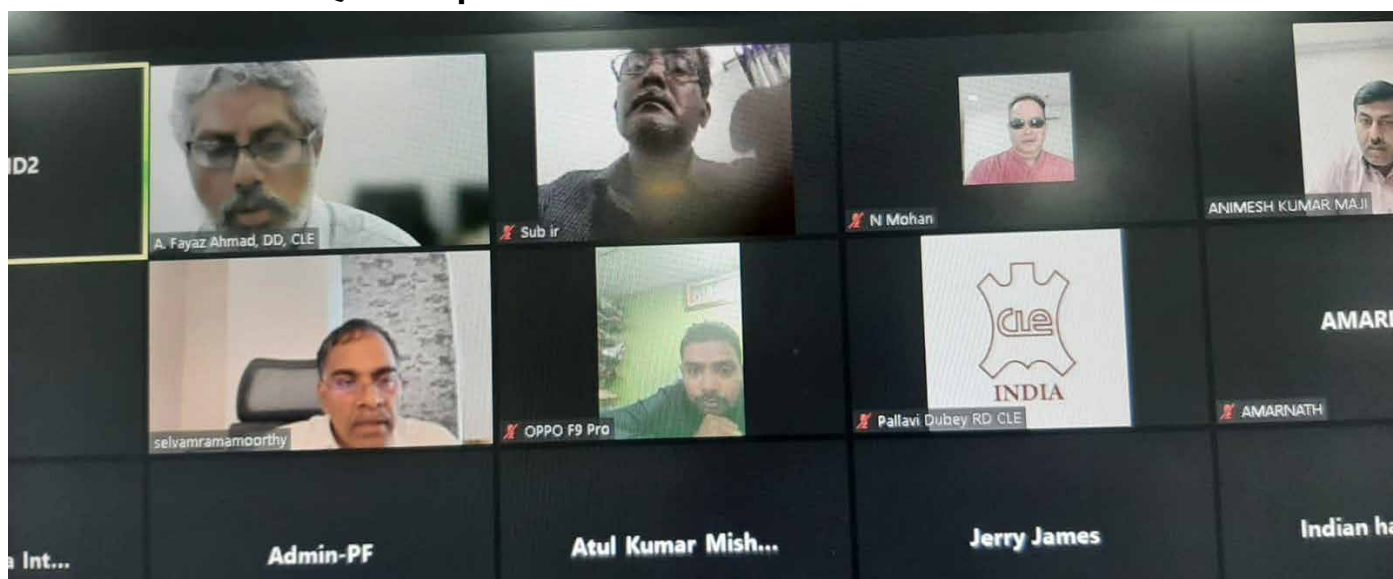
CLE along with BIS organizes 3rd edition of Industry Outreach Event (Webinar) on QCOs for Footwear Sector on 13.09.2023

As all are aware, Council for Leather Exports (CLE) in close coordination with Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has earlier conducted two editions of Industry outreach events (Webinars) on 18.05.2023 & 21.06.2023 on the QCOs implementation in the Footwear Sector. The 3rd edition of the Industry Outreach event via webinar was conducted on 13.09.2023 in which information on the BIS procedures for registration of products and other aspects was discussed and guidance was provided to the industry.

The officials from BIS participated and explained the Implementation aspects of the QCOs with respect to the procedures to be followed by the industry, applications, documentations, testing, grant of license etc and also on the imports of footwear and components from abroad, procedures to be followed under the Foreign Manufacturers Certification Scheme (FMCS), applications, documentations, methodology etc.

The Webinar was presided over by Shri R Selvam, IAS, Executive Director, CLE. From BIS, Shri Amit Choudhary, Scientist D, Central Marks Department of BIS, and Shri Venkatesh, Scientist C, Foreign Manufacturer's Certification Department (FMCS) of BIS participated in the webinar. Dr N Mohan, Convener of Non-Leather Footwear Panel of CLE attended the webinar and participated in the discussions. Shri A. Fayaz Ahmad, Deputy Director, CLE coordinated the organization and attended the webinar.

Webinar on QCO implementation in the Footwear Sector on 13.09.2023



Shri R. Selvam, IAS, Executive Director, CLE participating in the webinar. Dr N Mohan, Convener, Non-Leather Footwear Panel, CLE and Shri A. Fayaz Ahmad, Deputy Director, CLE have attended the Webinar

A total of 29 manufacturing units of footwear and footwear components comprising 38 participants attended this webinar. 14 manufacturing units participated for the 3rd time as they have already participated in the previous two editions. The Region-wise participations in the 3rd edition consists of Southern Region (8 units), Northern Region (11 units), Central Region (4 units), Eastern Region (3 units) and Western Region (3 units). The prominent manufacturers such as Fengtay

India, Farida Group, KH Group, Good Leather Group, Dawar Footwear Industries, Wasan Group, International Footsteps, Jama Corporation, APL Polyfab, Suri Shoes, Torpedo Shoes etc attended the webinar.

Industry Associations namely Fraternity of Agra Footwear Manufacturers (FAFM), Agra Footwear Manufacturer's Association, Agra Shoe Factors Federation, Indian Shoe Federation (ISF), Agra Footwear Manufacturers and Exporters Chamber (AFMEC), South India Shoe Manufacturers Association (SISMA) and Indian Footwear Components Manufacturers Association (IFCOMA) have participated in this webinar.

It may be recalled that 109 manufacturing units of footwear and footwear components comprising 286 participants attended the 1st edition of the Industry Outreach event (webinar) on 18.05.2023. In the 2nd edition held on 21.06.2023, a total of 54 manufacturing units of footwear and footwear

components comprising 125 participants attended this webinar. Besides, 22 manufacturing units participated for the second time as they have already participated in the Webinar held on 18.05.2023.

Shri R Selvam, IAS, Executive Director-CLE welcomed the participants, and thanked the officials of Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) for joining this webinar. ED informed that this is the 3rd edition of the QCO implementation in the Footwear Sector webinar organized by CLE. He continued that for Safety Footwear, QCOs came into effect from 1st January 2022, for Sports Footwear, the revision of Indian Standards was under serious discussions and it will be implemented from 1st January 2024. The Indian Standards for Safety Footwear is already implemented and certain modifications to be made for the safety footwear and other types of footwear are discussed by several committees formed by the BIS. After the discussion by the committee members, the final revised standards will be published for compliance. Regarding Testing Laboratories, he stated that BIS had published the details of testing labs and the locations of the labs for the ease of the industry. He continued that members were reporting difficulties in filing the application and getting the inspection done for BIS products certification in India. Meanwhile, those who have applied from foreign countries under Foreign Manufacturers Certification Scheme (FMCS) have also informed that they were facing difficulties and the applications are at pending stage. Hence, ED has requested BIS officials to clarify the BIS certification process for the domestic manufacturers and the foreign manufacturers which would help the participants to get clarity in their process for making a successful filing and getting the license. He also informed that BIS awareness campaign will be conducted continuously as a regular fixture and apart from that CLE is

exploring the possibility to conduct the industry outreach event region-wise as hybrid meetings.

Shri Amit Choudhary, Scientist D, Central Marks Department of BIS, has made a presentation on Footwear – BIS Certification and explained about the history of BIS, BIS Act 2016, Quality Control Order on Footwear Products, Product Certification Scheme-I, major documents to be submitted with the application and approval process of BIS Certification and issues related to QCO from BIS perspective.

Shri Amit Choudhary, BIS further informed the recent changes taken place that BIS has come up with the modifications for Micro & Small-scale industries Footwear manufacturers for specific items that there will not be any mandatory requirement from BIS for stationing of in-house testing facility of their own. In addition, in the product manual and the scheme of inspection and testing is exempted for micro and small units for most of the footwear products. So, these are the major developments taken for the manufacturers to come under the certification fold.

Shri Venkatesh, Scientist C, Foreign Manufacturer's Certification Department (FMCS) of BIS gave presentation on the BIS Foreign Manufacturer's Certification Scheme and explained about the process of application, list of documents to be submitted, grant of license, procedure to be followed under the Foreign Manufacturers Certification Scheme (FMCS), methodology etc.

Dr. N. Mohan, Convener, Non-Leather Footwear Panel, CLE, briefed the participants on the discussions had with the Deputy Director General for the foreign manufacturer's under FMCS that footwear manufactures in Vietnam & Cambodia has a separate policy decision which is under discussion as lot of applications from foreign manufactures were pending. For domestic manufacturer's the inspection should take place within 45 days after sending the samples, but at present it is taking 2 to 3 months times to get the samples because the labs are overloaded and the recent filing of a greater number of applications. The DG and Shri Ajay Lal, Head, Chemical Department, BIS has informed that the backlog for domestic manufacturer's will be cleared within 45 days of time. He also requested the BIS to clear the backlog of the foreign manufacturer's under FMCS.

Shri A. Fayaz Ahmad, Deputy Director, CLE informed the actions taken by the CLE in disseminating all the details of the QCOs to the members of footwear industry vide CLE circulars as well as hosting information in the CLE website www.leatherindia.org. He interacted with the BIS officials & clarified the participant's queries mainly on the time gap between the application filing by the foreign manufacturers and the inspection team visit.

Thereafter, discussion forum opened and Question and Answer (Q&A) session was held in the webinar, and participants have interacted with the officials of BIS and queries raised by the participants were explained by the BIS officials which were mostly on the BIS categorization of the Indian Standards (IS), amendments on the categorization for reducing the implementation issues, BIS product certification process, laboratory requirements etc.

Shri A. Fayaz Ahmad, Deputy Director, CLE delivered the vote of thanks by thanking the BIS officials for joining this webinar and having lively discussions with the participant's, thanked all industry members who made convenient to join this webinar. He also informed that CLE is taking continuous actions to conduct Industry Outreach Events in future periods, at regular intervals, to interact with the footwear industry and address their queries on matters concerning the QCO implementation in the footwear sector.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on Quality Control Orders for Footwear Products, brought out by BIS

The Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India has mandated the Quality Control Orders [QCOs] for Footwear Sector which will come into force with effect from 1st day of July 2023. The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) shall be the certifying and enforcing authority for the goods or articles. 13 footwear products covered under the Footwear made from All-Rubber and all Polymeric material and its components (Quality Control) Order, 2022 and 11 footwear products covered under the Footwear made from Leather and other materials (Quality Control) Order, 2022 is under implementation from 1st July 2023.

In this regard, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) related to QCOs for Footwear Products have been brought out by BIS, with 18 possible questions and answers to them. The FAQs Document is detailed below for your reference. This is also hosted in BIS website with the link: <https://www.bis.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/clarification-sandals-and-chappals-merged.pdf>

Q1: What is a Quality Control Order?

A1: BIS certification scheme is basically voluntary in nature. However, for a number of products, compliance to Indian Standards is made compulsory by the Central Government under various considerations viz. public interest, protection of human, animal or plant health, safety of environment, prevention of unfair trade practices and national security.

For such products, the Central Government directs mandatory

use of Standard Mark under a Licence from BIS through issuance of Quality Control Orders (QCOs) in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-sections (1) and (2) of section 16 read in conjunction with section 17 and subsection (3) of section 25 of the BIS Act, 2016.

After the date of commencement of the QCO, no person shall manufacture, import, distribute, sell, hire, lease, store or exhibit for sale any product(s) covered under the QCO without the Standard Mark (e.g. the ISI Mark).

For more information on QCOs, please refer the guidance document on QCOs published by BIS on its website www.bis.gov.in

Q2: Which is the footwear products for which the Government has issued Quality Control Orders?

A2: Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India has issued three QCOs bringing 27 products under compulsory BIS certification, these are as follows (follow the links under the “QCO” column for accessing the full text of the QCOs including the list of the products and applicable Indian Standards):

QCO	No.of Products	Date of Implementation
Personal Protective Equipment – Footwear QCO	03	1st Jan 2022
Leather and Other Materials Footwear - Footwear QCO	11	1st July 2023
All – Rubber and all Polymeric Material – Footwear QCO	13	1st July 2023

List of all products under compulsory BIS certification along with the QCOs and their amendments is available on BIS website under “Products under Compulsory Certification”

Q3: How can I access the Indian Standards referred for the footwear products?

A3: Indian Standards can be accessed from BIS website www.bis.gov.in under the tab “Standards>Download Indian Standards” which will direct you to the Standards BIS portal: <https://standardsbis.bsbedge.com/> .

You can register on this portal and then login to download Indian Standards for free. International (ISO) standards adopted by BIS can also be downloaded on payment.

Q4: Have MSMEs been exempted from the footwear QCOs?

A4: Presently, Micro and Small Scale enterprises (as defined in the MSME Act) have been kept outside the purview of the QCOs for All-Rubber and all Polymeric material and its components and Leather and other materials.

However, Small scale enterprises will also be covered under these QCOs from 1st January 2024 whereas micro scale enterprises will be covered from 1st July 2024.

Q5: I heard that BIS has recently revised standards for certain products. Will industry get some time to comply with the QCOs with respect to the products as per the revised standards? Does this apply to both domestic and foreign manufacturers?

A5: For the following products for which standards have been revised recently, the manufacturers making the products as per these revised specifications will be given an additional time of 6 months to comply i.e. up to 31 December 2023.

This applies to both domestic and foreign manufacturers making footwear for consumers in India.

BIS has published this information in the public domain on BIS website-

<https://www.bis.gov.in/wpcontent/uploads/2023/07/NOTIFICATION-FOR-EXTENSION.pdf>

Q6: My Company owns several manufacturing units spread across various locations. Do I need to obtain BIS certification for all these units?

A6: Yes, BIS certification is granted to manufacturing premises and not to a company. Therefore, separate certification (licence) shall need to be obtained for each manufacturing premises (manufacturing premise(s) means the premises, either owned by the applicant or otherwise, where a part of the manufacturing activity takes place and includes the premises where the final manufacturing activity is carried out and where Standard Mark is to be used or applied).

Q7: In my manufacturing unit, I make several different types of footwear products. Do I need to take one licence for the unit or separate licences for each of the products? Do I also need to take

Current IS No. (Product)	Revised IS No. (Product)
IS 15844 : 2010 – Sports Footwear	IS 15844 (Part 1) : 2023 – Sports Footwear Part -I General Purpose, and IS 15844 (Part 2) : 2023 – Sports Footwear Part -2 Performance Sports Footwear
IS 10702 : 1992 – Rubber Hawai Chappal	IS 10702 : 2023 – Hawai Chappal
IS 11544 : 1986 – Rubber Slipper	IS 6721 : 2023 – Sandal and Slipper
IS 6721 : 1972 – PVC Sandal	

separate licences for each of the different varieties of the same footwear product being produced?

A7: BIS grants separate licences for each product according to the Indian Standards applicable. For example, if both Hawai Chappal (IS 6721:2023) and Sports Footwear – General Purpose (IS 15844 (Part 1):2023) are being manufactured in the same unit, that unit has to obtain two separate licences for each of these products/Indian Standard.

However, different varieties of the product covered under the same Indian Standard, can be covered under the same licence. Please refer the product manuals (Scope of licence and grouping guidelines) for more information related to specific products. <https://www.bis.gov.in/productcertification/product-specific-information-2/product-manualsmk>

Q8: Do these QCOs apply only to finished footwear or footwear components/materials as well?

A8: Among the 27 products covered under these 3 QCOs, the following footwear components are also covered:

S.No.	QCO	IS Number	Product
1	All - Rubber and all Polymeric material and its Components	IS 5676 : 1995	Moulded solid rubber soles and heels
2	All - Rubber and all Polymeric material and its Components	IS 6664 : 1992	Rubber microcellular sheets for soles and heels
3	All - Rubber and all Polymeric material and its Components	IS 6719 : 1972	Solid PVC Soles and Heels
4	All - Rubber and all Polymeric material and its Components	IS 13893 : 1994	Polyurethane sole, semirigid

Q9: I am an importer/buyer/retailer/wholesaler/distributor of the footwear products covered under these QCOs, do I also need to take BIS certification?

A9: No, BIS grants certification only to manufacturing units and not to buyers/importers/retailers/wholesalers/distributors.

However, buyers/importers/retailers/wholesalers/distributors shall ensure that the products covered under QCOs are purchased only from manufacturing unit holding a valid BIS licence.

Q10: My company is sourcing these footwear products covered under the QCOs from a foreign manufacturer. Can foreign manufacturers also get BIS certification?

A10: BIS grants certification to foreign manufacturers as well under the "Foreign Manufacturers Certification Scheme (FMCS)". Details including the application process, forms etc are available BIS website www.bis.gov.in under Conformity Assessment>FMCS.

Q11: Derby shoes as per IS 17043:2018 is one of the products covered under these QCOs. Does this apply to formal/semi-formal shoes of derby type being used by the general public?

A11: Currently only the Derby Shoes which are to be used by armed forces/police forces are covered in the scope of IS 17043:2018 and thus, only these derby shoes will be covered under the QCO. Therefore, the QCO shall not apply to derby shoes for civilian use as of now. BIS has published this information in public domain on BIS website - <https://www.bis.gov.in/wpcontent/uploads/2023/07/clarification-on-derby-shoes.pdf>

Q12: What is the procedure for BIS certification for a footwear manufacturing unit in India?

A12: For domestic manufacturers, BIS certification process (under Scheme-I which is applicable for footwear) involves the following steps

Step 1: Identification of the applicable Indian Standard for the product e.g. for PVC Industrial Boots the Indian Standard is IS 12254:2021

Step 2: Create an account on the eBIS platform www.manakonline.in in the following manner:

- i) Go to <https://www.manakonline.in/>
- ii) Click on the tile marked "Conformity Assessment (Manakonline)"

- iii) Click on the blue "Login" button on the top right hand corner of the page
- iv) Click on "Create account" (you can login directly if you already have an account)
- v) Follow the instructions given to create an account. You will receive login credentials (username and password)
- vi) Log in to the portal using these credentials
- vii) Follow the instructions on the portal (you can refer the user manual given) to submit your application as per the applicable Indian Standard.

Notes:

1. Although there are two options available for application submission i.e. option 1 or normal procedure and option 2 or simplified procedure, for the majority of the footwear products, application has to be submitted under option 2.

2. When applying under option 2 (simplified procedure), firstly, after logging in, a QR code has to be generated using the tile titled "Generate QR code". This QR code will need to be printed out and applied on the sample(s) needed to be tested (For identifying the varieties/number of samples to be tested please refer the scope and grouping guidelines given in the product manual for that product available on BIS website www.bis.gov.in under Conformity Assessment>Product Certification>Product Specific Information>Product Manuals)

3. Then the test request to be sent to the lab has to be generated through the link provided where the details of the sample as well as the QR code number have to be provided and the appropriate BIS Lab or BIS recognized/empanelled lab selected from the list available. After submitting the test request, the sample(s) are to be sent to the selected lab.

4. The lab shall conduct the testing and upload the test report back on the portal from where the applicant can access it.

- viii) Once the test report is received and product is conforming to the Indian Standard, application can now be submitted along with the lab generated test report. (Application Fee of Rs 1000/- and Visit charges of Rs 7000/- per day need to be remitted with the application)
- ix) The concerned BIS Branch Office shall examine the application and a BIS officer shall be assigned a factory verification visit during which the information declared in the application including the manufacturing and testing infrastructure shall be verified and testing of the product in the factory shall be witnessed. A sample (verification sample) shall also be drawn during the visit and sent for testing to a BIS Lab or BIS recognized/empanelled lab.
- x) Based on successful verification during the factory visit (verification visit), the application may be processed for grant of licence after payment of requisite fees (licence will be granted without waiting for the test report of the verification sample but after test report is received, the licence will be taken up for review according to the results observed). Standard time for grant of licence under option 2 is 30 days.
- xi) When applying under option 1 (normal procedure), steps 2 to 4 above are not required. After submission of complete application, a factory visit (Preliminary Visit) is carried out by BIS and unlike simplified procedure, in this case the licence will be granted only after the test report of the sample(s) drawn during the visit (applicant sample(s)) is received from the lab and indicates conformity of the product to the Indian Standard.

Considering the additional time for testing of samples, the standard time for grant of licence under option I is 90 days.

For more information on the product certification process, please refer to information available on BIS website www.bis.gov.in under Conformity Assessment>Product Certification.

Q13: After getting a licence, do I need to test the product regularly? Is there any defined frequency?

A13: Please refer the product manual (available on BIS website www.bis.gov.in under Conformity Assessment>Product Certification>Product Specific Information>Product Manuals)) for that product. The Scheme of Inspection and Testing given in the product manuals indicates levels of control giving the frequency at which the given tests may be carried out.

Q14: There are several tests prescribed in the Indian Standard some of which require expensive equipment which my company cannot afford to purchase. Can I subcontract these tests to a BIS recognized lab?

A14: Please refer the product manual (available on BIS website www.bis.gov.in under Conformity Assessment>Product Certification>Product Specific Information>Product Manuals)) for that product.

The Scheme of Inspection and Testing given in the product manuals indicates those tests which can be subcontracted to BIS recognized/empanelled labs (indicated as "S") and those tests which need to be

done in-house (as "R"). Records of these tests along with the test reports issued need to be maintained. The list of BIS recognized/empanelled labs for any Indian Standard can be accessed from eBIS platform: www.manakonline.in under "Laboratory".

Q15: We are a group of MSMEs operating in the same industrial cluster/nearby, can we utilize a common test facility instead of setting up labs in each of our units?

A15: Provisions are available for utilization of common test facilities such as Cluster Based Testing Facilities by MSMEs. Please refer "Guidelines for utilisation of Cluster Based Test Facility (CBTF) by MSMEs" available on BIS website under Conformity Assessment>Product Certification>Product certification process.

Q16: We are large company sharing a common laboratory for our multiple manufacturing units. Can BIS treat this shared lab as the common in-house lab for these units?

A16: Provisions are available for sharing of testing facilities among units. Please refer Annex-X of Guidelines for Grant of Licence available on BIS website under Conformity Assessment>Product Certification>Product certification process.

Q17: Where can I find the list of labs established and recognized by BIS for testing footwear products?

A17: Please visit www.manakonline.in and click on the tile titled "laboratory" to access the Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) portal i.e. lims.bis.gov.in. LIMS is linked to the Manakonline portal. On the LIMS page, click the "Search a lab" tile. You can search for labs using the IS Number field e.g. If you want to know the labs recognized for testing sandals and slippers as per IS 6721:2023, enter 6721 in the IS Number field and click on search. You can also search using lab name, state, district etc.

IMPORTANT: Please note that while applying for licence under simplified procedure, you are required to first register on the Manakonline portal, generate a QR code, test request for the sample by selecting a labs from the list of labs on the portal (which is linked to LIMS) and then send the sample (with QR code applied) to the selected lab.

Test reports issued by labs for samples sent without following this procedure (which is required to ensure traceability of samples) may not be accepted by BIS as part of an application for grant of licence under simplified procedure.

Q18: Can BIS grant any extension or exemption from the QCOs?

A18: Any exemptions like non-applicability of the Order on specific product(s), product(s) meant for export, extension of the date of commencement of QCO etc. come under the purview of the Line Ministry (Regulator) who has issued the QCO i.e. DPIIT in case of footwear. Wherever exemptions are permitted, these are clearly brought out in respective QCO itself such as exemption for products meant for export.



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DIELESS CUTTING SYSTEM

Article by: Central Footwear Training Institute (CFTI), Chennai

CFTI Chennai, in line with its tradition of being always in the forefront and bringing the latest technological innovation to Indian Leather and Leather Product Manufacturer, has acquired and installed a new COMELZ Dieless Cutting System comprising of 1.COMELZ NEK_Optimum & Automatic Nesting System and combined with 2. COMELZ CZ Plus L_Digital Cutting System.

1. Optimum & Automatic Nesting System

- Optimum & Automatic Nesting System specifically designed for cutting leather and non-leather materials. These types of systems are commonly used in industries like fashion, upholstery, automotive, and more, where precise cutting of materials is crucial to minimize waste and maximize efficiency.
- Such nesting systems typically involve advanced software algorithms that analyze the shapes and sizes of the patterns to be cut and then automatically arrange them on the available sheets of material to optimize material usage. This process helps reduce waste and improve the overall yield of the raw materials.
- This is the most efficient system used for production cutting because it eliminates any delay between the nesting time and the cutting time in such equipments and because it centralizes on a standalone system the most skilled activities.

Salient Features:

- The optimum and automatic nesting system is for digitalizing wide skins on the conveyor belt without width, length or quantity limitations.



COMELZ NEK: Optimum & Automatic Nesting System

- It has virtual pen that is used to mark the hide defects/quality areas and for the control of the main system commands.
- This system can perform Leather Measurement/Grading and Yield Calculation (based on real cutting simulation of single or multiple hides), Leather Digitalizing (marking of defects and quality areas) and Comelz Nesting engine for pattern nesting (manual and automatic nesting).
- It has lighting intensity and colour control for an accurate surface inspection of all types of leather and 3 Integrated LASER for optimum projection on any leather.
- Footwear, Leather Goods and Automotive industries can be benefitted by using this system.

Benefits that are often associated with these systems include:

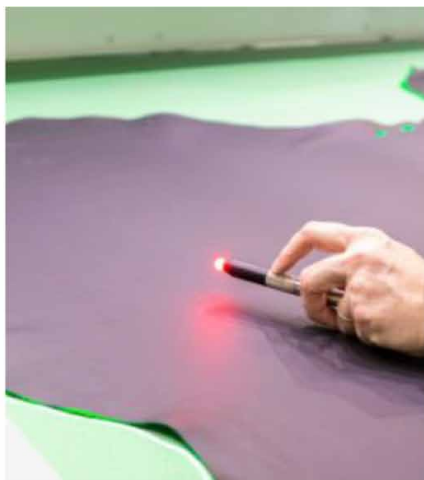
- **Automatic Nesting:** The software automatically arranges patterns on the material sheets, taking into account factors like material properties, pattern shapes, and any constraints set by the user.
- **Material Utilization:** The primary goal of these systems is to maximize material utilization by fitting as many patterns as possible onto each sheet while avoiding overlaps and collisions.
- **Efficiency:** By optimizing the arrangement of patterns on material sheets, these systems help reduce production time and costs associated with material waste.
- **Customization:** Users can often customize settings to meet their specific production requirements, such as prioritizing certain patterns, maintaining a minimum distance between patterns, or considering material defects.



Wide and Multiple Skins



Double LED Spot Matrix



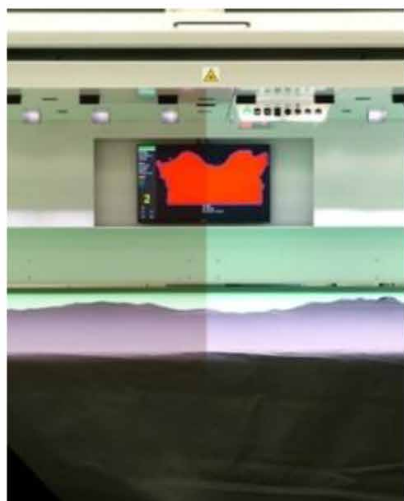
Virtual Pen for Defect Marking



Digitalizing and Nesting



Adjustable Light Screen



Control Intensity Lighting Colour

- Integration: Some systems might offer integration with cutting machines and other production equipment, allowing for a seamless workflow from pattern design to cutting.
- Reporting and Analysis: Many systems provide reports on material usage, cutting paths, and other metrics, helping manufacturers make informed decisions to further optimize their processes.

II. DIGITAL CUTTING SYSTEM.

- “The Digital Cutting System (COMELZ CZ PLUS L) is designed to produce flexible, versatile, high-performance, technologically advanced, and genuinely innovative cutting algorithms. It is specially

configured for multi-ply synthetic cutting (both multi-ply spread and multi-roll) as well as leather cutting. This system caters to both non-leather and leather product manufacturers.”

- This type of system would includes features such as computer-controlled machinery, automated nesting algorithms, and the ability to cut intricate patterns, designs, and shapes with precision.
- These systems are designed to improve efficiency, reduce waste, and enhance the overall quality of the cut materials in industries that rely on precise cutting for their products.



COMELZ CZ PLUS L: Digital Cutting System



**Foldable
Feeding Device**



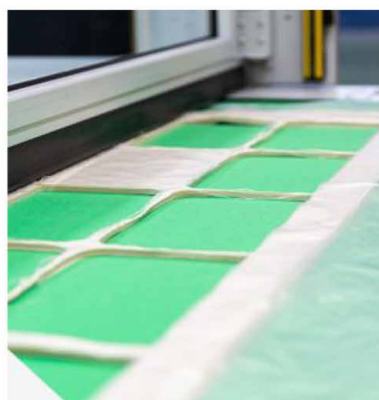
**Front Active
Screen (F)**



**Rear Active
Screen (R)**

Salient Features:

- The foldable feeder is designed to load leather, textile and synthetic materials and completed by multi rolls supports. Two practical clamps help to align and stabilize materials on the feeder, adding precision in cutting process.
- The Feeder can be easily folded, and works at its best for leather cutting, both with manual or auto nesting (on-line/off-line).
- The entire hide can be reached and flattened by either the Front (F) or the rear (R) of the machine.
- Machines are equipped with new generation heads, double head support, new punching units and cutting unit with brushes motor for boosting productivity with highest quality.
- CZ+ equipped with vision can cut leather/textile/synthetic materials with drawings, logos, pre-printed images or roll of engineering mesh or similar patterns. Final trim of pre-assembled parts can be also done.
- Cutting Speed: 60m/min each cutting head.
- Maximum Punching Frequency: 600p/min.
- Footwear, Leather Goods, Automotive, Apparel and Furniture



**Cutting with Highest
Quality & Productivity**



**Vision Systems
for More Industrial
Applications**

industries (BOTH LEATHER & NON LEATHER) can be benefitted by using this system.

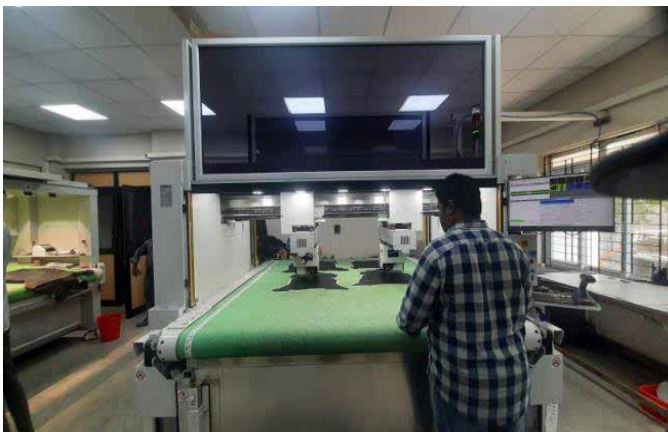
Benefits:

- One can start cutting immediately.
- No need to invest in expensive dies.
- Speed up sample production.
- Produce low quantity orders that are too complicated to hand cut.
- Reduce leather costs by reducing wastage.
- Use interactive nesting to give consistent high yields of leather/non leather usage.

The keys to its success are principally:

- The Productivity and Accuracy
- The Reliability
- The Interactive Nesting on skins
- The Projection system
- The Cutting Head with multi-tools
- The Vacuum system
- The simple and powerful Software

Operation of the Optimum & Automatic Nesting System and Digital Cutting System under Common Facility Services by CFTI Chennai.



For further details, Please Contact: Shri.YVR Choudhary, 9840405722
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An overview of Bacterial Cellulose Production and its Application

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ABSTRACT

Bacterial cellulose has become a very important material nowadays. It has proved to be a very versatile fibre, with a huge potential. Bacteria can produce purest form of cellulose and the rate of production is also faster than that of obtained from plants. The cellulose obtained from bacterial sources has a cross linked as well.

It is being used in industries such as textile, pharmaceutical, electronics, footwear etc., but by producing some composites of bacterial cellulose, it can be used more and in wider applications. Here we are exploring structure, characteristics and production of bacterial cellulose, its biosynthesis mechanism, process of making different types composites and their area of applications here.

Keywords: - Acetobacter xylinum, Aerobic bacteria, Pellicle

Bacterial Cellulose

Bacterial cellulose is an organic compound with the chemical formula (C6H10O5)_n. It is a polysaccharide comprising of a linear chain of a few hundred to several thousands of β (1β4) linked D-glucose units

Types of cellulose

Cellulose has both forms crystalline and amorphous structure. There are four types of crystalline structure of cellulose namely I, II, III and IV. Cellulose I is the natural form of cellulose is found in two basic forms, namely Iβ and Iα. Cellulose obtained by bacteria and algae are rich in Iβ, while plant derived cellulose is rich in Iα. Cellulose II is rarely found in nature and is usually obtained from cellulose I through regeneration and mercerization. Cellulose I can be converted to cellulose

II, by treating cellulose I with NaOH (mercerization), but not versa. It indicates that cellulose II is the more stable form. Two more cellulose structures, cellulose III and cellulose IV can be obtained by various chemical treatments. Cellulose IV is obtained by heating cellulose III, which is obtained by treating cellulose I and II liquid ammonia. Cellulose III and cellulose IV also exist in two crystalline forms.

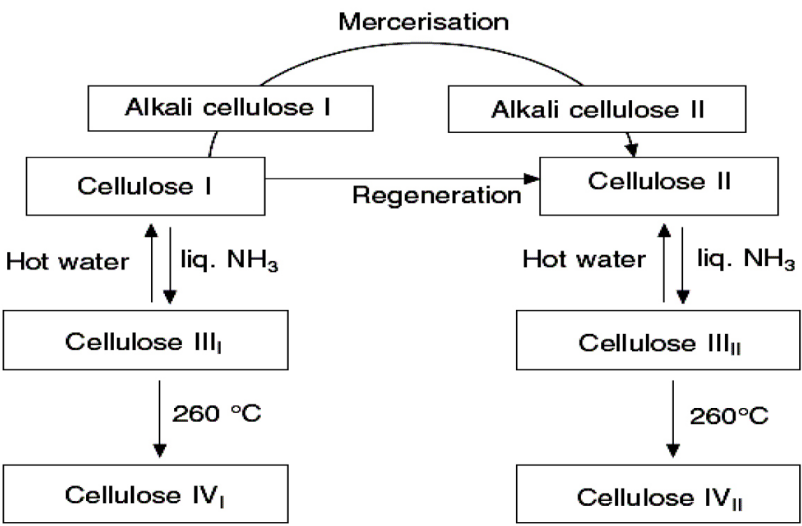


Figure 1: Conversion between various forms of cellulose

Production method of bacterial cellulose

Bacteria cellulose can be readily produced by bacteria Acetobacter Xylinum. It can be cultured in a variety of media. One such media is as follows:

COMPONENT	AMOUNT (in 1L coconut water)
Glucose	50g
Ammonium sulphate	5g
Potassium hydrogen orthophosphate	4g
Yeast extract	5g
Magnesium sulphate	0.1g

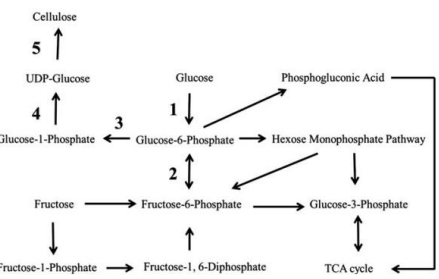
Table 1: Media composition for BC production

The media needs to be autoclaved at 121 °C for 2 hours. Inoculation can be done after the media cooled down, pH 4 is the most optimal for the task. pH is recommended to be dropped down using glacial acetic acid, as it is an organic acid, and is also a side

product of Acetobacter family, and thus should not affect any cellular chemistry in any way.

The inoculated media is cultured in an incubator for 6-15 days, depending upon the thickness of the sheet required. Other dimensions of the BC sheet will depend upon the dimensions of the culture vessel.

The bacterial cellulose sheet is formed on the media-air interface.



5. Biosynthesis of bacterial cellulose

Figure 2: Pathway of cellulose synthesis from glucose in A. Xylinum; 1: glucokinase, 2: isomerase, 3: phosphoglucomutase, 4: UDPG-pyrophosphorylase, 5: cellulose synthase

Colvin and Leppard (1977) suggested a cycle of lipid-phosphate-carbohydrate intermediates in cellulose biosynthesis, where glucose reacts to form glucose-6-phosphate, then glucose-1-phosphate, uridine diphosphoglucose (UDP-glc), and finally cellulose. This biosynthesis of bacterial cellulose forms a multi-regulation network containing several key enzymes to control cellulose synthesis (such as glucokinase, isomerase, phosphoglucomutase, UDPG-pyrophosphorylase and cellulose synthase), in which the branched hexose monophosphate pathway (HMP) and tricarboxylic acid cycle are involved. The simplified pathway is shown in Figure 3. BC can also be synthesized in a cell-free system..

6. Reason of cellulose production by microbes.

The reason why the microorganisms generate cellulose has been a quest of biologists. One considers that the aerobic bacteria produce pellicle to maintain their position close to the surface of culture

solution. Another assumes that the bacteria generate cellulose to guard themselves from ultraviolet radiation. A third theory is that they construct a 'cage' of cellulose around them to protect themselves from enemies and heavy-metal ions, while nutrients can be supplied easily by diffusion.

7. Applications
Bacterial Cellulose has many applications

Bacterial cellulose composites also have potential to be used as footwear materials or artificial leather such as upper material, lining material, Insole materials, Sole materials and Stiffener Materials. In this direction, various trials have been carried out to prepare material which has the properties suitable for preparing these footwear materials. Some of the important properties of raw bacterial cellulose are as given below

Sr. No.	MAXIMUM LOAD (N)	TENSILE STRENGTH (N/mm ²)	ELONGATION AT BREAK (%)	EXTENSION AT MAXIMUM LOAD (mm)	THICKNESS (mm)	DIRECTION
1	68.62	12.48	8.34	4.17	0.55	1
2	49.55	11.52	9.67	4.84	0.43	1
3	48.10	11.73	17.67	8.84	0.41	2
4	44.29	11.97	18.67	9.34	0.37	2
MEAN	52.64	11.93	13.59	6.79	0.44	

Table 2:Tensile Strength of pure Bactrical Cellulose

Sr. No.	Maximum Load (N)	Average Load (N)	Maximum Load/Thickness (N/mm)	Average Load /Thickness (N/mm)	Thickness (mm)	Direction
1	6.61	5.84	11.80	10.42	0.56	1
2	5.99	-----	13.31	-----	0.45	1
3	6.45	6.18	15.37	14.72	0.42	2
4	5.75	5.54	14.76	14.21	0.39	2
MEAN	6.20	5.85	13.81	13.12	0.46	

Table 3:Tear Strength of pure Bactrical Cellulose

Sr. No.	Micro Organism	Activity
1.	Pseudomonas	No growth around species/sample
2.	Bacillus	Little growth
3.	Escherichia coli	No growth around species/sample
4.	Staphylococcus	No growth around species/sample

Table 4: Bactrical Activities on pure Bactrical Cellulose

Yet Bacterial cellulose has very low tensile and tear strength and other properties, which are required for footwear materials but in bacterial cellulose composite these

properties can be improved as comparable to the leather (which is now a days used as ideal footwear material).

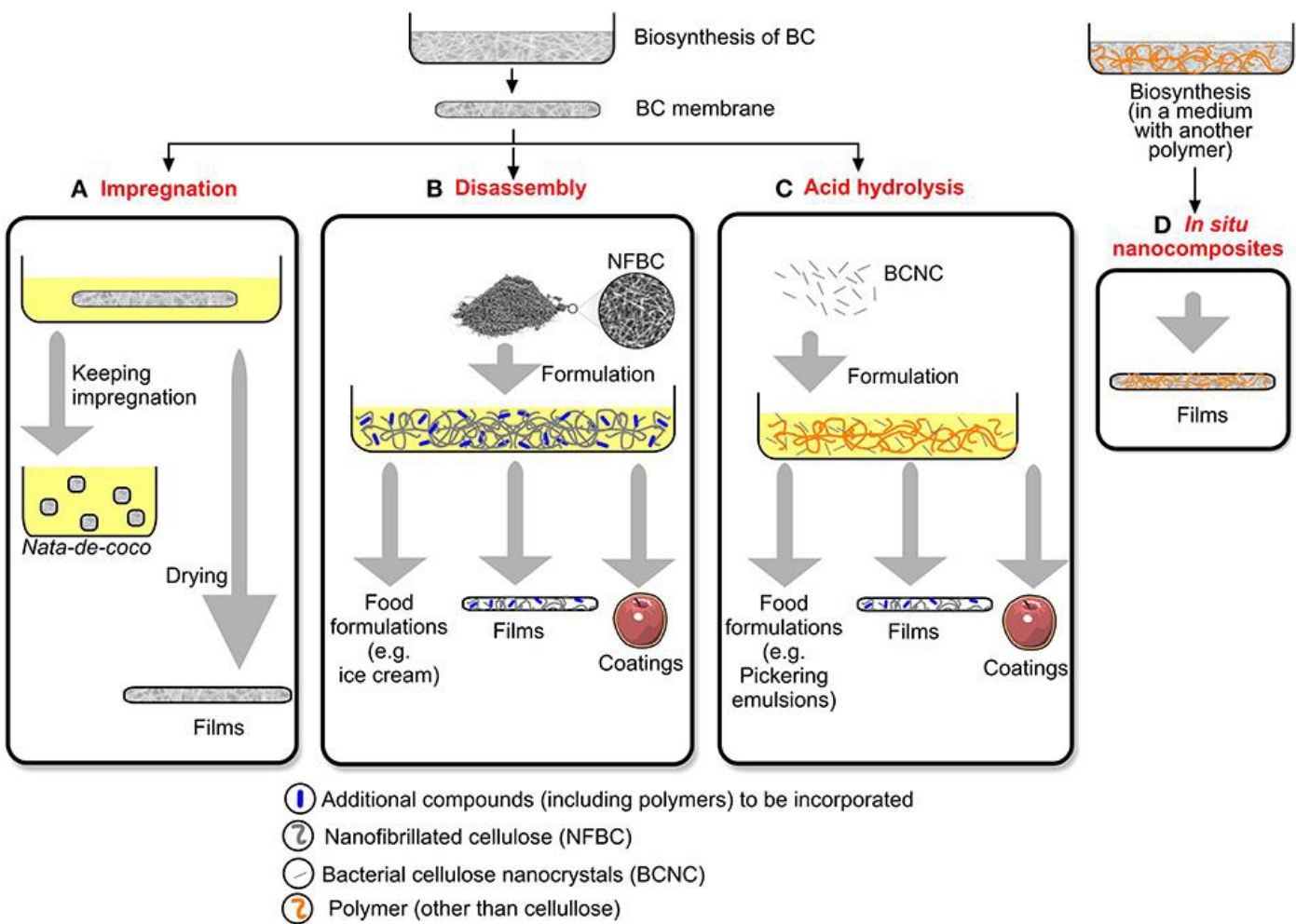


Figure 3: Methods of production of Bacterial Cellulose Composites

Impregnation and in situ methods are the best methods to make footwear materials as in these methods natural strength of the material remain unaffected.

CONCLUSION

Bacterial cellulose is the most commonly produced by bacteria *Acetobacter-Xylinum*. The chemical formula of cellulose is (C₆H₁₀O₅)_n. It has four predominant forms, but cellulose from bacteria is rich in

cellulose Iβ. When optimal growth conditions were established the cellulose product is obtained at the media-air interface. It is theorized that bacteria have evolved to produce cellulose to either protect themselves, or to maintain their oxygen supply as cellulose traps air and allow the bacteria to come to the surface of water.

Bacterial cellulose is one of the most versatile materials known on earth. It has found many and varied roles in our world. It can be used to produce acoustic diaphragms and contact lenses. It also has many roles in the food industry and in multiple drug delivery systems. There are many more known uses of bacterial cellulose, and there are even more applications waiting to be found. The limits for the potential of this material are only limited by our imagination and the composites we create.



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AGM of Consortium of Shoes & Products Manufacturers Association (CSPM) held on 14.09.2023

The 19th Annual General Meeting of the Consortium of Shoes & Products Manufacturers Private Limited, a SPV formed by Southern Region of CLE, was held on 14th September 2023 at 3.00pm in the Southern Regional Office of the Council for Leather Exports (CLE), Chennai. The meeting was participated by Directors of the company Shri K.R Vijayan, Chairman, CSPM & Member, Shri Habib Hussain, Director, CSPM & Member, Shri N. Shafeeq Ahmed, Director, CSPM and Member (Managing Director, SSC Shoes Private Limited) and Shri Irshad Ahmed Mecca, Director, CSPM.

The Special Invitees who attended the AGM are: (1) Shri R. Selvam, IAS, Executive Director, CLE (2) Shri A. R. Raghunathan, Chartered Accountant, M/s A. Raghunathan & Co. LLP (3) Shri A. Fayaz Ahmad, Deputy Director, CLE (4) Shri E.L Samson, Regional Director (South), CLE (5) Shri Abdul Rahman, Executive Director, Indian Shoe Federation (6) Shri N. Gopi, Office of the Company Secretary M/s V. Suresh & Associates.

Shri K. R Vijayan, Chairman, CSPM took the chair to conduct the proceedings of the meeting and called the meeting into order at 3.00pm. The Chairman extended a warm welcome to the members and special invitees present in the meeting and read out the notice of the 19th AGM and explained the



business to be transacted in the meeting. The specific agenda items were taken up for consideration as under:

Shri K.R Vijayan, Chairman and Director, has read out the Agenda Points of the AGM namely (1) to receive, consider and adopt the audited balance sheet of the company as at 31.03.2023, P&L account of the company as at 31.03.2023 and cash flow statement for the year ended 31.03.2023 along with Director's Report and Auditors Report thereon. (2) To appoint an Auditor for the company from the conclusion of this 19th AGM until the conclusion of 20th AGM, and to fix their remuneration and to pass the resolution thereof to that effect. The members have approved these agenda points. After the conclusion of the official business, the AGM was concluded with vote of thanks to the chair.

Shri K.R Vijayan, Chairman-CSPM conducted the AGM of the company. Shri N Shafeeq Ahmed, Director, CSPM, Shri R. Selvam, IAS, Executive Director-CLE, Shri A. Fayaz Ahmad, Deputy Director-CLE, Shri A. R. Raghunathan, Chartered Accountants, A. Raghunathan & Co. LLP, Shri Abdul Rahman, Executive Director, Indian Shoe Federation attending the AGM



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SEASON 59 @ MODEUROP and FASHION TREND POOL

CSIR-CLRI in association with ISF, IFLMEA and CLE is gearing-up to present 377 leather/colour proposals developed by 15 Tanneries for the “Spring Summer 2025 season.”

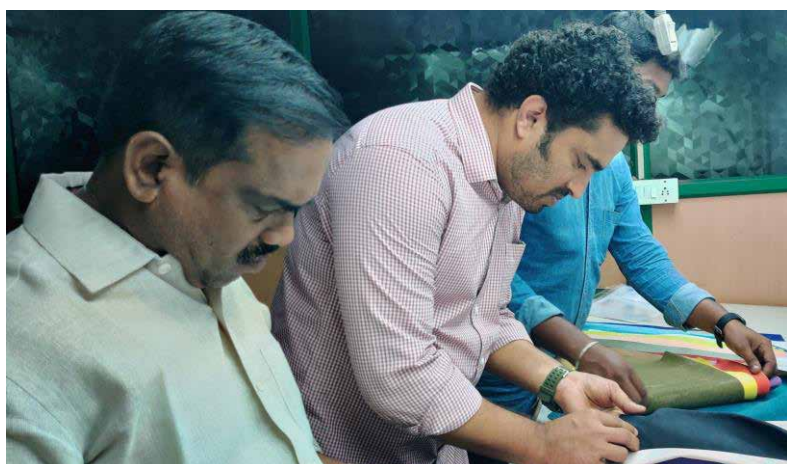
The MODEUROP Colour Club Conference will be held during 10-11 October 2023 in Munich; while the Colour Circle Meeting of FASHION TREND POOL will be held during 25-26 October 2023 in Pirmasens.

We have had overwhelming response from the participating Tanneries.



Celebration of Season 59: A Cake was jointly cut by Team RATHNAM Leathers & Team CSIR-CLRI to mark the 'Journey of India's 59 seasons.'

Team CSIR-CLRI led by Dr SN Jaisankar, Chief Scientist & Head, Polymer Lab and Project Coordinator, Stage Gate Projects - Next Generation Footwear Products (Design & Fabrication) along with Dr P Thanikaivelan, Chief Scientist; Dr (Smt) G Saraswathy, Principal Scientist & PI, Design and Fabrication of Next-Gen Footwear Products (4.0); Dr D Suresh Kumar, Scientist & Co-PI, Design and Fabrication of Next-Gen Footwear Products (4.0) & Team Design and Fashion Studio comprising S/Shri R Sathiyaraj, K Dayalan, PVinoth Kumar & Md Sadiq visited Ms RATHNAM LEATHERS in Chromepet, Chennai to view their collection for the 'Spring Summer 2025 season.'



Shri AR Senthil Kumar, Managing Partner; Shri Shamshuddin, Managing Partner and Shri AS Peshall, Director welcomed Team CSIR-CLRI whole-heartedly.

Spring Summer 2025 season is co-sponsored by: CHENITAN, COLOURTEX, SMIT & ZOON & STAHL INDIA LIMITED.



“Spring Summer 2025: making way for new ideals advancing at the speed of light.”

IN BRIEF



Confédération Européenne de l'Industrie de la Chaussure
European Confederation of the Footwear Industry

The start of a strong and wide skills partnership!

An ambitious Erasmus+ project has just started and promises to revolutionise the way textile, clothing, leather, and footwear (TCLF) industries' skills are developed, adopting news learning strategies and joining new actors. The new “Blueprint MetaSkills4TCLF” project started with the Kick-Off meeting on 26th and 27th September in Portugal, hosted by CTCP (Portuguese Footwear Technology Centre), project coordinator and APICCAPS (Portuguese Footwear, Components, Leather Goods Manufacturers' Association). The event saw the

gathering of 21 partner organisations from 11 countries (BE, DE, FR, GR, IT, PL, PT, RO, SE, SP, and UA), along with their 4 affiliated partners, all representing the European TCLF sectors.

Over two intensive days, the MetaSkills4TCLF project convened stakeholders from across Europe to advance a comprehensive strategy for skills development, innovation, inclusivity, and sustainability in the textile, clothing, leather, and footwear industries, in line with the goals of the 2020 EU Skills Agenda.

This new project aims to address all the objectives of the Alliances for Sectoral Cooperation on Skills (“E+ Blueprint”), intersecting the pillars of the EU PACT4SKILLSTCLF Charter launched in December 2021. It is committed to consolidate and update part of the former “Blueprint Skills4Smart TCLF Industries 2030” project results, adding new skills necessary to help companies in the digital and green transition, while adopting disruptive learning methodologies that contribute to attract young generations.



Hindi Divas Samaroh – 2023 & Third Akhil Bhartiya Rajbhasha Sammelan 14-15 September, 2023



The two-day event was organized by Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs Department of Official Language at Shiv Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Sports Complex, Balewadi on September 14-15, 2023.

The program started with the national anthem, followed by the inauguration ceremony by lighting the lamp.

The Hindi Diwas Samaroh 2023 was inaugurated by Shri Harivansh Narayan Singh, Deputy Chairman – Rajyasabha in presence of Dr. Bharti Pawar Minister of Health and Family Welfare of India, Shri Ajay Kumar Mishra Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri Bhanu Pratap



“Inauguration of “Hindi Divas Samaroh-2023”

Singh Verma, Minister of State for MSME and Smt. Anshuli Arya, Secretary Department of Official Language



Dignitaries of the Hindi Diwas Samaroh - 2023

The Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah could not attend the event physically and have extended his best wishes virtually to the countrymen on the occasion of Hindi Diwas. In his message, the Hon'ble Home Minister said that India has been a country of diverse languages. Hindi unites the diversity of languages in the world's largest democracy. He said that Hindi has been a democratic language. It has honoured different Indian languages and dialects as well as many global languages and adopted their vocabularies, sentences and grammar rules.

The Hon'ble Union Home Minister said that the Hindi language played an unprecedented role in uniting the country during the difficult days of independence movement. It instilled a feeling of unity in a country divided into many languages and dialects. Hindi, as a language of communication, played an important role in carrying forward the freedom struggle from East to West and North to South in the country. Honourable Minister said that the movements for achieving 'Swaraj' and 'Swabhasha' were going on simultaneously in the



Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah delivered his speech virtually

country. Considering the important role of Hindi in the freedom movement and after independence, the architects of the Constitution had accepted Hindi as the official language on 14 September 1949.

The Hon'ble Home Minister said that original and creative expression of any country is possible only through its own language. Mentioning the renowned litterateur Bharatendu Harishchandra's famous poem, he emphasized that the progress of our language is the basis of all-round progress. Shri Amit Shah said that all our Indian languages and dialects are our cultural heritage, which we have to carry with us. He added that Hindi neither ever has competed and nor will compete with any other Indian language. Only by strengthening all our languages, a strong nation will be created. Home Minister expressed his belief

that Hindi will become a medium to empower all the local languages.

Shri Amit Shah said that Indian languages have received due recognition and respect at national and global forums, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. He added that the Department of Official Language of the Ministry of Home Affairs is making continuous efforts, by leveraging modern technology, to enrich the Indian languages to establish them as language of public administration, education and scientific use. He said that under the guidance of the Prime Minister, public welfare schemes are being implemented effectively by establishing communication between the government and the public in Indian languages.

Union Home Minister said that the Parliamentary Committee on Official Language was constituted to periodically review the work done in the official language in the country. It was given the responsibility to review the progress made in the use of Hindi in government work across the country and prepare its report and present it to the President. Shri Shah added that he is happy to inform that the 12th volume of this report has been presented to the President. Only 9 volumes of the report were submitted till 2014, but we have submitted 3 volumes in the last 4 years only. Since 2019, Hindi

Advisory Committees have been formed in all 59 ministries and their meetings are also being organized regularly. From the point of view of increasing the use of official language in various areas of the country, a total of 528 Town Official Language Implementation Committees (TOLIC) have been formed so far. Even in foreign countries, Town Official Language Implementation Committees have been formed in London, Singapore, Fiji, Dubai and Port-Louis. India has also taken initiatives to promote the use of Hindi language in the United Nations.

Union Home Minister said that the principle of language change says “language moves from complexity to simplicity.” Shri Amit Shah said that in his opinion, simple and clear words of Hindi should be used in office work. He expressed confidence that with these efforts of the Department of Official Language and by assimilating from all the mother tongues, Hindi, with people’s acceptance, will achieve scientific and technological acceptance and will emerge as rich official language. Once again, congratulations to all on the occasion of Hindi Diwas.

Approx 8 thousand officials from various Government Departments, Autonomous body and Public Undertaking Sectors from different parts of India were present at the two day event.



“Launch of Smarika Book in the said event”



“Hindi Divas Samaroh-2023”

Distinguished Speakers educated audience on following topics from 14th Sep to 15th Sep 2023:

- Rajbhasha@2047 : Linguistic Panorama of Developed India
- Role of Media in Development of Hindi
- Growing Employment Opportunities in the context of Hindi
- Empowering Hindi with other Indian Languages
- TOLIC: An Effective Platform for Official Language Implementation



Shri Santosh Pandey, Regional Director-West attended the “Hindi Samaroh 2023 & third Akhil Bhartiya Rajbhasha Sammelan”

IN BRIEF

AAFA Celebrates SHOP SAFE Act Introduction

The American Apparel & Footwear Association applauds introduction of the SHOP SAFE Act today by U.S. Senators Chris Coons (D-Del.) and Thom Tillis (R-N.C.)

“We appreciate the unwavering leadership and commitment of Senator Chris Coons and Senator Thom Tillis as they reintroduce the SHOP SAFE Act to address the abundance of dangerous counterfeits promoted and sold online. Counterfeits often contain product safety or environmental risks, and evade social responsibility and sustainability rules and requirements. With this bill, online platforms must meet the same requirements, and face the same accountability, as brick-and-mortar retailers when it comes to the sale of counterfeit or illicit products that harm American consumers,” said AAFA president and CEO Steve Lamar. “Wearing a counterfeit item is not only potentially dangerous with chemicals

or heavy metals, but it also mis-aligns with the moral values a consumer holds, including national and financial security risks helping fuel organized crime around the world. Brands invest considerable resources, and devote entire teams, to protect their brand identities and fight against consumer deception while meeting sustainability benchmarks, conducting in-depth consumer-safety tests, protecting their workers from harm, and tracing their supply chains to ensure brand integrity. Meanwhile, counterfeiters ignore these basic steps and exploit their own lack of due diligence to amass a greater profit. It is high time Congress approves the SHOP SAFE Act to combat the sale of unsafe counterfeit goods as the current status quo is untenable for brands and dangerous for consumers. Consumer safety is a bipartisan issue, and we’re glad to see ongoing bipartisan support in this area.”

Once enacted, the SHOP SAFE Act will require platforms to engage in best practices for screening and vetting sellers and goods, address repeat counterfeiter sellers, and ensure that consumers have relevant information available to them, or be held liable for the sale of counterfeit and illicit products that harm consumers. This is complementary to the INFORM Consumers Act, which took effect on June 27 of this year and requires online marketplaces to collect, verify, and disclose certain information about “high-volume third-party sellers.” Together, these policies will begin to stem the influx of illicit products and safeguard consumers from the alarming dangers of counterfeits that extend across industries. AAFA’s 2022 counterfeit study found 17 out of the 47 products tested failed to comply with U.S. product safety standards, introducing dangerous levels of arsenic, cadmium, phthalates, lead, and more that have been shown to cause adverse health outcomes.

KABO Styl International Fair 2023 at Brno Czech Republic from 19th to 21st August 2023

A Report by Dr. Debasis De, RD, CLE-ER



Inauguration of India Pavilion by Shri Abhijit Chakraborty, Minister, Commercial & Political, Embassy of India in Czech Republic, Mr A K Sondhi COA Member CLE and other dignitaries.

The Czech Republic, or Czechia, is a landlocked country in Central Europe. Historically known as Bohemia, it is bordered by Austria to the south, Germany to the west, Poland to the northeast, and Slovakia to the southeast.

Czechoslovakia was one of the largest foreign traders in eastern Europe and a member of Comecon until the organization disbanded in 1991. Czech trade patterns shifted during the early 1990s in response to the changes occurring both within the country and throughout eastern Europe. By 2000, four years before the Czech Republic joined the EU, its exports to former members had declined to about one-fourth of total exports. In the early 21st century, Germany ranked

as the chief destination for exports as well as the main source of imports. Other important trading partners included Slovakia and Austria. Machinery, automobiles, textiles, footwear, leather articles and transportation equipment made up the largest share of both exports and imports.

As of 2023, the country's GDP per capita at purchasing power parity is \$51,329 and \$29,856 at nominal value. According to Allianz A.G., in 2018 the country was an MWC (mean wealth country), ranking 26th in net financial assets. The country experienced a 4.5% GDP growth in 2017. The 2016 unemployment rate was the lowest in the EU at 2.4%, and the 2016 poverty rate was the second lowest of OECD members. Czech Republic ranks 27th in the 2021 Index of Economic Freedom, 30th in the 2022 Global Innovation Index, down from 24th in the 2016, 29th in the Global Competitiveness Report, and 25th in the Global Enabling Trade Report. The Czech Republic has a diverse economy that ranks 7th in the 2016 Economic Complexity Index. The industrial sector accounts for 37.5% of the economy, while services account for 60% and agriculture for 2.5%. The largest trading partner for both export and import is Germany and the EU in general.

India's export of leather, leather products and footwear to Czech Republic remained in the range of USD 11- 12 million in the last five years. There is tremendous potential to further increase our exports to Czech Republic in the coming years.

Indian Embassy at Czech Republic and CLE's participation in Kabo Styl fair 2023 in Brno, Czech Republic from 19th to 21st August 2023

Indian Embassy at Czech Republic was taken the initiative and organized the Indian pavilion for Council for Leather Export's participation in the Kabo Styl fair 2023 in Brno, Czech Republic 2023.

Fair was inaugurated on 19th August at 10AM local time at Brno Exhibition centre. Inauguration programme was initiated by the welcome speech of the Director- External Affairs of Kabo Styl Fair authority, followed by the key note address of Mr Abhijit Chakraborty Minister, Commercial & Political, Indian Embassy of Czech Republic and then address by Mr A. K Sondhi, COA Member CLE and then

vote of thanks by Dr Debasis De, Regional Director-East, CLE.

The STYL-International Fashion Fair is the leading fashion market for the Czech, Slovak and Eastern European markets and it brings together exhibitors from more than 15 countries around the world and shows off their new collections for the next season in Leather products, footwear, textile and fashion wears etc.

Five member companies participated in the fair under CLE India pavilion as per the list given below:-

SI No	Name of the Company	Products displayed
1	AKS Leather India Pvt Ltd	Footwear and Leather Garments
2	Alfa Impex Tanning Industries	Footwear and Leather
3	Alpha Overseas Pvt Ltd	Leather Garments
4	Osman Shariff	Leather Goods
5	Om Sai Exports	Leather Garments



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Glimpses of the Kabo Styl Fair 2023



There was decent numbers of foreign buyers and their responses. Most of the buyers were from Czech Republic, Slovakia and Austria. They showed the interest and future trading mainly on leather garments, footwear and leather goods (Hand bags, ladies and gents wallets). Some spot orders and committed future orders were generated during the fair.

MIPEL - The Bag Show, Milan, Italy

(September 17-20, 2023)

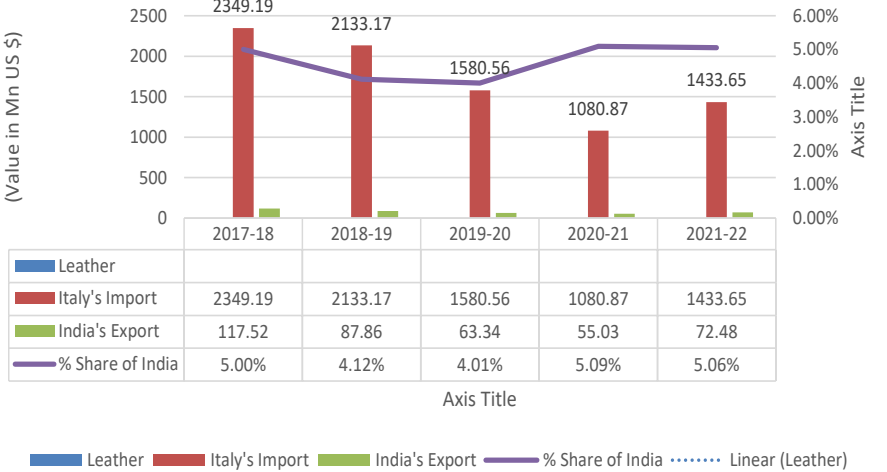


Market Potential For Indian Leather Products In Italy

Italy is the second-largest import market for Leather Bags in Europe. In 2021, the value of its Leather Bags imports amounted to €851 million (up from €619 million in 2016). This corresponded to approx. 5.7 million units of bags. Between 2016 and 2021, the value of Italy’s Leather Bags imports grew at an average rate of 6.6% per year, while the import volume declined at 4.0% per year. During the same time frame, the value of imports from developing countries increased by an average of 1.1% per year. Leather Bags from the developing countries currently comprise 12.6% of Italy’s imports in this product segment.

Major suppliers of leather and leather goods to Italy are France,

ITALY'S IMPORT OF LEATHER AND INDIA'S SHARE 2017-2022



China, Romania, Netherlands, Germany & Spain. India is the 12th largest supplier of leather and leather goods to Italy.

As per Trade Statistics, India’s total share Export of Leather & Leathers products including Footwear to Italy has marginally decreased from 3.73% (389.38 USD Mn.) in the year 2017-18 to 2.72% (287.95 USD Mn.) in the year 2021-22, however, India’s share of Exports of Leather to Italy has

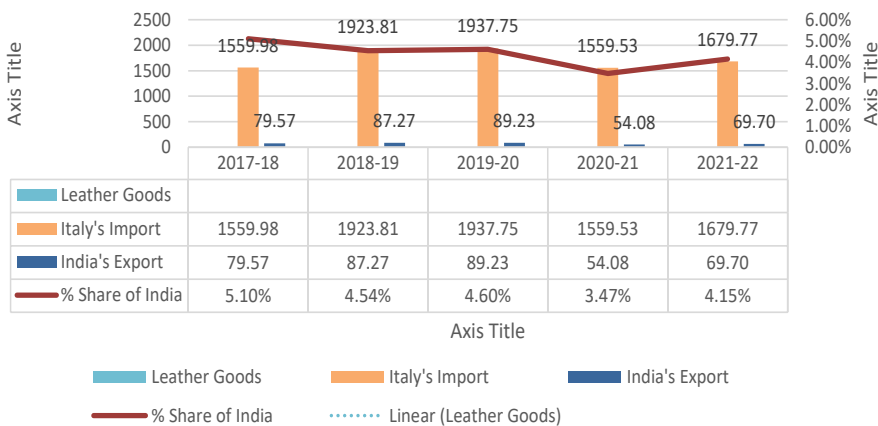
shown positive growth of 5% in the year 2017-18 to 5.06% in the year 2021-22. The positive growth is also shown the Saddlery & Harness category; India's share has increased from 10.19% in the year 2017-18 to 14.49% in the year 2021-22.

About the MIPEL Fair: - MIPEL- THE BAGSHOW is the most important B2B international event in the world dedicated to leather goods and fashion accessories. It takes place twice a year, in February and September at Fiera Milano-Rho, Milan; outskirts to the city of Milan, one of the fashion capitals in the world - the best creations and collections in leather, fabric and alternative materials, for all seasons of the year, are presented. A prestigious showcase for companies in the sector, MIPEL offers participating brands a strategic opportunity to meet international buyers, employees and international press. In the 15,000 square meters of exhibition area of the Fiera-Milano exhibition centre, over 350 companies exhibit among well-known brands, emerging brands and trend setters. With over 24,000 visitors a year, MIPEL confirms itself as an essential appointment to promote and share new style proposals. The MIPEL, was concurrently held with MICAM Shoe event. The bag Show had a total of more than 250 exhibitors from different regions and continents from all around the world. About 20 companies participated in the Indian pavilion of the exhibition centre. 15 companies participated under the banner of the Council for Leather Exports (CLE) under the MAI Scheme under CLE's banner.

Trade visitor at the fair

As per the press release published by the MIPEL fair authorities, a total of more than 1,800 exhibitors met with 48,276 professional visitors, 25% more than the previous edition. International buyers responded particularly well: about half of the buyers came from outside of Italy.

ITALY'S IMPORT OF LEATHER GOODS AND INDIA'S SHARE (2017-2022)



The best performing European nations were Germany, France, U.K, Greece and Spain, along with some excellent results were registered from distant lands such as South Korea, Japan and Kazakhstan.

Mrs.T.AJUNGLA JAMIR, Counsel General of India along with Shri R. Selvam, Executive Director, CLE visited CLE pavilion at MIPEL Show on 19th September 2023 to take a view on exhibition put by Council for Leather Exports by taking its member exporters on board to exhibit the strength of India's manufacturing and export in leather sector. He was greeted by Shri Asif Eqbal Khan, Export Promotion Officer, CLE in the CLE pavilion.

Mrs. T. AJUNGLA JAMIR, Counsel General of India & Shri R. Selvam, Executive Director, CLE were impressed with the wide range of bags, wallets, purses, backpacks etc and other leather goods item displayed by the Indian exhibitors. While visiting all the booths, they also visited the booth of Sant Rohisdas Leather Industries and Charmakar Development Corporation Ltd. (LIDCOM) (Govt. of Maharashtra undertaking) wherein their special focus was on Kolhapuri Chappals which has good potential in International market.

She also acknowledged the future prospects for investment and trade are encouraging, as India is increasingly being seen as an emerging economic power in the world and an important economic partner in Asia, both in terms of trade and investment, and as an alternative to their original interest in China, especially in the post Covid-19 scenario.



Mrs.T.AJUNGLA JAMIR, Counsel General of India & Shri R. Selvam, Executive Director, CLE visited the booth of LIDCOM and embraced the products displayed by them especially Kolhapuri Chappal



Mrs. T. AJUNGLA JAMIR, Counsel General of India along with Shri R. Selvam, Executive Director, CLE interacted with exporters-participants

CLE's Information Stand and Publicity Materials @ I 23 MIPEL

To facilitate group participation of member exporters, the Council had set up a coordination point which also served during the fair days as India information stand. The Publicity and promotional materials namely e - Leather News India, Members Directory, Information on Indian Leather Sector, MIPEL and MICAM exhibitors profile booklet were displayed along with publicity posters about Indian leather sector. Publicity and promotional booklets

were distributed to the trade visitors who visited the CLE Information stand. In all about 20 trade visitors who were expertise in the field of designing, merchandising, chemicals and allied machinery etc visited the Council's information stand from countries like Singapore, Germany, Italy, Japan, Spain, Switzerland, and The USA have collected promotional materials. The publicity posters displayed at CLE information stand were of note worthy to many trade visitors who had taken some time to read the information published therein and appreciated the same. Shri Asif Eqbal Khan, Export Promotion Officer managed CLE's Information booth at the venue during the fair days.

Business Generated and Members Feedback

As per the feedback obtained from the members at the end of the fair, it was reported by the members that 338 business visitors/ buyers had meetings with our exhibitors under CLE India Pavilion and firm orders for Euro approx 4 lacs was booked by them during the fair days and expected future order was in the tune of approx Euro 14.6 lacs out of enquires generated during the fair days.

Glimpses of CLE India pavilion @ I 23 MIPEL



Sl. No.	Company Name	Place
1	Bharat Enterprises	Gurgoan
2	Colours Solution	Kanpur
3	Everest Tannery Pvt Ltd	Kanpur
4	Growmore International Ltd	Kanpur
5	Manovin International	Kolkata
6	Network Leather Goods Pvt Ltd	Kolkata
7	R S Lederwaren Pvt Ltd	Kolkata
8	Sacchini Leather Goods	Kolkata
9	Sant Rohidas Leather Ind & Charmakar Dev Corpn Ltd	Mumbai
10	Shilpa Overseas Pvt Ltd	Kolkata

Sl. No.	Company Name	Place
11	Sima International	Kolkata
12	Subhlakshya Metal Exim Pvt Ltd	Kolkata
13	Tritan Leather Works Pvt Ltd	Chennai
14	Viari Exports Pvt Ltd	Chennai
15	Zeeta International	Kanpur

CONCLUSION: - Mipel 123 witnessed the confluence of international buyers, designers, students, academicians, leather tanners and machinery allied professionals making a successful event further paving way to the next edition of MIPEL which would be held at the same venue in the month of February, 2024.

IN BRIEF

THE ITALIAN FOOTWEAR INDUSTRY: TURNOVER (+7.4%) AND EXPORTS (+10.2% IN VALUE IN THE FIRST 5 MONTHS) GREW IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE YEAR, BUT THE SLOWDOWN IS ALREADY UNDERWAY. PRODUCTION AND EXPORT VOLUME DECLINED

Despite some shadows, the first half of 2023 closed on a positive note for the Italian footwear industry, recording growth in turnover (+7.4%) and exports (+10.2% in value in the first 5 months). However, volume suffered: -6.8% for exports and -5.7% for production (according to the ISTAT industrial production index). Household spending came to a halt in May and June, after remaining rather stagnant throughout the first half of the year (-1.2% in value and -3.4% in volume). This, in summary, is the picture drawn by the Confindustria Moda Research Centre for Assocalzaturifici just days before MICAM Milano, the international footwear fair taking place at Fiera Milano (Rho) from 17 to 20 September 2023.

According to Assocalzaturifici Chair Giovanna Ceolini: "The widely expected slowdown finally materialised in the second quarter of the current year. The strong rebound of 2021 – after the slump caused by the lockdowns – and the continuation

of recovery during 2022 – albeit at an understandably slower pace, as business levels returned to normal – were followed by a marked deceleration, after a promising start to 2023 for most economic variables. In the April-May period, after double-digit increases in the previous months, exports, which have always been the sector's driving force, showed rather stable values (+1%) and a setback in volume (-14.9%). All the main export destinations recorded increases in value in the first 5 months. The only exceptions were Switzerland – a traditional logistics hub, the country experienced a significant setback, probably due to different distribution strategies adopted by luxury brands, which avoid transiting through the Swiss warehouses – which recorded -13.6% (-29% in terms of number of pairs), the United Kingdom (-2.6%) and Canada (stable at -0.5%, but down sharply in terms of quantity)".

Despite the recent concerns over the slowdown in the national economy, very encouraging signs have come so far from China (+20.4% in volume and +43.4% in value), where the average price – by far the highest among the main outlet markets for Italian footwear – clearly shows that these figures are linked above all to the performance of the large luxury brands, in a market that is not easy to penetrate for companies with their own brand.

Ceolini continues: "The rebound in Russia and Ukraine is worth noting (+37% and +56% in value, respectively), although it should be borne in mind that the comparison period includes months when the outbreak of the war had caused sales to plummet in the two markets involved. Despite the rebound in 2022, current levels are very close (+1.2%) to those of the first 5 months of 2021, already strongly affected by the pandemic before the war. Finally, the balance of trade, driven by foreign sales, touched 2.5 billion euros (+14.2%) in the first 5 months"

➤ **Continued on page 64**

CLE's participation in the 102nd edition of the LINEAPELLE Fair, Milano, Italy (September 19-21, 2023)

About the 102nd edition of LINEAPELLE: The 102nd edition of the LINEAPELLE Fair was held during September 19-21, 2023 at Fiera Milano Rho, Milan, Italy. A vital edition of LINEAPELLE builds stimulating opportunities for style comparison and business networking by welcoming professional operators from 109 countries and celebrated the strong return of Asian buyers. The 102 edition of LINEAPELLE (the most important exhibition dedicated to the global fashion, luxury, and design industry) consolidates its international leadership by positioning itself as an authentic beacon in the context of a complex economic phase characterised by a widespread slowdown and a limited possibility of defining production and commercial programmes. LINEAPELLE 102 (dedicated to the Fall-Winter 2024-2025 season) hosted 1,330 exhibitors and welcomed a 25% increase in the number of professional operators compared to the September 2022 edition: +26% Italian visitors, +22% those from abroad, arriving from 109 countries, with a particular dynamism of those from France and China, Japan and South Korea, confirming the reassuring return of Asian buyers to the fair.

"All the exhibition sectors at LINEAPELLE 102 showed remarkable vitality. Creativity and the ability to involve and stimulate the various operators were the strong points of a show whose international leadership cannot be questioned and is even stronger after this edition", commented the President Gianni Russo. LINEAPELLE 102 reaffirmed

the value of the exhibition synergy with Simac Tanning Tech (the

international event with the most qualified offer of machinery and technology for the tanning, footwear, and leather goods industries) held concurrently at Fiera Milano Rho. A synergy that involved, in total, over 28,000 trade visitors and buyers.

"The international attendance of visitors and the attention of technology manufacturers towards process organisation and digitalisation confirm a significant change of pace towards a sustainable transition. We are certain that this path, shared by all operators in the sector, will soon generate satisfying results", explains Maria Vittoria Brustia, president of Simac Tanning Tech.

CLE's participation in the 102nd edition of the Lineapelle Fair, Italy

CLE, for the first time, has organized participation of members in the Lineapelle Fair, Italy held during September 19-21, 2023, with MAI funding support. 25 companies have participated in this fair through CLE against the MAI stipulated number of 23 companies. CLE's 1st time participation (with MAI funding support) in the September, 2023 edition of the fair was quite successful in terms of number of Indian companies exhibited, buyers visited and business outcome. As per feedback given by the member-participants, during the 3 days show, 315 buyers visited their booths and business worth Rs. 5310 lakhs has been generated.

The below named 25 companies participated through CLE:-

Sl. No.	Company Name	Place
1	AFI TANNERY	VANIYAMBADI
2	ALINA PRIVATE LIMITED	CHENNAI
3	AMFA INTERNATIONAL	CHENNAI
4	A.V.THOMAS LEATHER & ALLIED PRODUCTS PVT. LTD.	CHENNAI
5	CHENNAI TAPES PRIVATE LIMITED	CHENNAI
6	EL CLASS	CHENNAI
7	ELASTIC INDIA	CHENNAI
8	ESS AAR UNIVERSAL (P) LTD.	NOIDA
9	FAIZAN TANNING INDUSTRIES	RANIPET
10	FLAMINGO SSI	CHENNAI
11	H JEELANI LEATHERS	RANIPET
12	INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION	CHENNAI
13	JAHAN LEATHER EXPORTS	CHENNAI

Out of the above named 25 companies, 17 companies participated in the Leather and Materials section and remaining 8 companies participated in the Footwear Components category.

Mrs. T. Ajungla Jamir, Consul General, Consulate General of India, Milan visited CLE India Pavilion on 19th September, 2023 and interacted with the Indian participants. Mr. R. Selvam, IAS, Executive Director-CLE also attended the fair for overseeing the group participation of Indian companies. Mr. Vijaya Kumar. C, Assistant Director, CLE visited the event and coordinated the group participation of CLE's member- companies.

Sl. No.	Company Name	Place
14	NAVKAR TECHTEX PRIVATE LIMITED	DELHI
15	OMEGA POLYMICRONS PVT LTD	MEERUT
16	OXFORD TANNERS	KOLKATA
17	PERFECT SHOE FABRIC	AMBUR
18	RATHNAM LEATHERS	CHENNAI
19	SAROJ LEATHERS INDIA PVT. LTD.	RANIPET
20	SHRI RAM LAMINATORS PRIVATE LIMITED	DELHI
21	SUOLIFICIO LINEA ITALIA (INDIA) PVT LTD	CHENNAI
22	SWANS IND	CHENNAI
23	VEN PONN SHOES PVT. LTD	CHENNAI
24	VERSATILE ENTERPRISES PVT LTD	LUDHIANA
25	VRS LEATHERS PVT. LTD.	CHENNAI

Snap-shots of CLE India Pavilion @ 102nd Lineapelle Fair, Italy





The next edition of LINEAPELLE, number 103 (Spring-Summer 2025 season), will take place from 20th to 22nd February 2024, again in the Fiera Milano Rho premises.



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Sourcing at MAGIC, New York, USA, during September 19-21, 2023

Report by Mr.A. Fayaz Ahmad, Deputy Director, CLE

COTERIE **MAGIC** **SOURCING**
NEW YORK. ^{at}MAGIC

SOURCING
^{at}MAGIC
— NEW YORK —

MAGIC is a fashion trade show in the United States. Held twice a year (February and August) in Las Vegas, USA, this fashion marketplace showcases men's, women's and children's apparel, footwear, accessories, and manufacturing resources from around the world. The retail industry converges in Las Vegas for the USA's most comprehensive fashion marketplace - MAGIC. The show has latest design of apparel, footwear, accessories and manufacturing. From the height of advanced contemporary luxury brands to the latest trends in fast fashion, MAGIC fuels the business of fashion.

Sourcing at MAGIC is a domestic and international gathering of manufacturers, suppliers, and service providers from apparel and footwear manufacturing, to textiles, materials, components, supply chain, and technology solutions. The MAGIC Show Event will address the need for

brands and retailers to rethink the supply chain to solve challenges around market pivots, minimizing overstock, and creating opportunities for a more efficient production timeline. Sourcing at MAGIC is redefining sourcing and buying solutions for the ever-changing fashion industry. Increase discovery, maximize shopping experiences, and find new cutting-edge solutions through thoughtfully organized merchandising and engaging product demonstrations throughout the event days.

SOURCING at MAGIC debuted New York Edition in September 2023

Sourcing at MAGIC made its entry to New York City, conveniently co-located with MAGIC and COTERIE, September 19-21, 2023, at the Jacob Javits Centre in New York City. As supply chain lifecycles evolve to more dynamic timeframes to support smaller and more frequent sourcing and production patterns, Sourcing at MAGIC New York will look to fulfil high industry demand for increased speed to market fashion products and services. Sourcing at MAGIC New York will address everchanging sourcing needs and will solve for supply chain challenges facing the fashion industry. This new east coast event will highlight a curated variety of exhibitors and contemporary product categories that will help fashion brands and retailers rethink the supply chain and confidently face industry challenges, including the need for an increase in speed to market, creating better inventory control and Faster replenishing.

Sourcing at MAGIC event allows one to connect and collaborate with a global community of private label manufacturers, sustainable suppliers, fashion tech solutions, and other sourcing service providers. Sourcing at MAGIC is the

link to the global supply chain of footwear, Leather Garments, Leather Goods & Accessories segments. This event attracts designers, brands and retailers alike to discover what they need to move their business forward. This event is the ultimate resource for fashion trends, technologies and manufacturers from around the globe. Footwear (shoes, sandals, chappals etc), Leather Goods such as handbags, laptop bags, wallets, briefcases, backpacks, belts, accessories and all types of leather garments, along with textile garments, were displayed in the Exhibition. Sourcing at MAGIC allows product development teams, and private label marketers to connect, shop, and expand their business on a global scale.

Alongside Sourcing at MAGIC, there are two other concurrent events namely MAGIC and COTERIE was held in the same venue on the same dates. MAGIC features trendy, young contemporary, modern sportswear, footwear, and accessories categories, spanning accessible to moderate price points. COTERIE showcases contemporary and advanced contemporary apparel, accessories, and footwear spanning premium to affordable luxury price points.

India – USA Leather & Footwear Trade (2022-23)

USA Import Potential:

The USA is the largest global importer of leather and leather products. USA's import of leather, leather products and footwear stood at US \$ 45.68 billion during 2022-23

India – USA Leather Trade

USA is the top market for Indian leather, leather products & footwear exports with a share of 22.30%. To put it in perspective, next highest exports destination for India is Germany, with a share of 11.01%, followed by UK 9.16%. As such, top three export destination for India is USA, Germany and UK in that order. Out of India's total export of US \$ 5259.53 million during 2022-23, the export to USA was for US \$ 1173.08 million, with a highest share of 22.30%. India exports to Germany US\$579.33 million, and UK US\$ 481.55 million.

India's export of leather, leather products and footwear to USA has increased from USD 893.68 million in 2018-19 to USD 1173.08 million in 2022-23. However, India accounts for a share of 2.57% in USA's total leather import trade of US\$ 45.68 billion in 2022, providing ample scope to further enhance our exports to USA.

It is pertinent to highlight here that the USA's global imports has increased from US \$ 35.32 billion (2021-22) to US \$ 45.68 billion in 2022-23, a significant increase of about 30% growth in imports as compared to previous year 2021-22.

Footwear accounts for 52% of India's total export of leather and leather products to USA. Leather Goods & Accessories including leather garments is having share of 46% of India's export of leather & leather products to USA. USA is the one market which has been consistently showing positive growth. Hence, the primary focus products / export potential products are Footwear, Leather Goods & Accessories and Leather Garments for enhancing export to USA. These products are given focus in the Sourcing at MAGIC, New York, USA.

India's Export of Footwear to USA

Statement showing USA's global import of Footwear viz-a-vis India's export of footwear and share during 2018-19 to 2022-23 is given below:

(Value in Million US\$)

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
USA's IMPORT	27398.85	28012.79	21503.80	28644.84	37966.58
INDIA'S EXPORT	420.50	414.98	293.52	568.93	616.29
% SHARE OF INDIA	1.53%	1.48%	1.36%	1.99%	1.62%

Items	USA's import value (US \$ million)	Product Share %
Leather	554.25	2%
Leather Footwear	15092.38	31%
Footwear components	421.25	1%
Leather Garments	387.26	1%
Leather Goods	5958.97	14%
Harness & Saddlery	815.94	2%
Non-Leather Footwear	22452.94	49%
Total	45683.02	100%

India's share of Footwear in the global imports of USA, has been hovering around 1.50%. Due to COVID pandemic during 2020, India's share has come down to 1.36%. This is in consonance with the reduction in the USA's global imports in 2020-21 due to COVID Pandemic, which has come down to US \$ 21503.80 million (as against US \$ 28012.79 million in the previous year 2019-20). However, in FY 2021-22, the USA's import has increased to US \$ 28644.84 million, and India's export of footwear has also increased to US \$ 568.93 million. India had 2% share in the USA's global imports of footwear.

In the 2022-23, the imports increased manifold to US \$ 37966.58 million (a growth of 32% over the previous year). However, India's export of footwear has slightly increased to US \$ 616.29 million in comparison to US \$ 568.93 million in the previous year, the rate of increase being a modest 8%. Thus, it presents an opportunity for India to focus on increasing the export of footwear into USA and increase its share from the present level of 1.62%.

CLE India Pavilion in Sourcing at MAGIC, New York, September 19-21, 2023

The CLE has organized the participation of Indian companies in the Sourcing at MAGIC Trade Fair held in Javits Convention Centre, New York, USA during September 19-21, 2023, as per the approval accorded by the Department of Commerce, Government of India under Market Access Initiative (MAI) Scheme. It is a Market Promotion Event to promote the Footwear and Leather Products manufactured in India, to give a platform to MSME units to take part in the Exhibition and have B2B discussions with trade visitors and thus enhance India's export to USA and increase India's share in USA's global imports. The objective of organizing the CLE India

Pavilion is to promote the brand image of Indian footwear & leather products & accessories industry in the US market thereby establishing direct linkages between Indian manufacturers of finished leather products and US importers. USA is the major market for footwear and leather products from India.

A total of 17 companies / manufacturers of footwear, leather garments, leather products & accessories took part in the CLE India Pavilion at Sourcing at MAGIC.

Sl.No	Name of the Company	City
1	AMISAL	Gurgaon
2	Bharat Enterprises	Gurgaon
3	CanFashion Pvt Ltd	Noida
4	Chrometan Exports Pvt Ltd	Kolkata
5	Crescent Export Syndicate	Kolkata
6	Dee Man International	Noida
7	Deva International Exim Pvt. Ltd	Kolkata
8	Discovery Leathers Pvt Ltd	Gurugram
9	Harmony LeatherImpexPvt Ltd	Mumbai
10	Model Exims (India) Pvt. Ltd	Kanpur
11	PNR Crafts Pvt Ltd	New Delhi
12	Prime Shoes	Chennai
13	Sahyog Exports Pvt Ltd	Mumbai
14	Sakthi Infra Tex Pvt Ltd	Erode
15	Sonse Exports	Noida
16	Spider Fashions Pvt Ltd	Erode
17	Stanfab Apparels Pvt Ltd	Chennai

Products displayed in the Fair are Leather Footwear (Gents, Ladies & Children), Leather Garments, Leather Goods & Accessories such as Leather Belts, Leather Wallets, Handbags, Travel Bags, Purses, Portfolios, Gift Accessories, File folders etc.

Shri A Fayaz Ahmad, Deputy Director, CLE has attended the Sourcing at MAGIC and organized the participation of Indian companies and interacted with trade visitors and representatives of stakeholder organizations. The booklet containing the profiles of the Indian participants was widely circulated in the Fair. The information on the Indian Leather & Footwear industry was provided to the trade visitors.

The arrangements and facilities in the Convention Centre are truly world class and are of high standards. Mr. Mike Hennessy and Ms. Jessie Zhang, Sales / Business Development Managers, Sourcing at MAGIC, Informa Markets, were present in the Fair Venue and coordinated with all the exhibitors.

Sourcing at MAGIC had the participation of exhibitors from 60+ countries and regions represented in the show floor. Participated countries are Canada, China, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, France, India, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Pakistan, Peru, Turkey, United Kingdom and United States. There was 70+ exhibitors in the show floor, with 89% being the international exhibitors.

Visit of Consul General of India, New York to the Event

Shri Randhir Jaiswal, Consul General of India, New York has visited the Sourcing at MAGIC India Pavilion on 19th September 2023. The Consul General has inaugurated the CLE India Pavilion at 12.00 noon and ribbon cutting ceremony was held. The event was attended by Mr. Mike Hennessy and Ms. Jessie Zhang, Sales

/ Business Development Manager, Sourcing at MAGIC, Informa Markets and Shri A. Fayaz Ahmad, Deputy Director, CLE, and Indian exhibitors in the CLE India Pavilion.

Mrs. Sonal Narang, Commerce Wing of CGI, New York coordinated the visit of Consul General with Shri A. Fayaz Ahmad, Deputy Director, CLE, and accompanied the CG during the visit to Sourcing at MAGIC.

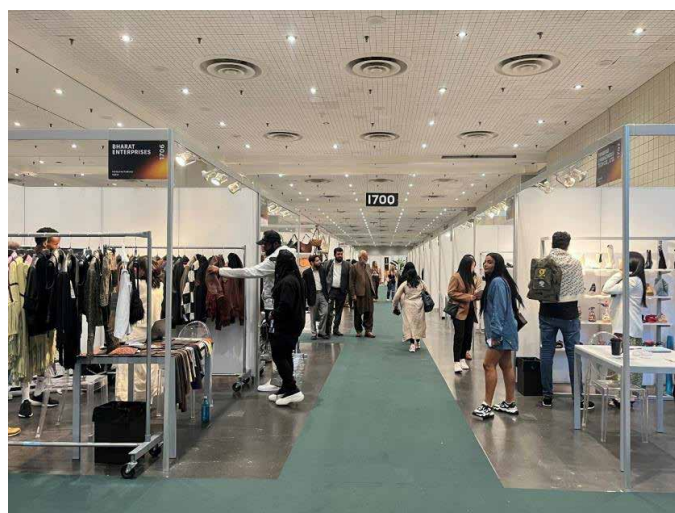
After the ribbon cutting inauguration ceremony, the Consul General Shri Randhir Jaiswal has visited the India Pavilion and interacted with the Indian participants. He went around the display booths and saw the various product ranges displayed in the booths.

Shri Randhir Jaiswal, Consul General of India, New York, USA inaugurated the Sourcing at MAGIC by cutting the ribbon on 19.09.2023



Shri Randhir Jaiswal, Consul General of India, New York interacting with Indian Exhibitors. Shri A. Fayaz Ahmad, Deputy Director, CLE accompanied the Consul General to the Booths in CLE India Pavilion





View of CLE India Pavilion at Sourcing at MAGIC

View of CLE India Pavilion



India Pavilion received trade visitors who interacted with exhibitors all through three days of the event. US companies dealing in Footwear, Leather Garments, Leather Goods and Accessories, textile garments have visited the India Pavilion in Sourcing at MAGIC. The business visitors were generally impressive in the range of products displayed in the India Pavilion. The participation of 17 Indian companies in the Sourcing at MAGIC event

has resulted in overall projection of Indian manufacturing capabilities to the USA market.

The participants have given their feedback on the number of business meetings held by them with the trade visitors, firm orders booked and future expected business etc. Indian participants have reported that 177 visitors / buyers visited their stalls over the 3 days of the Fair. Out of this, 111 business meetings with the buyers were held by Indian participants. Firm orders were booked to a collective value of US \$ 6000 (About Rs.5.00 Lakhs). Future business expected were estimated at US \$ 8,60,000 (About 713.80 Lakhs)

The India Pavilion set up by the CLE has paved the way for above business meetings, and display of Footwear, Leather Goods & Accessories, Leather Garments, Textile Garments etc. in the Sourcing at MAGIC has facilitated showcasing of India's design, product development and manufacturing capabilities. The participation of 17 Indian companies in the Sourcing at MAGIC has resulted in overall projection of Indian manufacturing capabilities

to the USA market. Considering that Sourcing at MAGIC is the only and largest major trade Fair in USA, participation of CLE and Indian manufacturers is highly beneficial to the India's Leather, Footwear, Leather Goods & Accessories industry.

Footwear manufacturers and other related industry stakeholders visited the MAGIC Fair as a whole. Apparel Manufacturers, Fabric Providers, and Technology and Service companies, leather products & accessories, footwear products stakeholders from around the world visited the show towards their sourcing needs. According the Fair organizer, there were 2100+ attendees on the show floor including exhibitors and a mix of buyers, influencers, stylists, industry experts and press. There was 81% buying power on the show floor, with 58% being top decision makers (CEO, President, VP).

Sourcing at MAGIC also has an unrivalled reach and strong presence in the online mode.

There was 125000+ organic impressions across Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn during the event. 47000+ accounts were reached and over 900 followers gained during the showtime. There were 1.4+ billion impressions from press, both pre-event and post event, with large pick ups from domestic and international B2B and consumer outlets.

Sourcing at MAGIC was a success, with the participation of exhibitors, inventors & innovators behind the design, a class of forward-thinking pioneers. The event fully embraced and saw domestic & international manufacturers, suppliers, service, and solutions providers gathered both in-person and online to connect and re-connect with the sourcing industry

Conclusion:

SOURCING at MAGIC is a domestic and international gathering of manufacturers, suppliers and service providers from apparel, footwear, leather products & accessories manufacturing, to textiles, materials, components, supply chain, and technology solutions – both in-person and online. Sourcing at MAGIC addressed ever changing sourcing needs and solved for supply chain challenges facing the fashion industry. Sourcing at MAGIC is the only show in USA created for brands and retailers to source their requirement of footwear, leather garments, leather goods & accessories production directly from factories around the globe. Sourcing at MAGIC allows designers, product development teams, and private label marketers to connect, shop, and expand their businesses on a global scale. This Event is the ultimate resource for fashion trends, technologies, and manufacturers from around the globe.

The next edition of Sourcing at MAGIC would be held in Las Vegas, USA during February 13-15, 2024.

Education Series organized in Sourcing at MAGIC, New York Sept 19-21, 2023

As Education series, several discussion events were held in all the 3 days of the Fair. Mr. Andreu David, Vice President, Sourcing at MAGIC, Informa Markets has coordinated and organized these sessions and took part in the discussions.

On Day 1: 19th September 2023

Life Cycle of a Sustainable Fashion Garment Presented by MAGIC X Sourcing at MAGIC

It is about MAGIC x Sourcing at MAGIC collaboration, and learn about the Lifecycle of a sustainable garment. The lifecycle starts with a fashion illustration and ends with recycling.



Sustainability Gallery - Verified Sustainable by Hey Social Good

Explore apparel, accessories and eco-friendly products from our verified sustainable exhibitors. The companies showcased in our gallery have been independently vetted by a third-party data assessment firm, Hey Social Good, using the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals as the benchmark to verify that the enterprise has adopted sustainable and social good practices throughout their business. Walk the gallery and get a glimpse into the remarkable strides these exhibitors are taking towards a more sustainable future and be sure to visit their booths.

Seminars in the Education Series were held on each day of the Fair for discussions on several topics

On Day 2: 20th September 2023

New Era of Fashion: Injecting Sustainability into a Brand's Roadmap

With the onset of inevitable sustainability legislation in the United States, there is great importance on a brand's ownership to influence and reduce post-consumer waste. More and more, the role of designers, product developers, and suppliers has evolved to build sustainability within their brand's roadmap. To substantially impact industry's social good efforts, designers and producers must implement a sustainability strategy into their design and development process. Learn how making positive adjustments to your supply chain choices can directly impact your responsibility to create sustainable products that can be traced. Smarter and informed decision making is the cornerstone to designing for the future.

Key Takeaways:

- Work towards sustainability and traceability without fear. How to and what resources are available to you.

- Learn about the new role of a designer and how it has transformed.
- Learn new approaches to design and what type of sustainable practices you can adopt.
- How to consider the end of life of a product and post-consumer waste.
- How government policies will influence your decisions and responsibility. What will your accountability entail?

Speakers:

Andreu David, Vice President, Sourcing at MAGIC

Michelle Gabriel, Graduate Program Director, Sustainable Fashion, Glasgow Caledonian New York College

Moderated By: Dr. Cindy Lin, Founder and CEO, Hey Social Good

Unseen: Discover what Lies Beneath to Emerge Colorfully Optimistic For A/W 2024/2025

Our lives are more nuanced and complex these days leading to a widening acceptance of multiple experiences in our lives and an unfettered desire for colorful self-expression. Reflecting this free-spirited color approach, colors for Autumn/Winter 24/25 express a wide range of feelings, from ethereal misty blues, discrete lilacs, cloudy pinks, and clay-based neutrals to intensely saturated hyper violets, inky blues, bioluminescent greens, and decadent reds. Discover what lies beneath. Go into the season with a willingness to explore the exciting and mysterious new world of the unseen.

Key Takeaways:

- Discover the key color trends for AW 24/25
- Explore new approaches to color harmonies
- Learn how new macro trends are influencing color for fashion

Speaker:

Tannese Williams, Product Marketing Manager of Fashion Home & interiors, Pantone

The Beginning and End of a Product's Lifecycle: A Fiber's Role in Circularity

Fibers are the foundation of every garment. In this session, Dr. Cindy J. Lin of Hey Social Good provides clarity around the truths and myths of sustainable fibers and how you can build a circular business model of products. Learn what makes a fiber sustainable and how it can be traced to its origin as well as consider its end of life to avoid adding waste to our landfills. With our panelists, she will explore the innovations and technology around fiber and raw material traceability as well as share some examples in practice.

Key Takeaways:

- Learn what makes a fiber sustainable.
- Learn what traceability means and its importance to sustainability and social good.
- Learn how to apply circularity as a fundamental core within your sustainable business practice.

Moderated By:

Dr. Cindy Lin, Founder and CEO, Hey Social Good

Speakers:

Uddhav Bagrodia, Co-Founder & President, Wastewear Inc.

Camille Tagle, Co-Founder, FABSCRAP

On Day 3: 21st September 2023**Sourcing 101 for Fashion Entrepreneurs – It Starts Here!**

Whether you're a budding fashion entrepreneur or a new brand looking

to streamline your production process, this session is designed to help you navigate the complex landscape of fashion sourcing and set your brand on the path to success. After all – it all begins with sourcing.

Key Takeaways:

- Identify your sourcing needs.
- Explore the many resources available.
- Know what questions to ask.
- Understand the logistics and process of sourcing.

Speaker:

Trish Concannon, Buyer Relations Specialist, SOURCING at MAGIC

THE ITALIAN FOOTWEAR INDUSTRY...

► Continued from page 53

A closer look at the report reveals that, in the first 5 months of the year, Italian footwear exports stood at 87.9 million pairs, including purely sales operations: 6.4 million fewer pairs compared to January-May 2022 (-6.8%). The average price per pair increased to 62.47 euros, i.e. +18.2%. If we look at macro geographical areas, both EU countries – to which 2 out of 3 shoes sold abroad are exported – and non-EU destinations show growth in value and a drop in quantity; however, trends are better within the European Union (-4.5% in volume and +14% in value) compared to more distant outlet markets (-10.9% and +7% overall, respectively). Within the EU markets, besides France – which firmly occupies first place in the general export ranking, in terms of both quantity and value, recording +19.6% in value and -2.9% in volume – the main destinations include Germany (fourth, but second in terms of volume, +8.4% in value but -15.5% in quantity), Spain and the Netherlands (with interesting growth in both volume and value), Belgium (with modest increases) and Poland (+10.2% in value but -5.2% in quantity). North America is slowing down: while substantially holding up in value, the United States and Canada show a fall of more than -20% in pairs. After experiencing difficulties in both

2021 and 2022, the trend was negative also in the UK (-2.6% in value, -13.8% in quantity). On the other hand, an encouraging performance was recorded in the Far East, which grew globally by +29.4% in value and +7.1% in quantity. Positive developments were recorded in the Arab Emirates (+37.7% in value) and Turkey (with increases of over 80% in both volume and value, despite the devaluation of the lira). The breakdown by product category shows mixed performance in terms of value and a general decline in volume – with the exception of slippers, which, on the contrary, grew in volume but decreased in value. Footwear with leather uppers – the leading segment, which accounts for 63% of the value of foreign sales – showed an increase close to +13% (-5.3% in pairs compared to January-May 2022 and -15.2% on pre-Covid levels in 2019).

On the domestic consumption front, according to the Fashion Consumer Panel of Sita Ricerca for Assocalzaturifici, after a start to the year marked by recovery, household spending on footwear decreased sharply in the following three months, especially in May and June. Overall, the second quarter of the year saw a decrease of -9.8% in terms of pairs and -7.9% in value, cancelling out the progress of the previous months and bringing the total figure for the first 6 months into negative territory.

As regards business demographics, the persisting effects of the unprecedented crisis triggered by the pandemic led to a negative balance of -122 footwear manufacturers – including both firms and artisans – in the first 6 months of the year (i.e. -3.2% compared to the end of December, according to Infocamere-Movimprese), after the heavy setback suffered at the end of 2022. In terms of the number of employees, the positive rebound that started last year continued: at the end of June, there were 73,665 employees (+1.8% compared to December). However, the gap with 2019 still exceeds 1,200 units. In the first 6 months of 2023, INPS authorised 7.5 million hours under the wage supplementation scheme (Cassa Integrazione Guadagni – CIG) for companies in the Leather Goods industry, down by -5.6% compared to the first half of last year. However, the leap in the number of hours in the second quarter (+44%), together with the worsening of the overall economic situation, herald new tensions.

Finally, expectations remain very cautious for the second half of the year, given the general climate of uncertainty and the weakness of many economies worldwide. On average, for the first time since the post-pandemic recovery, operators in the sample expect turnover in the third quarter to be down on the same period last year (-2.8%)



The Green Deal Industrial Plan presented to improve the competitiveness of European industry with net zero emissions

(contributed by MODAPIEL&ACCESORIES , Italy)

The Commission has presented the Green Deal Industrial Plan, aimed at improving the competitiveness of European industry with net zero emissions and driving the rapid transition towards climate neutrality. The objective of this Plan is to create a more enabling environment for increasing EU manufacturing capacity for the net zero technologies and products needed to meet Europe's ambitious climate goals.

This Plan, which takes advantage of the strengths of the EU single market, complementing the efforts being made within the framework of the Green Deal, is based on four basic pillars: a predictable and simplified regulatory framework, accelerated access to financing, improved capabilities and open trade for resilient supply chains.

In the words of the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen: "We have a unique opportunity to show the way with speed, ambition and a sense of purpose, to achieve EU industrial leadership in the technologies sector with net zero emissions, rapidly growing. Europe is determined to lead the clean technology revolution. For our companies and citizens, this means transforming skills into quality employment and innovation into mass production thanks to a simplified and faster framework. "Better access to finance will enable the rapid scale-up of our key cleantech industries."

The first pillar of the Plan consists of simplifying the regulatory framework

The Commission will propose a net zero industry law to set targets for net zero industrial capacity and provide an appropriate regulatory framework for its rapid implementation, ensuring simplified and accelerated permitting, promoting strategic projects and develop standards aimed at fostering the growth of technologies across the single market.

This framework will be completed with the Law on Fundamental Raw Materials, in order to ensure sufficient access to materials that, such as rare earths, are vital for the manufacture of key technologies, and with the reform of the design of the electricity market , so that consumers benefit from the lower costs of renewable energy.

Accelerated access to financing

The second pillar of the Plan consists of accelerating investment and financing for the production of clean technologies in Europe. Public funding, combined with further developments in the European capital markets union, can unlock the huge amounts of private finance needed for the green transition. Within the framework of competition policy, the Commission intends to ensure a level playing field within the single market, while making it easier for Member States to grant the aid necessary to accelerate the ecological transition. To this end, in order to accelerate and simplify the granting of this aid, the Commission will consult Member States on the modification of the Temporary Framework for Crisis and Transition of State Aid and will review the General Block Exemption Regulation in light of the Green Deal, increasing notification thresholds for support for green investments. This will contribute, among other things, to greater rationalization and simplification of the approval of important projects of common European interest (PIICE).

The Commission will also facilitate the use of existing EU funds to finance innovation, manufacturing and deployment of clean technologies. In addition, the Commission is exploring new avenues for greater common funding at EU level to support investments in the manufacturing of net zero emissions technologies, based on an ongoing investment needs assessment. The Commission will work with Member States in the short term, focusing on REPowerEU, InvestEU and the Innovation Fund, to find a transitional solution that provides rapid and targeted support. In the medium term, the Commission intends to provide a structural response to investment needs by proposing a European Sovereignty Fund in the context of the review of the multiannual financial framework before summer 2023.



President of the European Commission Ms. Ursula von der Leyen

To help Member States access REPowerEU funds, the Commission has adopted new guidance on recovery and resilience plans, explaining the process for amending existing plans and the modalities for the development of REPowerEU chapters. .

Improving capabilities

Given that 35-40% of all jobs could be affected by the green transition, developing the skills needed for quality, well-paid jobs will be a priority for the European Year of Skills, and the third pillar of the Plan will focus on it.

To develop capabilities for a people-centred green transition, the Commission will propose the creation of zero-emission industry academies to implement retraining and upskilling programs in strategic industries. It will also consider how to combine a skills-first approach, which recognizes real capabilities, with existing qualifications-based approaches, and how to facilitate the access of third-country nationals to EU labor markets. in priority sectors, as well as measures to promote and harmonize public and private financing for capacity development.

Open trade for resilient supply chains

The fourth pillar is global cooperation and making trade work for the ecological transition, based on the principles of fair competition and open trade, building on commitments with EU partners and the work of the World Trade Organization. Trade. To this end, the Commission will continue to develop the EU's network of free trade agreements and other forms of cooperation with partners, in order to support the ecological transition. It will also consider the creation of a Critical Raw Materials Club that brings together raw materials "consumers" and resource-rich countries to ensure global security of supply through a competitive and diversified industrial base, as well as industrial associations of clean technologies with zero net emissions.

The Commission will also protect the single market against unfair trade in the clean technology sector and will use the instruments at its disposal to ensure that foreign subsidies do not distort competition in the single market, including in the clean technology sector.

"Within the framework of competition policy, the Commission intends to ensure a level playing field within the single market, while making it simpler for Member States to grant the aid necessary to accelerate the ecological transition."

THE ENTIRE SECTOR DOESN'T FIT IN ONE MAGAZINE, BUT WE TRY



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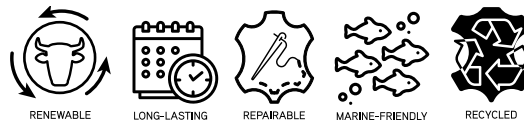
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DESIGN+TECHNOLOGY+COMPONENTS: A SAFE RESPONSE



Credit: Shutterstock.com

Clamping down on 'vegan' bandwagon



(Contributed by WORLD LEATHER, UK)

The US Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has noted an increasing number of consumers interested in buying "environmentally friendly" goods, and has asked for public feedback on updating its Guides for the Use of Environmental Marketing Claims (known as Green Guides). Launched in 1992 – and updated in 1996, 1998 and 2012 – the aim is to help companies avoid making claims that are unfair or deceptive. They are not federal regulations in themselves but clarify when companies' marketing violates federal law. "Consumers are increasingly conscious of how the products they buy affect the environment and depend on marketers' claims to be truthful," says Bureau of Consumer Protection director Samuel Levine.

The Leather and Hide Council of America (LHCA) believes the guidelines need updating to reflect developments in environmental science and technology, including the increased application of lifecycle assessments. This, the LHCA believes, would help address greenwashing and the use of vague or misleading terminology by products purporting to be 'green'. The guidelines should also consider the environmental impact of a product throughout its entire lifecycle through to its disposal to provide a correct accounting of its environmental footprint.

In his submission to the FTC, LHCA president Stephen Sothmann explains how the leather supply chain is "keenly aware" of the impact deceptive marketing practices can have on consumer behaviour and buying decisions and how, every

The LHCA has called on the Federal Trade Commission to publish stricter rules in its Green Guides for companies that try to pass plastics off as better for the environment than leather.

year, US hides and skins derived from food-producing animals are wastefully disposed of in landfills or incinerators. This not only affects the environment by releasing carbon that has been sequestered by the hides and skins back into the atmosphere but also damages the climate during production of the oil-based plastics.

Mr Sothmann said: "The consumer is being misled by greenwashing claims, particularly in the textiles sector that's driven by petroleum-derived synthetics, which often masquerade their products as being "green" or good for the environment. They do this by using vague or opaque language in their marketing materials, terms such as vegan leather, cruelty-free leather, plant-based leather or ecoleather, masking that they are actually made with plastic."

Brands have been so successful in reorientating the fashion business around products made of virgin plastic that they have had to turn to the developing world for

waste management, polluting local communities and contravening international agreements on the control of hazardous waste, he adds.

Carte blanche

While the most recent revision of the guides does warn businesses about making any unqualified general environmental benefit claims, the omission of key terminology has emboldened some businesses to make unsubstantiated claims of a product or textile's sustainability. "This regulatory vacuum undoubtedly harms consumers and businesses but it also stands in the way of appropriate private-sector solutions to environmental hazards, leaving well-intentioned market participants searching for real science-based tools," says Mr Sothmann.

LHCA takes a particularly strong stance against the word 'vegan', which is being used on a multitude of products to promote the idea of being animal and planet-friendly. "I am not aware of any certification schemes that would provide consumers with the assurance they may want or need to justify that a material is indeed vegan," Mr Sothmann tells *World Leather*. "For example, if the material is plant-based, did the plant producers use pesticides or other chemicals to kill animals during production? If so, this should be disclosed, or the label should include additional justification behind the claim. Currently, companies have carte blanche to use these descriptors in any way they deem fit."

In the absence of guidance on the precise conditions that could substantiate a sustainable or vegan claim, he recommends the commission explicitly dissuade business in non-food sectors from using these claims.

Fines issued

The FTC extended the deadline for public feedback and has organised webinars to discuss the terms 'recyclable' or 'recycled content'. It also anticipates discussion and feedback around carbon offsetting, 'compostable', 'degradable', 'ozone-friendly', 'organic' and 'sustainable', with more than 7,500 public comments received so far.

Each year, companies are sued for breaching the rules. Retailers Kohl's and Walmart were fined \$2.5 million and \$3 million respectively for marketing rayon textile products as bamboo. Both were also charged with making deceptive environmental claims,

Leather labels and enforcement: Sothmann's view

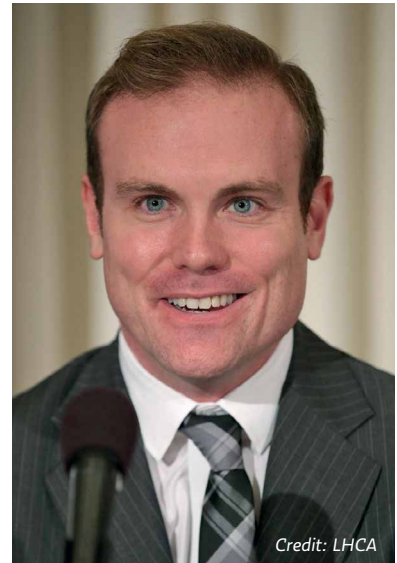
Q When it comes to labelling products, FTC's Leather Guides were last opened for comment in 2019, but the pandemic disrupted any updates. It states: "If all or part of a product is made of non-leather material that appears to be leather, the fact that the material is not leather, or the general nature of the material as something other than leather, should be disclosed. For example: Not leather, imitation leather, simulated leather, vinyl, vinyl-coated fabric or plastic". But does this labelling go far enough?

A There are two separate issues, both of which need to be addressed by the FTC in the future. The first is the question of the labelling language itself. No, I do not believe that language is strong enough in the current guides. As has been demonstrated by numerous studies, consumers are generally confused or unaware of what "vegan" means when applied to materials or textiles. People generally understand what that term means as it relates to food and drink choices, but there is no definition associated with other materials. In theory, companies could advertise "vegan sidewalks" or "vegan steel" and it would be the same absurdity as "vegan leather". There are no definitions, no certifications, no actual backing to support those claims.

The second question is with regards to enforcement. There again, the FTC needs to be more proactive. However, it also falls to industry and consumers to bring cases to the FTC for enforcement, so more needs to be done on this front as well.

Q Do you see a time when the US follows the examples of Italy, Portugal and some other countries where the misuse of 'leather' is enforceable by law?

A There is much to do before that may become a reality in the US, but the same arguments are indeed taking place here as they are in Europe. Many commodity groups, such as dairy, meat and leather, all take umbrage with the fact that synthetics companies are using the good will of the name of the commodity to market a substitute or fake product. At some point, it may come to a head in the US that these types of products will indeed gain legal protection, but we are likely many years away from that taking place. We do not refer to polyester as "synthetic cotton" for example, so there is precedence here as to how new materials should be identified for the consumer.



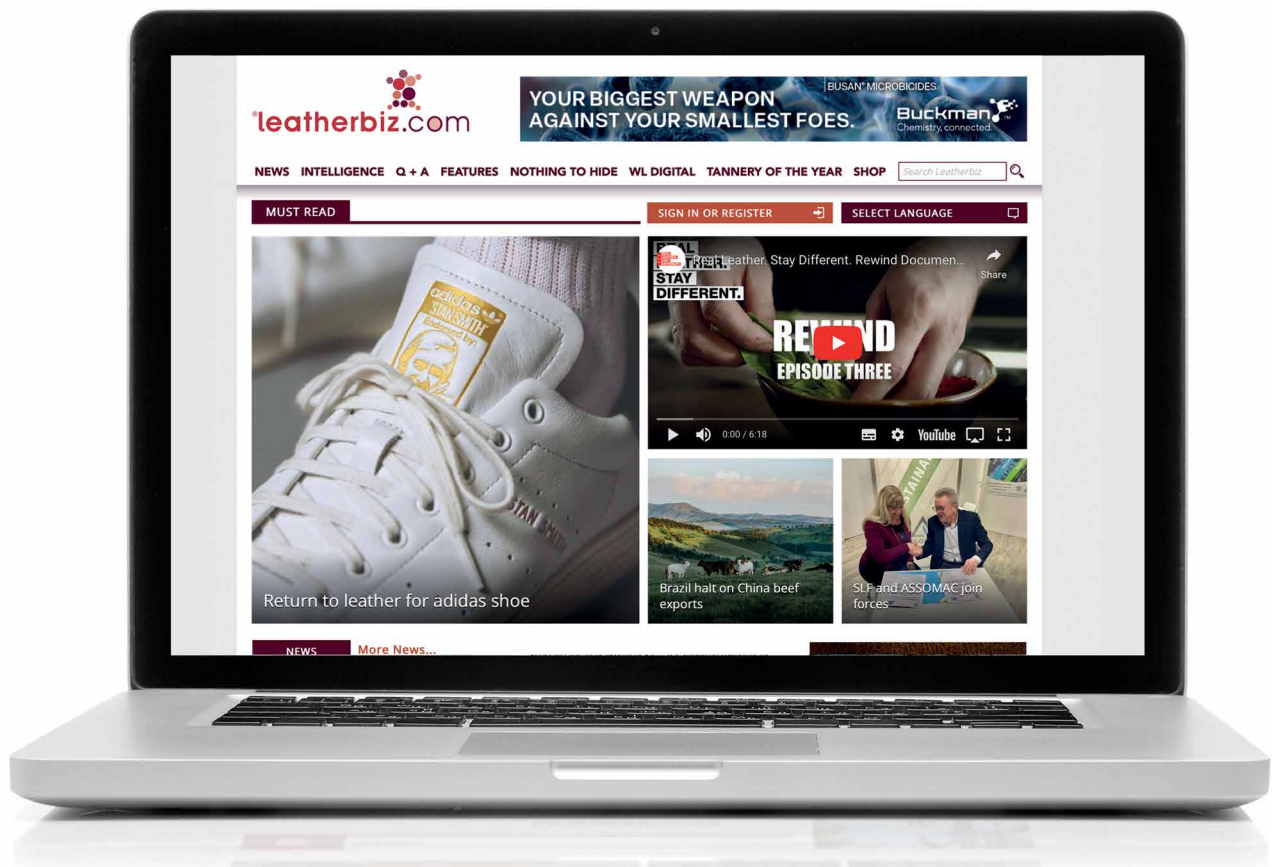
Credit: LHCA

suggesting "bamboo" textiles were made using ecofriendly processes while, in reality, converting bamboo into rayon requires strong chemicals and results in hazardous pollutants.

While this can act as a deterrent, there are many examples of companies circumnavigating the advice. The FTC has asked whether the guides are necessary; LHCA believes that so long as the Commission is tasked with the authority to put forward "rules which define the specificity acts or practices which are unfair or deceptive acts or practises in or affecting commerce", the

guides are the proper avenue for federal influence over disparate industries. There has been no deadline announced for the updates to be published, but observers suggest the consultation period will extend throughout this year, at least.

"We believe it's important to take a stand on behalf of naturally derived materials, and the consumer, and call for an end to greenwashing in marketing that's responsible for causing so much confusion and damage to the environment," concludes Mr Sothmann. ☺



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A big success for fashion and side sectors trade fairs

(contributed by MPA Style Magazines, Italy)

The trade fairs dedicated to fashion and accessories that took place September 17-21 at Fieramilano (Milano, Italy) closed with excellent results, confirming the will of the market to move forward in the name of sustainable, innovative solutions

September is a fervent period for Milano, Italian fashion capital, which every six months hosts the main trade fairs of the sector. Both buyers and exhibitors seemed happy about the outcome, so as visitors, who could check a wide array of proposals in terms of style, accessories, materials, but also chemicals and machinery for the fashion market.

MICAM Milan, MIPEL, The One Milan, devoted to the finished product, and **HOMI Fashion&Jewels Exhibition**, were visited by 42,273 trade visitors (+21% on the September 2022 edition) from 129 countries. Above all, the fairs revealed an increasing demand on the part of foreign buyers, proving the importance of exports in strengthening the recovery of the industries represented. The final figures for the events show growing numbers of visitors from Spain, France and Germany; as regards non-EU countries, a long-awaited comeback of China and confirmations from Japan and North America with Canada and the USA. 2000 brands presented their collections for the coming season, marked by a strong commitment to research and innovation, quality and a keen awareness of sustainability. Young people, the lifeblood of any ever-changing industry, were once again the protagonists of all the events thanks to dedicated initiatives and special areas. Creativity, talent,



research into materials and production technologies, as well as attention to the rapidly changing world of fashion, marked the emerging designers' creations. There was also a plethora of opportunities to meet and discuss the hottest topics for the industry, from sustainability to artificial intelligence, from new production technologies to the future of retail.

Also a vital edition of **LINEAPELLE**, which registered a +25% in attendance figures, built stimulating opportunities for style comparison and business networking by welcoming professional operators from 109 countries and celebrating the strong return of Asian buyers. The 102nd edition of **LINEAPELLE** consolidates its international leadership by positioning itself as an authentic beacon in the context of a complex economic phase characterised by a widespread slowdown and a limited possibility of defining production and commercial programmes. **LINEAPELLE 102**, dedicated to the FW 2024-2025 season, hosted 1,330 exhibitors and registered increase in the number of professional operators compared to the September 2022 edition: +26% Italian visitors, +22% those from abroad, with a particular dynamism of those from France and China, Japan and South Korea, confirming the reassuring return of Asian buyers to the fair.

LINEAPELLE 102 reaffirmed the value of the exhibition synergy with **Simac Tanning Tech** (the international event with the most qualified offer of machinery and technology for the tanning, footwear, and leather goods industries) held concurrently at Fiera Milano Rho. A synergy that involved, in total, over 28,000 visitors.

The vitality of **Simac Tanning Tech** instills courage in the sector and launches new proposals in terms of process organization and digitalisation towards a sustainable transition. The final attendance data, with over 6,500 certified

presences between operators and delegations of which approximately 60% Italian visitors and 40% foreign visitors and therefore +37% of visitors and +14% of exhibitors compared to last year, is very encouraging for the 320 exhibitors, brands and institutions who attended Simac Tanning Tech and confirm a recovery of the fair at pre-covid levels.

The numbers confirm the positive trend, starting from those of the exhibiting companies present on the 15 thousand square meters of the fair. Italy above all, but also Turkey, France, Germany, Portugal, Brazil, Mexico, Spain, Tunisia and the great return of Asian countries among the 96 nations of origin of the visitors.

It is not just a question of numbers: a very significant and qualified turnout visiting the historic pavilions 14 and 18, to which must be added the one attracted by the other Milanese fairs which met again this year at Rho Fiera and which made Milan is the center of the fashion supply chain.



Precisely the synergy of the combined fairs was driving and decisive for the success of the event, together with the innovations and application services presented by the multi-sector reality which shared the objective of giving life to productive ecosystems in the name of sustainable transition.

The White Show, the UITIC Congress and the Safety Expo fair, crowned this week, further widening the product offer and knowledge about the footwear and leather sectors.



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Interaction Meeting of Hon'ble Ministers of Government of Tamil Nadu with the Leather Industry, Aug. 1, 2023, Ranipet



Dignitaries on dais

The CLE-Southern Region in association with Guidance, Tamil Nadu organised a Leather Industry Interaction Meeting with Thiru R. Gandhi, Hon'ble Minister for Handlooms & Textiles and Dr. T.R.B. Rajaa, Hon'ble Minister for Industries, Investment Promotion & Commerce, Government of Tamil Nadu on 01st August, 2023 at Hotel Gee Kay Millennia, Ranipet between 11.30 am to 1.00 pm.

The Meeting was also attended by Tmt. S. Valarmathi, IAS, District Collector, Ranipet, Tmt. E. Sundaravalli, IAS, MD-SIPCOT

Shri. K.R. Vijayan, Chairman, IFLMEA and Shri. R. Ramesh Prasad, Chairman, Ranitec CETP supported CLE in making necessary arrangements for organising this Interaction Meeting.

Members and Association Heads from the following Leather Associations attended the interaction meeting:

- South India Shoe Manufacturers Association
- The All India Skin & Hide Tanners & Merchants Association
- MDs, Ranipet SIDCO Phase I & 2
- Secretary, South India Tanners & Dealers Association
- Secretary, VANITEC
- Secretary, The Vaniyambadi Tanners Association



Thiru R. Gandhi, Hon'ble Minister for Handlooms & Textiles and Dr. T.R.B. Rajaa, Hon'ble Minister for Industries, Investment Promotion & Commerce, Government of Tamil Nadu at the meeting

- Secretary, Ambur Tanners Association
- Secretary, Tanners Association, Pernambut
- MD, Visharam Tanners Enviro Control Systems Pvt Ltd

Shri. K.R. Vijayan, Chairman, IFLMEA made a Presentation giving an update on the Status of Indian Leather Industry vis-à-vis Tamil Nadu Leather Industry to the Hon'ble Ministers and requested support from the Govt of Tamil Nadu for further development of the Leather Industry.

The Members and Association Heads thanked the Tamil Nadu Government for extending necessary support for the development of the Leather Industry in their Clusters and submitted their written requests on



A view of the participants

specific issues for intervention and support from the Govt of Tamil Nadu.

Dr. T.R.B. Rajaa, Hon'ble Minister for Industries, Investment Promotion & Commerce, Government of Tamilnadu thanked the Leather Industry for organizing the Interaction Meeting with participation from the Leather Industry Clusters at very short notice and assured Govt support for the Leather Industry.

Meeting on “Brand Promotion of Indian Brands Sub-Scheme of IFLDP” held on 26th Sept. 2023 at Kolkata

Meeting on “Brand Promotion of Indian Brands Sub-Scheme of IFLDP” was organised on 26th September, 2023 at CLE, Kolkata office in association with Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT). The meeting was chaired by Mr. Ramesh Juneja, Regional Chairman, CLE, Eastern Region. The meeting was attended by around 12 participants. Other prominent exporters like Mr Rajarshi De from Edcons Exports, Mr Kevin Juneja from J C International, Mr Kamal Khan from Dugros Exports, Representatives from Khadims were present in the meeting.

Mr. Ramesh Juneja welcomed the officials of IIFT and the member-exporters. Mr. Juneja also highlighted the importance of promoting Indian brands in the overseas markets to enhance value addition and exports. Thereafter the officials from IIFT



gave a detailed presentation on the Brand Promotion Sub Scheme and also the application procedure. The officials from IIFT also highlighted that India has gained prominence as contract manufacturer for the big brands of the World and it is high time for the manufacturer-exporters from India to brand their products and promote the brands in various overseas markets.

This was followed by an interactive session. During the interactive session, the queries raised by the members were addressed by the officials of IIFT.

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