

AHFA Leather Standards and Guidelines Committee Meeting Minutes
November 12, 2009 Embassy Suites – Raleigh/Crabtree, NC

- » The Leather Standards and Guidelines Committee Meeting was called to order at 8:45AM by Juan Diego Casaretto, Chair for the Meeting.

Pat Iott, Co-Chair for the Meeting was traveling in Brazil and could not attend.

- » The welcome and meeting details were given by Bill Perdue with AHFA.
- » The Sign up Sheet was passed around to the membership.
- » The May 2010 Meeting will be held at the Embassy Suites-Kingston Plantation, Myrtle Beach, SC. The meeting will be held the second week in May on Tuesday and Wednesday.
- » The May 13th, 2009 Minutes were reviewed and approved by all.
- » Tammy Schmidt presented to the members La-Z-Boy Incorporated Journey to Apply for Sustainable by Design. The presentation was written by Rod Miller.

Bill Perdue help to field questions from the members about this program and shared several experiences of companies that participated in this initiative. December 2nd is the Sustainable Summit Annual meeting at the Proximity Hotel in Greensboro, NC.

- » Morning break was held at 10AM and reconvened at 10:30AM
- » Kadir Donmez with the Leather Research Lab gave a report on the Light Fastness Research Project at the May meeting. He was not present at this meeting to give the members an update. This will be added to the agenda for the May 2010 meeting.
- » Lonnie McDonald from the Institute of Inspection Cleaning and Restoration Certification (IICRC) gave a presentation on who they are, reviewed current standards and upcoming standards. He asked for volunteers for technical experts to help with developing the upcoming standards. If anyone is interested in helping with this effort should see Lonnie.
- » Leather Grading Standard – Ken Kocheckian updated the members on this project. The larger panels will be recommended for high end companies as the larger panels are not relevant for mass production. The members recommend a statement be added it is a buyer/seller agreement. Ken will write up the standard and send it to Gail and Juan for ballot prior to the next meeting.

- » Jose Bartok – from Zenda Leather – gave a presentation on Green Leather and what that means. Not only is the use or not of chrome but also the:
 - a. Waste Treatment
 - b. Environmental Impact
- » Brazilian Raw Materials: Debate about Amazons/Rain Forest report was to be given by Pampa. Pampa was not present and this topic will be added to the May meeting.
- » The group at the meeting discussed the environmentally friendly leather topic lead by Bill Reichel. Discussion held on the topic included: more and more consumers are asking for environmentally friendly furniture, defining what eco-friendly leather is, define what green is, and develop guidelines.

Defining environmentally friendly leather:

1. Manufacturing process (process control)
2. Tannage (veg vs. chrome)
3. Bio-degradable (end of life)
4. Traceability of materials (farmed and slaughtered properly)
5. Restricted substances

Bill presented a definition that covered all 5 areas. The definition will be wrote up by Bill and sent to Gail and Juan for ballot prior to the next meeting.

- » Ken Kochejian brought up the topic of light sources. He feels a more specific light source should be added to the standards booklet. Much discussion was held on this topic and it was determined to leave it as is – buyer/seller agreement and not impose one way.
- » The Leather Committee Meeting adjourned at noon and lunch followed.