

AHFA Leather Standards and Guidelines Committee Meeting Minutes  
May 13, 2009 Embassy Suites/Kingston Plantation – Myrtle Beach, SC

- » The Leather Standards and Guidelines Committee Meeting was called to order at 8:30AM by Pat Iott, Chair for the Meeting.
- » The welcome and meeting details were given by Bill Perdue with AHFA.
- » The Sign up Sheet was passed around to the membership.
- » November 2009 Meeting will be held at the Embassy Suites/Raleigh Crabtree, Raleigh, NC with a tour of the NC State Textile Laboratory to be scheduled and the Spring 2010 Meeting will back at the Embassy Suites/Kingston Plantation in Myrtle Beach, SC.
- » The November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008 Minutes were reviewed and motioned by Bill Reichel to accept the minutes, motion approved by all.
- » Bonded Leather Information –
  - Open item from last meeting minutes:
    - It was suggested by Bill Reichel to not include bonded leather as a part of the scope of the leather standards, but to put a definition in the glossary of the manual. Further discussion followed to add a definition and how bonded leather is made to the AHFA website. Ken Kochejian will write up the definition and submit it to the AHFA, Bill Perdue. No ballot will be needed, the committee will have a 90 day comment period and after the comment period has expired it will be added.
  - Bill Reichel to follow up on the definition and submit it to AHFA to insure it is added to the glossary before the fall meeting.
- » Mr. Adam Hughs of the BLC Leather Technology Centre Ltd. (UK) gave a presentation on Environmental Stewardship in Leather Manufacturing. Footwear is the biggest consumer of leather with furniture manufacturing being second. Some negative perceptions of leather include: polluting process and toxic substances. The Leather Working Group is a multi stakeholder group made up of brands, retailers, tanneries, suppliers and technical people. An objective of the group is to promote sustainable and appropriate environmental business practices. Some benefits of the group include: offers guidelines, consistent across the tanning industry, provides regular dialog and updates with industry experts, and demonstrates public commitment toward environmental protection. The website for more information is: [www.leatherworkinggroup.com](http://www.leatherworkinggroup.com)
- » Morning break was held at 10:15AM and reconvened at 10:30AM

- » Kadir Donmez with the Leather Research Lab gave a report on the Light Fastness Research Project. Kadir stated there are two parts to this project: leathers today in US – what light fastness properties they have and the outdoor exposure. AHFA adopted the EN13336:2004 standard and the test method is ISO 105-B02. The objectives of the project is: what light fastness rating do the semi-aniline and pigmented leathers typically achieve in the US industry, what should be the specification for furniture upholstered leather, and how does artificial fading correlate to natured sunlight exposure. The grading is done with the grey scale.

Next steps: Carlos from Atlas will be performing testing in Florida for the outdoor exposure part of the project. Kadir will be sending him samples. The timing of this testing is to be determined. Kadir will update us at the next meeting.

- » Leather Grading Standard – Ken Kochejian was not present at this meeting to give an update on the leather grading standard project. Joe Beckom will follow up with Ken and provide an update prior to the next meeting.
- » Bill Perdue received an email from Mary Toro at the CPSC. The CPSC is inquiring on the AHFA's position on Biocide Dimethyl Fumarate in Leather. Discussion was held on this topic. Dr. Nicholas Cory with the Leather Research Lab will be drafting up a letter to Bill to reply to this question.
- » Lunch was held from 11:45AM to 12:45AM
- » Leather Subcommittee Work Groups - Pat Iott recommended a few topics for the breakout session.
  1. work on the write up to the CPSC email inquiry
  2. develop moisture management packaging standards for tanneries (being proactive)
  3. discuss further the environmentally friendly leather task force group set up from last 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 substancesBill will investigate this topic further and provide an update at the fall meeting.
- » The Leather Committee Meeting adjourned at 1:45 PM.