

**Minutes**  
**Joint Industry Leather Standards & Guidelines Committee Minutes**  
**Marriott Kingsgate Hotel at the University of Cincinnati**  
**Cincinnati, OH**  
**November 5, 2003**

**Note: All exhibits referenced in the minutes are on file at the AFMA office**

- I. The committee members met at 8:30 am in the main lobby of the hotel to depart for a tour of the University of Cincinnati Leather Research Laboratory. The tour was from 9 to 10:30 am. Dr. Nicholas J. Cory welcomed the group to the lab and Kadir Donmez and Randy Rowles gave the tour of the lab.
- II. The meeting was called to order back at the hotel conference room at 11:15 am by Heather Bolick.
- III. Self-introductions of attendees were made and the sign-up sheet was circulated.
- IV. Bill Perdue went over the agenda for the day and informed the members the next meeting will be in Charlotte, NC in May 2004. The registration for this meeting will be available on the AFMA web site.

Bill explained the structure of the AFMA web site which is [www.AFMA4U.org](http://www.AFMA4U.org). Posted on the web site are the standards, agendas, presentations, minutes from all past meetings and a calendar of events.

A suggestion was made to add a link on the AFMA web site to the UFAC web site. Bill will look into this and see if it is possible. Any other links the members would like added to the AFMA web site should be emailed to Bill.

Heather distributed the cover sheet, introduction and table of contents for the standards and guidelines for upholstery leather that Hugh put together. (Exhibit 1)

The following standards are accepted by the committee and will be added to the standards and guidelines: Color and Shade, Flaws and Defects for Finished Leather.

Hugh distributed the new ballot format that will be used. (Exhibit 2) Anytime a member does not agree with a ballot a technical reason must be submitted. All ballots will be sent to the committee members via email.

Hugh distributed a leather problem survey to be filled out and turned in at the close of the meeting. (Exhibit 3)

- V. Flammability Report – Russ Batson an AFMA Representative from Washington, DC gave an overview and history of the flammability issues. There is no federal regulation at the present. California is revising the TB117 standard and other States could follow. The AFMA is working on a more favorable regulation. A recommendation for the standard is a 5 second test instead of a 20 second test. The benefit would be lower costs, offer a better hand and fewer chemicals. The compliance date to meet the new standards is 3 to 4 years out. (Power Point Presentation Exhibit 4)
- VI. Crocking – Claude Bonvoulor reported he did not receive any feedback from the Furniture Manufacturers on the standards they hold their suppliers to for crocking. He suggested the ASTM method for crocking be used as the standard method. Claude will write this in ballot form and submit it to Hugh Talley for distribution to the members. Randy, Hugh and Claude will check with AFMA about emailing the crocking standard to the committee members to be sure they are not infringing on copy write laws.
- VII. General Report from the Task Groups
- a. Leather Education – Heather reported on the generalized ballot on AFMA Leather Education Booklet consisting of Glossary of Terms, Advantages of Buying Leather, Understanding the Natural Markings of Leather, Proposal for Leather Yield (a tentative proposal for leather yield has been accepted and will be sent out for ballot) and Leather Care Tips for All Types of Leather. She received comments back from the ballot and will discuss all comments in the breakout group. Heather read the purpose statement of the leather education committee. The University of Cincinnati will work hand in hand with Heather’s group on the Glossary of Terms.
  - b. Cleaning and Care of Leather –  
 Task Group Attendees:  
 Claude Bonvoulor, Stainsafe  
 Terry Medlin, Berkline/Benchcraft  
 Carey Vermeulen, IICRC  
 Ruth Travis, IICRC  
 Tammy Schmidt, La-Z-Boy  
 Kim Brancheau, La-Z-Boy  
 Joey Pickett, IICRC  
 Manny Vickers, Fiber-Shield  
 Randy Rowles, Leather Research Lab, UC
1. The committee reviewed the proposed leather cleaning codes and agreed to propose A – Aniline, P – Protected, and N – Nubuck as the three standard leather categories.
  2. The committee revised the definitions of the three codes to be included in the AFMA Standard and the IICRC S300 Standard. The cleaning codes are:

**Type A – Aniline:**

- Crust leather that has received only aniline dyes for color, then dried, softened and milled.
- No correction – Full Grain.
- No pigmentation.
- Very little or no finish such as, but not limited to polymers, wax, oil, etc.
- Shade variance from hide to hide and within a single hide.
- Soft hand.
- Requires a high degree of preventative maintenance.
- Surface scratches easily.
- Absorbent.
- May have special effects.

**Type P – Protected:**

- Crust leather that may have received additional aniline dyes and/or pigmentation for color consistency and protective top coat finish, then dried, softened and milled.
- May be partially or fully corrected.
- Color is consistent within the hide and the color variance hide to hide should be slight.
- Moderate hand.
- Moderate to high resistance.
- Least absorbent.
- Surface is more difficult to scratch.
- May have special effects.

**Type N – Nubuck:**

- Crust leather that has received only aniline dyes for color, then dried, softened, sanded or brushed, and milled.
- Corrected.
- No finish.
- This type of leather displays a wide degree of shade variance within hide and from hide to hide.
- Soft hand.
- Requires special maintenance at the highest frequency.
- Surface has a visible nap.
- Surface may scratch.
- May have special effects.

3. The committee has agreed upon the codes and a formal ballot will be written for vote at the next meeting.
4. The committee discussed deck label to be placed on all leather Furniture identifying leather codes. Information should be generic and include recommended maintenance instructions.

5. An ongoing discussion on the terminology for the cleaning codes ensued. The committees agreed to complete this discussion and have determined the cleaning advise by the next meeting. The committee will utilize the e-mail group this document was attached to for circulation of this discussion.

c. Flaws and Defects – Tim Posey reported the Flaws and Defects is ready for ballot and will be sent out to all members.

Task Members for Flaws and Defects

Susan Wilkinson	Lisa Sartain
Jan Chism	Jackie Edwards
Joyce Beane	Garrett Barr
Kim Caraballo	Kat Myers
James Webb	Kadir Donmez
Barb Wetzel	Deb Austin
Judy Stewart	Tim Posey

d. Seams – Tim Posey lead the same task members for Flaws and Defects for Seams.

- i. Stitches per inch – recommended 6 +/- 1 variance
- ii. Thread – recommended medium to heavy weight nylon twist
- iii. Seam slippage – not an issue with leather, main issue is thread breakage
- iv. Seam allowance – recommended ½ inch with 1/8 inch variation
- v. Needle – recommended using Schmetz needle equipment guide

VIII. Old Business – No report

X. New Business – A special thanks to Randy and Kadir for the tour of the University of Cincinnati Leather Research Laboratory.

XI. Meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm