

LEATHER MANUFACTURER OFFERS CARBON FOOTPRINT DETAILS

GUANGZHOU – Customers of high-quality leather manufacturer, ISA Tan Tec are now able to calculate the exact environmental footprint of their products.

The German-Chinese Tannery, whose customers include renowned fashion brands such as New Balance, Timberland, Keen, and Hush Puppies, have instigated a policy of disclosing how much CO₂ is generated and how much water is consumed per square meter of leather for all of its products.

The company's clients will now be able to use this data to calculate the CO₂ emissions for their own products and inform their customers, allowing them to improve their environmental image.

"Especially with brand-name products, increasing numbers of consumers are paying attention to whether they are manufactured in an environmentally friendly manner," said Thomas Schneider, founder and CEO of ISA Tan Tec. "That's why we've become the first leather manufacturer to make CO₂ emissions and water consumption visible. With this move, we're setting a standard for the entire industry."



To ascertain how environmentally friendly a product is, ISA Tan Tec uses an innovative colour scale based on benchmark data from the British Leather Technology Center. The BLC publishes average energy and water consumption data for the industry. How far below the BLC's figures ISA Tan Tec products fall determines how the different types of leather are categorized on the scale.

Web: www.itecether.com

The leather industry – one of the worst industry polluters – is starting to look at its impacts on the planet.

Unifi launches new Eco-focused web-site

GREENSBORO – Unifi, the US-based producer and processor of polyester and nylon yarns has launched a new consumer-focused, interactive website in a bid to educate consumers about the positive environmental benefits of its 'Repreve' 100% recycled yarns.

The new web-site at www.repreve.com is an interactive site which allows users to explore, learn and engage in helping the environment. "Unifi is taking a unique and transparent approach in educating consumers and the industry about the benefits of Repreve recycled yarns while involving them in the process of doing more in supporting environmental efforts," said Roger Bernier, executive vice president for Unifi.

The site includes features which describe how Repreve differs from other recycled yarns, and provides a detailed illustration on how the recycled product is made.

Web: www.repreve.com

AWI SIGNS DEAL FOR MULESING ALTERNATIVE

SYDNEY – Australian Wool Innovation has signed a deal with Leader Products for the supply of Anti-flystrike clips which will be commercially available to Australia's woolgrowers in time for the 2009 marking season.

An agreement to produce the plastic devices was signed recently with the Chairman of Australian Wool Innovation, Mr Brian van Rooyen, confirming that the commercial availability of clips would give woolgrowers an alternative to the practice of mulesing.

Clips have been trialled at selected locations across Australia with results demonstrating that after 90 days clips were preferential to mulesing as they provided significantly less pain and stress for clipped lambs compared with mulesed lambs, and also allowed faster live body weight gains.

Moreover, clips worked as well as mulesing in flystrike prevention when used with complementary animal husbandry practices such as jetting.

"I'm very heartened that we will be able to get this product to market almost two years ahead of the industry's 2010 deadline for the phase out of mulesing," Mr van Rooyen said. "The signing of the license to produce the clips should give woolgrowers the confidence and certainty they have been looking for."

"Woolgrowers need to know that there are alternatives to mulesing and I'm pleased that Leader Products can be part of the solution," added Bruce Dumbrell, managing director of Leader Products.

Web: www.wool.com.au

Africa gets organic cotton boost

BRITTANY - Textile firms in Brittany will be receiving almost 1,000 tons of bio cotton from Africa in December following initiatives between France and the Economic and Monetary Union of West Africa (UEMOA).

Nearly 5,000 growers in Burkina Faso and Mali will receive €743,000, one third of which will be financed by UEMOA and the rest by the textile enterprises of Brittany region, to help them switch their traditional cotton growing methods to organic practices.

The purpose behind this co-development programme is to grow exports of these two African regions to nearly 3,000 tons by 2010. Last year, the total production of organic cotton in entire West Africa came around 1,900 tons. This year figures from the Organic Exchange show that in total Africa produced 6,531 metric tons of organic cotton fibre in the 2007/08 cropping year.