



DRAFT EAST AFRICAN STANDARD

Leather — Code of practice

Part 1: Handling of raw hides and skins in a slaughter house

EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

PUBLIC REVIEW

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Foreword

Development of the East African Standards has been necessitated by the need for harmonizing requirements governing quality of products and services in the East African Community. It is envisaged that through harmonized standardization, trade barriers that are encountered when goods and services are exchanged within the Community will be removed.

The Community has established an East African Standards Committee (EASC) mandated to develop and issue East African Standards (EAS). The Committee is composed of representatives of the National Standards Bodies in Partner States, together with the representatives from the public and private sector organizations in the community.

East African Standards are developed through Technical Committees that are representative of key stakeholders including government, academia, consumer groups, private sector and other interested parties. Draft East African Standards are circulated to stakeholders through the National Standards Bodies in the Partner States. The comments received are discussed and incorporated before finalization of standards, in accordance with the Principles and procedures for development of East African Standards.

East African Standards are subject to review, to keep pace with technological advances. Users of the East African Standards are therefore expected to ensure that they always have the latest versions of the standards they are implementing.

The committee responsible for this document is Technical Committee EASC/TC 063, *Leather and leather products*.

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Leather sector — Code of practice

Part 1: Handling of raw hides and skins in a slaughter house

1 Scope

This Draft East African Standard prescribes the practices to be observed before and during the process of flaying, handling and pre-preservation of hides and skins in a slaughter house.

It covers basic requirements of handling of animals in a slaughter house, flaying methods, handling and pre-preservation of hides and skins of bovine, goat, sheep and other animals in a slaughter house

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

— ISO Online browsing platform: available at <http://www.iso.org/obp>

3.1

bovine hide

integral covering of a bovine

3.2

sheep skin

integral covering from a wool or hair of ovine (sheep)

3.3

goat skin

integral covering from a caprine (goat)

3.4

fallen hide/skin

hide/skin obtained from un-bled or improperly bled carcass of an animal that had died of natural causes.

3.5

ripping

cutting open the hide/skin of a carcass before flaying along the belly from the neck end to the tail end and along the legs. The bleeding-cut, belly-cut, leg cut shall be directly in the centre of the throat, belly and legs.

3.6

trimming

the shape given to a hide or skin with its ultimate use in mind portions of a hide/skin or piece of leather

3.7

pattern

the shape or contour of a flayed hide or skin when laid flat as determined by the position, length and direction of the ripping cuts made during flaying.

3.8

Preservation/curing

treatment to protect the hides and skin against bacterial attack from the time of flaying until it is processed.

3.9

defects

damage on raw or preserved hides/skins, which depreciate the leather, produced from them

3.10

latent defects

defects which are discovered after hair removal, e.g. puller clamp or other mechanical damage

3.11

putrefaction

rotting/decomposition in hides and skins due to bacterial action, which liquefy the gelatin

3.12

raw hide or skin

green and preserved hide or skin that has not been processed

3.14

brand

man-made permanent mark on a hide generally made for identification and which is made using a hot or iron or by using chemical products

3.15

pritch hole

hole made by a flayer's pritch (an instrument used to support the carcass during flaying)

3.16

warble hole

perforated damage caused by the larvae of *Hypoderma bovis* on a hide during its development.

3.17

blind holes

an imperforate damage caused by the larvae of *Hypoderma bovis*

3.18

healed warble

trace of damage caused by the larvae of *Hypoderma bovis*, the hole healed (closed) and the hide substance replaced by scar tissue (nodules).

3.19

appliances

the whole or any part of any utensil, machinery, instrument, apparatus, or article, used or intended for use in or for production or processing of raw hides and skins including flaying and ripping knives

3.20

slaughterhouse

Abuilding in which animals are slaughtered in a prescribed manner for meat and other products including raw hides and skins

3.21

control measure

any action and activity that can be used to prevent or eliminate raw hides and skins from defects or reduce it to an acceptable level

3.22

gouges

slight knife cuts that do not penetrate through hide/skin

3.23

flaying

the process of removing the hide/skin from a carcass

3.24

flay-cut

a deep knife cut into the skin that creates a hole

3.25

flesh side

the reverse side of the hide/skin as opposed to the scale or grain side

3.26

fleshing

Removal of meat and fat from the flesh side of hide/skin

3.27

Scores

4 Slaughterhouse

4.1 Site, accessibility and construction

4.1.1 A slaughterhouse shall be located in an area which is reasonably free from objectionable odours, smoke and dust.

4.1.2 Adequate dust-proof access-ways connecting the slaughterhouse with public roads shall be available.

4.1.3 The slaughterhouse shall be completely separated from any other buildings used for industrial, commercial, agricultural, residential or other purposes.

4.1.4 If a retail business is carried on within the official premises of a slaughterhouse, customers shall have access only to the room or rooms where such business is conducted and shall be excluded from the rest of the slaughterhouse.

4.1.5 The construction requirements of a slaughterhouse shall be maintained as provided for in regulatory authority of each partner state

4.2 Sanitation

Each slaughterhouse shall have adequate sanitation facilities including hot water, cold water and other amenities for personnel working in the premises.

5 General principles applicable for handling of raw hides and skins in a slaughterhouse

5.1 Presentation of animals for slaughter

5.1.1 Animals for slaughter shall be transported in such a manner that does not have adverse effect on hides and skins.

5.1.2 The transportation facility shall ensure that cross contamination of faecal matter and diseases does not occur or are minimized during transportation.

5.1.2 Segregated animals of the same type to be transported together such as cattle, goats and sheep to avoid injury and situations that affect raw hides and skins.

5.1.4 Animals for slaughter should be clean and free from zoonotic disease that can be transferred to personnel handling raw hides and skins and finished leather.

5.2 Lairages

5.2.1 Lairages shall be adequate for holding animals prior to slaughter. Animals should not be crowded in lairages. Animals with special needs should be held separately e.g. injured animals.

5.2.2 animals for slaughter shall bewashed, the washing shall be done in such a way to avoid contamination of hides and skins.

5.3 Ante-mortem inspection

All animals presented for slaughter shall be subjected to ante-mortem inspection by a competent person. Sick and suspect animals shall be separated from the rest.

5.4 Slaughtering

Slaughter animals should not be subjected to stress. Slaughtering of animals shall be as humane as possible. The preferred method is by use of a stunning gun. Other appropriate methods may be used for slaughtering.

5.5 Flaying process

Flaying is the process of detaching a hide or skin from a carcass. The process should be carried out carefully and in a systematic order as outline so as not to cause damages to hide or skins.

5.5.1 The hide or skin should be opened by making ripping line at the head/neck to the tail end and flayed. The opening and separating should start from the naval areas, fore and hind legs, shoulder, buttocks and sides of the carcass by use of a flaying knife. The carcass should then be hoisted hind legs up with the help of a gambrel or other appropriate method, while the shoulder is still touching the floor.

The hide should be removed from the tail and adjacent butt area by pulling it downwards. A tail grip may be used to help to easy pulling off the hide. The carcass should then be raised further to facilitate pulling of the hide from the back and hump areas. The hide should then be flayed down the hump and on both sides of the shoulder and neck using the flaying knife. During the flaying operation a knife shall be used carefully, to avoid inflicting any damage to hides and skins. Other appropriate flaying methods may be used including mechanical flaying methods.

5.5.2 There is no variation in the procedure of flaying of fallen animals except that the hides contain more adhering flesh which shall be removed to attain a quality hides and skins. Moreover the fallen animals should be flayed in carcass utilization centers and where such centers are not available, a place provided with a cemented floor and hoisting arrangement should be made available. Care shall be taken to see that the hide or skin never comes in contact with blood and adhering dung.

5.5.3 The sheep and goat skins are flayed like other bigger animals. The ripping and opening is done as usual, and the skins treated the same as those of other animals.

6 slaughtering defects in hides and skins

The following defects may arise in hides and skins due to faulty operational techniques of flaying.

.6.1 veinness

Defects that arise due to improper bleeding

6.2 grain damage

Defects caused by dragging of the carcass on rough floor of a slaughterhouse.

6.3 poor pattern, shape and size

Defects due to improper ripping.

6.4 Gouges, scores or flay cuts

. The defects that arise from cuts on hides and skins depending on the depth or severity of the cut. .

.7 Precautions for avoiding defects

Flaying of hides and skins in Kenya is mostly done manually in the slaughterhouse, and country side in unorganized manner and without having inadequate facilities for the purpose. As such efficiency of the process of flaying is dependent on the following factors which need careful control.

7.1 Bleeding

In order to complete the bleeding of slaughtered animal, the carcass should be hoisted hind legs up. Where such arrangements are not available, any other suitable method should be followed to assist in complete bleeding.

.7.2 Ripping

Ripping cuts should be made on the head with the help of a sharp flaying knife. A ripping cut should then be made in a straight line from the bleeding cut (middle of the incision mark in case of slaughtered animals) towards the point of the breast and up to the anus. The fore and hind legs should be opened by making round cuts above the dew claws and the ripping cuts should be extended to mid-point of and mid-way between the anus and udders or scrotum respectively. Ripping lines from both right and left limbs should be symmetrical and touch the longitudinal cut at the same point. The tail should then be opened up.

As the bleeding cut is absent in fallen hides and skins, there should be only longitudinal ripping cut producing a greater hide and skin area of a good shape.

.8 Washing of hides and skins

After separation of hides and skins from carcass, raw hides and skins shall be washed with cold water. Any adhering pieces of dirt, dung and flesh shall be removed using appropriate methods so as not to damage the hides and skins.

.9 temporary storage of hides and skins in slaughter house

All hides and skins shall be removed from any part of the premises containing any meat as soon as possible after they have been separated from the carcass and moved to hide and skin room. Care shall be taken to ensure that the separated hides and skins are placed or dropped through special chutes, carried by wheelbarrows or any other suitable carrying means. They shall not be dragged on the slaughter house floors. Dragging of hides and skins on the floor causes damages to raw hides and skins, and this should be prevented or minimized.

.10

transportation

The hides/skins are transported to curing premises or tannery in an enclosed container to avoid leaking of fluids using appropriate transport means

11

Storage (pre-preservation)

Raw hides and skins shall be preserved or taken to a curing premises or tannery not later than 5 h after separation from carcass. Where, raw hides and skins cannot be transported to the curing premises or tannery immediately, they shall be stored within the slaughter house in a manner that prevents or minimizes deterioration (putrefaction). Such methods include soaking them in concentrated salt solution (brine), salting, keeping them in a cold room or any other appropriate method, until they are transported to a tannery or for further curing.

12 Training

All persons handling hides and skins in a slaughter house shall be competent and have relevant skills. They shall be trained by relevant authorities or trained on job and certified by relevant authorities.

The relevant authorities shall be tasked with awareness creation to the public on handling of hides and skins in country especially the home slaughtering.

Bibliography

KS 2624-2:2016, Leather sector — Code of practice — Part 2: Handling of raw hides and skins in a slaughter house.

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