



# Transparency just got visible!

SLF introduces a fresh approach for a sustainable leather industry!

**Industry Led—Consumer Focused**

# A Fresh Approach

Today's society is more informed and more conscious of the effects that production and consumption have on the earth's natural resources and its ability to regenerate; the negative impacts that can damage our ecosystem; the importance of fair and humane treatment of workers; and the welfare of animals.

The leather industry has the potential to impact positively and negatively on both our environment and as part of a sustainable economy for the future. The industry is responsible for employing millions of people worldwide, producing approximately 24 billion square feet of leather each year which results in an economy worth in excess of \$80 billion annually. These statistics make it vital that as an industry we ensure future sustainability by:

- protecting the environment
- driving innovation for improvement
- educating and encouraging the use of best available techniques
- supporting the health and wellbeing of workforces across the value chain.

There are many organisations and associations who work to support the leather industry, with many of them specific to region or to specialist areas. SLF provides a cohesive approach that can combine the efforts of the industry with the needs of the consumers through our integrating Transparency Dashboard™ and Audit Standard, working on Environmental, Social and Governance responsibilities.

## Vision:

The Sustainable Leather Foundation's vision is to enable collective improvement and education globally, for more sustainable practices in leather manufacture and production, from raw material to finished product and post consumption. The Sustainable Leather Foundation is concerned with all aspects of sustainability – Environmental, Social and Governance. As a not-for-profit organisation, the Foundation will provide an accessible, inclusive and modular approach to demonstrating sustainable good practice throughout the value chain. Coupled with this, the Foundation is committed to ensuring that consumers have a clear mechanism to see and understand the sustainable attributes of leather as a material, and the work that the industry does to ensure good practice.

The Foundation's objective is to bring together all leather value chain stakeholders to unite in ensuring a sustainable future for the leather industry by shining a spotlight on innovation and best practice, providing a mechanism for improvement and education, while also preserving the social and economic wellbeing of communities in less advanced regions. Working together is key to ensure that we can accelerate the action



## ↓ Reduce ↓

- Carbon Emissions
- Pollution
- Hazardous Chemistry
- Deforestation
- Land Conversion
- Unfair Treatment of Workers

## ↑ Increase ↑

- Good Animal Husbandry & Welfare
- Health & Welfare of workers
- Best Practice for Machinery
- Best Practice for Processing
- Innovation for more Sustainable Production
- Collaborative cross-sector cooperation

# SLF Transparency Dashboard™

The Sustainable Leather Foundation aims to provide the structure and support to enable leather manufacturers and associated facilities to work on the reduction and improvement criteria necessary to be successful for a sustainable future.

At the heart of the Foundation is the **SLF Transparency Dashboard™** and integrated web platform, linked to a certification standard that assesses new, and records existing, conformance and performance certification of leather manufacturers and associated facilities against the three pillars of sustainability.

Our **Accessible, Inclusive and Modular (A.I.M.)** approach provides a consumer accessible window to sustainability performance, alongside fully transparent, detailed, data for value chain partners. This enables better understanding of the product lifecycle management of leather articles and better-informed purchasing decisions at the consumer end. By encouraging more secure value chain knowledge from farm to finished product, and by assessing and certifying leather manufacturers and associated facilities for their conformance and performance against the SLF Audit Standard (or other certification already in place), it is possible to independently foster better solutions and better outcomes. The **SLF Transparency Dashboard™** approach to attainment and performance is key to transparency for both value chain customers and the end consumer, providing integrity and value.

Avoiding unnecessary duplication of cost and resource is a key objective of the Sustainable Leather Foundation and therefore, should a company already hold an equivalent certification from another organisation or standard provider, it can be recognised within the Foundation and added to the organisation's Dashboard for transparent reporting and recognition. Comprehensive sustainability metrics will be assessed and measured, either directly through the SLF Audit Standard, or by a combination of existing certifications that offer equivalency to the overarching industry and legislative requirements, encompassing:



## Environmental

Permits, Licenses, Statutory  
 Environmental Management Systems  
 Environmental Health & Safety  
 Environmental Footprint  
 Land Use  
 Energy Consumption  
 Water Use  
 Raw Materials & Chemicals  
 Machinery & Equipment  
 Air Emissions  
 Effluent Treatment  
 Soil Contamination  
 Solid Waste

## Social

Permits, Licenses, Statutory  
 Age of Workers  
 Compulsory Labour  
 Discrimination  
 Corporate Social Responsibility  
 Staff Development & Representation  
 Wages and Benefits  
 Worker Health & Safety  
 Working Hours

## Governance

Permits, Licenses, Statutory  
 Ethical Business Practice  
 Animal Welfare Practice  
 Traceability & Procurement  
 Housekeeping  
 Best Available Techniques  
 Process Control & Quality  
 Chemical Control  
 Restricted Substances  
 Occupational Health & Safety  
 PR & Communication

# Partnership Routes

Our partners enable the Foundation to conduct the work we do, and they are extremely important in helping us accomplish our goals. Partnership with the Sustainable Leather Foundation demonstrates a shared goal of improvement, best practice, collaboration and innovation and we welcome partners from across the value chain.



## Compliance Partners

Our compliance partners are industry related organisations who are involved in the physical manufacturing process of leather. These partners undergo auditing and certification across the environmental, social and governance criteria of sustainability.

Compliance partners include:

- Leather Manufacturers, Chemical Companies, Traders, Machinery Companies, Subcontractors, Product Manufacturers, Farmers, Abattoirs, Effluent Treatment Plant Providers



## Contributing Partners

Our contributing partners do not have a direct manufacturing process but do represent important aspects of the wider leather value chain and are essential to ensuring the cohesive and harmonised approach to sustainable leather.

Contributing Partners include:

- Industry NGOs, Testing & Verification Providers, Certification Organisations, Educational Institutes, Industry Associations, Industry related individuals, Consultants



## Licensed Partners

Our licensed partners are the sellers of leather products and goods. These partners are the link between the industry and the consumer and have a responsibility to ensure they are sourcing leather from organisations who uphold the highest standards of sustainability. They also have a duty to communicate accurate and factual information to their consumers.

Licensed Partners include:

- Brands, Retailers, OEMs

### Benefits of Partnership:

Our partners benefit from being part of a community that is committed to adopting the highest sustainability standards, and focused on driving transformative change in order to reduce negative impacts on our environment and create positive impacts within our communities. Our partners benefit from:

#### For All Partners

- ◆ Access to a Transparency Dashboard™ that provides real time certification results, performance metrics and conformance data
- ◆ Access to a multi-stakeholder initiative that supports training, development & improvement at all levels
- ◆ Access to meetings, workshops & other events
- ◆ Newsletters & periodic updates
- ◆ The opportunity to actively work within, and/or chair & co-ordinate technical, consumer & industry focused Collaboration Hubs
- ◆ Access to an improvement and innovation fund designed to support advancements for a more sustainable leather industry
- ◆ Access to the SLF Toolbox of materials and resources

#### For Compliance Partners

- In addition to the general partnership benefits, compliance partners will also benefit from:
- ◆ A Certification Programme to demonstrate conformance and performance against the 3 pillars of Environmental, Social and Governance good practice
  - ◆ Additional recognition for technological innovation, social or sustainability projects, that are not auditable elements or that exceed the norms of the Sustainable Leather Foundation Standard
  - ◆ The ability to display certifications from multiple organisations in one platform

#### For Licensed Partners

- In addition to the general partnership benefits, licensed partners will also benefit from:
- ◆ Licensing to use trademarked logos and claims on product and POS materials.
  - ◆ Support through QR technology to direct consumers to factual, relevant information about products
  - ◆ Support with use of claims language
  - ◆ Access to a Transparency Dashboard™ that provides certification, performance and compliance data of value chain suppliers

Contact Us To Find Out How We Can Support Your Organisation!

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