

SRI LANKA STANDARD 1014 : 1994

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CODE OF PRACTICE FOR
FLAYING OF HIDES AND SKINS

SRI LANKA STANDARDS INSTITUTION

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SLS 1014 : 1994

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SRI LANKA STANDARDS INSTITUTION

53, Dharmapala Mawatha,

Colombo 3,

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This standard does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract.

SRI LANKA STANDARD
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FOREWORD

This standard was approved by the Sectoral Committee on Textiles, clothing and leather and was authorized for adoption and publication as a Sri Lanka Standard by the Council of the Sri Lanka Standards Institution on 1994-03-31.

The quality of raw hides and skins is largely dependent on the extent of antemortem and postmortem defects. Among the postmortem defects, those arising from faulty methods of flaying are very important for safeguarding the quality of hides and skins intended for conversion to leather. The shape and the size of hides and skins may vary according to the methods of slaughtering and ripping followed during flaying. To upgrade the quality of hides and skins, the methods of ripping and flaying including bleeding of slaughtered animals are to be improved and standardized.

This code of practice has been prepared with a view to improving the quality of the raw hides and skins, for the manufacture of leather, by identifying the defects due to faulty processes of flaying. Precautions to be taken to minimize these defects are also suggested in this code of practice.

In the preparation of this code of practice the valuable assistance derived from the following publication is gratefully acknowledged :

IS 9663 : 1980 - Code of Practice for flaying of hides and skins.

1 SCOPE

This code of practice recommends practices to be observed in flaying of cow and buffalo hides and sheep, goat and calf skins.

2 REFERENCES

SLS 1015 Glossary of terms for leather.

3 DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this code, the definitions given in SLS 1015 and the following definitions shall apply :

3.1 **gouch** : A depression or a pit on the flesh side caused by removal of the substance of a hide or a skin due to careless flaying.

3.2 **score** : A deep cut mark without perforations on the flesh side of a hide or skin caused by careless flaying.

4 FLAYING DEFECTS IN HIDES AND SKINS

4.1 The defects given in 4.1.1 and 4.1.2 may arise due to faulty operational techniques of flaying.

4.1.1 *Incorrect ripping and poor pattern*

Ripping is the first operation for opening the body covering of the animal. It is done by making some slits in straight lines at appropriate positions of the body or limbs. Improper ripping produces a hide of poor pattern and unstandardized shape and size.

4.1.2 *Gouch, scores or flay cuts*

These are cuts produced by the flaying knife on the flesh side of the hides or skins while removing them from the carcasses due to improper technique or lack of skill. Depending on the degree of depth or severeness of the defects they are known as gouch, scores or flay cut respectively.

5 PRECAUTIONS FOR AVOIDING DEFECTS

5.1 Efficiency of the process of flaying is dependent on the factors given in 5.1.1, 5.1.2, 5.1.3 and 5.1.4 which need careful control.

5.1.1 *Bleeding*

In order to complete the bleeding of slaughtered animal, 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.

5.1.2 *Ripping*

Ripping cuts should be made on the head with the help of a sharp flaying knife. A ripping cut should be made in a straight line from the bleeding cut (middle of the incision mark in the case of slaughtered animal) 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 breast 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.

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

5.1.3 *Flaying*

The hide or skin should be opened at the head and flayed. The opening and separating should start from the naval areas, fore and hind legs, shoulder, buttocks and sides of the carcass with the help of a flaying knife. The carcass should then be hoisted hind legs up with the help of a spreader 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 in easy pulling off of 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 knife shall be used carefully, specially for calf skins. Hides could also be flayed mechanically using a flaying machine. Mechanical flaying is capable of producing hides free of flaying defects.

5.1.3.1 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 flaying. The fallen animals should be flayed in a place provided with a cemented floor and hoisting arrangements. Care should be taken to avoid hide or skin coming into contact with blood and dung.

5.1.3.2 The sheep and goat skins are flayed in the form of a case. The ripping and opening is done as usual except the portion between the breast and the naval region. The skin is also cured in this form and opened at the tannery before soaking.

5.1.4 *Curing or preservation*

After flaying, the hide or skin should be washed with fresh and clean water before curing or preservation as quickly as possible to avoid putrefaction.

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