
www.ctcgroupe.com
For over 100 years, CTC has been providing clients with leather, footwear and clothing expertise. To continue to provide the good service “at the right place and time”, we are proud to announce our new development and partnership in Italy with PO.TE.CO., the Italian technical center of leather, and an agreement of mutual recognition between CTC and the Standards Institution of Israel (SII) for the marketing authorisation of the PPE certified by CTC and its network of laboratories.

To be pro-active on the footwear market, the UITIC Congress, in Chennai-India, was a good event to share information and discuss about “The future Footwear Factory”. You will find more information on the UITIC website [www.uitic.org](http://www.uitic.org).

In this publication, you will also find information on chromium VI, PPE regulation and new standard which are key points to secure and optimize your sourcing, products and brands.

Do not hesitate to contact us if you need any more explanations or support.

Enjoy reading.

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**Come & see us at international fairs**

- **APLF**
  - Hong-Kong
  - 30 March–01 April 2016
  - Booth 1A–A01

- **Shoes & Leather**
  - Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam)
  - 13–15 July 2016

- **Moda Shanghai**
  - Shanghai (China)
  - 31 August–2 September 2016

- **PremiereVision Leather**
  - Villepinte (France)
  - 13–15 September 2016

- **Exoprotection**
  - Paris, Porte de Versailles (France)
  - 07–09 November 2016

- **Pollutec**
  - Lyon, Eurexpo (France)
  - 29 November–02 December 2016

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**Come & see us**

- **CTC INDIA**
  - New Delhi
  - Chennai

- **CTC SPAIN**
  - Elda

- **CTC ITALY**
  - Santa Croce

- **CTC TUNISIA**
  - Megrine

- **CTC SPAIN**
  - Almeria

- **CTC CAMBODIA**
  - Phnom Penh

- **CTC VIETNAM**
  - Ho Chi Minh Ville
  - Hai Phong
  - Danang
  - Danang

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**Jean-Luc Chaverot**

Development and International Manager of CTC

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**Edito**
Development

CTC WWT (WorldWide Team) continues to develop with a new partnership with POTE.CO in Italy.

It is the International Technical Centre dedicated to the leather industry. After years of commercial and technical relationships, this new agreement will consolidate this partnership and allow CTC’s and POTE.CO’s customers to fully benefit from this cooperation.

CTC’s network of experts, inspectors and laboratories located in Asia, Europe and Africa will be available to POTE.CO’s customers with the same service as CTC’s clients.

In parallel, POTE.CO’s experts and laboratories located in Tuscany, one of the most important leather district in the world, will provide to CTC’s clients a quicker and more efficient service in Italy.

PPE

Mutual Recognition Agreement between CTC and SII

CTC and SII (Standards Institution of Israel), which is the reference in Israel for the products standardization and certification, have signed an agreement of mutual recognition allowing SII to recognize the validity of the EC-type examination certificates, as well as the reports provided by CTC and its network of laboratories.

Thanks to this agreement, companies working with CTC for their EC-type examination certificates can launch their certified PPE on the Israeli market without additional tests in Israel.

This new international agreement strengthens CTC’s offer of services for its customers on the PPE market.

CTC services

Cambodia: a controllable alternative

With an exports growth of more than 10 % in the sector of the textile and footwear, Cambodia turns out to be a second alternative, after Vietnam, for the migrations of production from China. Cambodia knows an unprecedented development. The country is the privileged destination of the Europeans with 42 % of its production (+27 % of export towards Europe in 2014).

The textile and footwear industry represents 79 % of the national exports. The average wage of this industry is situated 25 % over the national average, which also makes it an attractive sector for the local workforce, which is still increasing.

CTC is established in Cambodia for 2 years and proposes technical, environmental and social audits to secure your sourcing. These audits are essential in this young sector to assure the respect of the best practices for the customers, but also to assure them throughout the relation with the manufacturers. They are also a benefit for the local industry making them aware of the risks and proposing sustainable solutions.

Congress

UITIC 19th Congress in Chennai: A Successful event!

The 19th International Technical Footwear Congress of UITIC (International Union of Shoe Industry Technicians) which took place in Chennai, India, in February, gathered more than 596 participants to discuss topics about “the future footwear factory”.

The international association, whose President is Yves Morin, CEO of CTC, and the Council for Leather Export of India, the organizer, succeed in bringing together professionals and experts from nearly 30 countries, including 174 foreign attendees from outside India. The Congress proposed more than 30 presentations and a total of 35 technical posters.

During the event, the Executive Committee of the UITIC voted for the next congress which will take place during spring 2018 in Portugal.

The different presentations of the Congress are available on the UITIC’s website at www.uitic.org.

NEWS

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www.ctcgroupe.com
Chromium Management in Leather: a Pass for the European Market

85% of the Leather production in the world is based on chrome tanning and Chrome is the most versatile tanning agent. It is one of the key parameters for softness, confort, light resistance, shrinkage temperature and durability.

SUBSTANCES SUBJECT TO RESTRICTION

Tanning is the chemical process that stabilises hides and skins into leather. 85% of all leathers that are produced around the world are tanned with chromium.

Chromium is used in its trivalent state (chromium III), with no harm to workers or people wearing the leather article.

Only chromium III has tanning properties. As chromium VI has no tanning properties, tanneries never use any chromium VI based chemical for tanning, and have no intention of ever doing so.

Sometimes, a fraction of this chromium III oxidises to form a few mg/kg of chromium VI, which is considered as an allergen for a small proportion of the population.

It was to limit this risk of allergic skin reactions that, in May 2015, the European Union has enforced a restriction on chromium VI in leather products that come into contact with the skin. The threshold of this restriction is 3 mg/kg.

Provided that the transformation process in the tannery is carried out correctly, it is possible to prevent the formation of chromium VI in end products.

This can be helped by following a few “best practice” rules:
- When tanning, choose a high-quality chromium sulphate;
- Do not use oxidising agents;
- Finish the process in the wet phase at a low pH (3.5–4.0);
- Perform a final rinse;
- Do not use ammonia during dyeing;
- Use fatliquor that do not oxidise.

To prevent the chromium III from undergoing an oxidation reaction:
- Add vegetable tanning agent during the wet phase;
- Where the use of vegetable extract is not feasible, the use of synthetic reducing agent is possible (one of which, based on vitamin C is available on the market).
### CTC Solution

**Chrome VI, Assessment and Improvement**

- Possible steps leading to chromium VI in Leather:
  - Chemicals, pH, temperature, humidity, oxydo-reduction conditions, storage, light...
- CTC proposes a site assessment with the objective to identify the good practices and the practices that could lead to chromium VI.
- Sampling confirms the accuracy of the expertise.

### CTC Protocols Includes:

- Preparation of the site assessment: 1 day
- Chromium VI site assessment: 3 days
- Chemical analyses: 1 day
- Improvement proposals and Quality Management protocol: 1 day

For any additional information, contact:

Thierry Poncet – Head of Leather and Sustainable Development Departments

[tponce@ctcgroupe.com](mailto:tponce@ctcgroupe.com)

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### Chromium in Leather: Some Statistics...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chrome VI</th>
<th>&lt;3mg/kg</th>
<th>3 to 10 mg/kg</th>
<th>10 to 50 mg/kg</th>
<th>&gt; 50 mg/kg</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011-2012</td>
<td>78 %</td>
<td>13 %</td>
<td>7 %</td>
<td>2 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012-2013</td>
<td>80 %</td>
<td>12 %</td>
<td>6 %</td>
<td>2 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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### Chromium III vs Chromium VI

- Oligo-element required for Human Health
- The only valence that has tanning properties
- Chromium III concentration in Leather between 20,000 and 30,000 mg/kg
- No regulation on chromium III in Leather

- Allergenic by dermal route
- Chromium VI has no tanning properties, it is not used in the tanning process
- Depending on the process and storage conditions, some of the chromium III might oxidise to chromium VI
- Restriction on chromium VI for the European market: 3 mg/kg (REACH Regulation, annex XVII)
The European Union is launching a pilot for an Environmental Score label for the non leather footwear industry.

The purpose of the Environmental Score label is to give customers information about the environmental impact of the products. With this pilot test, participating brands aim to make it easier for customers to understand the environmental impacts of selected apparel products and make this impact meaningful.

The Environmental Score measures different environmental impacts across the full life cycle of apparel products – from raw materials to finished products to the end of their useful life. Understanding the impacts of the selected products on the environment will help to find ways to produce more environmentally friendly apparel.

Hopefully it will also encourage consumers to choose products with a better environmental performance.

- One simple score visible at the point of sale
- Tested in 7 EU countries
- Test will run for 1 year, 2016

The result of the test will be helpful to validate or not this approach or evaluate what could be improved.

To get more information, contact our Sustainability experts:
Europe: Thierry Poncet, tponcet@ctcgroupe.com
Asia: Andre Leroy, aleroy@ctcgroupe.com

SAC CONSULTANCY, SAC VERIFICATION, SAC TRAINING WITH THE SUSTAINABLE APPAREL COALITION VERIFICATION
The Sustainable Apparel Coalition is a trade organization comprised of brands, retailers, manufacturers, government, and non-governmental organizations and academic experts, representing more than a third of the global apparel and footwear market. You can find detail member list via website: http://apparelcoalition.org/members/

HIGG INDEX
The focus of the Sustainable Apparel Coalition is the development and use of the Higg Index – a suite of self-assessment tools designed to measure the sustainability impacts of apparel and footwear products. The Higg Index provides a tool for the apparel and footwear industry to assess sustainability throughout a product’s entire life cycle, from materials to end-of-life.

Targets up to 7 Areas:
- Environmental Management System or Program (EMS)
- Energy Use & Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Water Use
- Wastewater/Effluent
- Emissions to Air (if applicable)
- Waste Management
- Chemical Use and Management

CTC EXPERTS
Travis Wang
Inspection & Audit Manager
Asia Northern China Verifier Leader

Xin Zhang
CTC Dongguan Operational Manager
Southern China Verifier Leader

Amir Jafri
Inspection & Audit Manager India&Bangladesh
India Verifier Leader

Thierry Poncet
Sustainable Development Manager
Europe Verifier Leader

Thomas Yong Mevel
Operational and Sales Manager
Vietnam Verifier Leader

Jeff Xu
Lead Auditor
Social & compliance Factory
Asia
Seminars

CTC is pleased to invite you to the following seminars. Our experts will present the latest updates with regard to safety, regulations and certification in gloves and footwear. Free entrance.

APLF

www.aplf.com
How to demonstrate sustainability of your factories while minimizing costs
A sustainability standard adopted by Brands that represent 1/3 of the apparel and footwear market worldwide that minimize duplication of assessments
Thursday, 31 March 2016
16:00 - 17:00
Venue: Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre
Speaker: André LEROY, Sales Director – Sustainability Officer, CTC Greater China
Language: presented in both English and Chinese
Contact: Liya Ji – Marketing Executive – CTC China
lji@ctcgroupe.com (+86) 136 1194 9193

CIOSH
Shanghai New International Expo Center (W1-W5)
(Sunday, 17 April to Tuesday 19 April 2016)
Safety Footwear
Date to be confirmed
Safety Gloves
Monday, 18 April 2015
Speaker: Kevin LEE – PPE Manager – CTC Greater China (Dongguan)
Language: presented in both English and Chinese
Contact: Liya Ji – Marketing Executive – CTC China
lji@ctcgroupe.com (+86) 136 1194 9193

INDIA
Kolkata
Safety gloves
Tuesday, 21 June 2016, morning
Safety footwear
Tuesday, 21 June 2016, afternoon
Kanpur
Safety gloves seminar
Thursday, 23 June 2016, morning
Safety footwear seminar
Thursday, 23 June 2016, afternoon
Speaker: Lionel GAUDILLIÈRE – CE Marking Manager – CTC Groupe
Language: presented in English
Contact: Puneet Singh – Operational & Sales Manager – CTC India
psingh@ctcgroupe.com (+91) 120 4 87 11 00/ 01

Motorcycles gloves
Since 2010 an assessment protocol allowed to certify motorcyclists gloves for non-professional use by adapting specific clauses of the standard EN 13594: 2002.
In parallel, the standardization European Group (TC162 / WG9), (CTC works in this group) have worked of revision of the harmonized standard EN 13594: 2002.
These works are now completed and the standard EN 13594: 2015 is officially published in the OJEU of December 2015 with a transition period until March 31, 2016
We therefore inform you of the following points:
• All new models filed for a pre-expertise or an EC-type examination from January 2016 will be treated according to standard EN 13594: 2015
• All requests for variants of models certified according the assessment protocol may be processed according to this same Protocol until March 31, 2016
• We also propose to revise the set of models certified in accordance with the assessment protocol or the draft pr EN 13594 (formal vote stage) in order to integrate the new requirements of the standard EN 13594: 2015

Motorcycles footwear
The standard EN 13634: 2015 is now available and will be formally published in the next edition of the OJEU. It allows for example to certify low shoe in level 1.
We therefore inform you of the following points:
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Motorcycles gloves & footwear
To get more information, contact:
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PPE Standardization for Motorcycles
The New PPE regulation has been adopted by the European Parliament and will be published. This regulation replaces the old PPE Directive 89/686 and will be applicable 2 years after publication (2018). The main change is the validity of EC-type examination certificates of 5 years.

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