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www.ctcgroupe.com
For over 100 years, CTC has been developing a close partnership with the tanning, leather goods, glove and footwear industries.

Thanks to its experts and technological platforms, CTC is an international hub bringing together expertise in innovation, testing, training and chemical analysis.

With ever increasing pressure from NGOs and consumers for further transparency in sourcing and manufacturing, supply chain monitoring is becoming a collaborative key issue. Our environment offer is being built around several aspects: quality, innocuousness, social, etc.

Backed by its extensive experience in Europe and its presence in four continents offering a worldwide network, CTC is expanding its Sustainable Development Solution on an international stage: A new program for this environmental challenge: the CTC Waste Water Index.

As water is a key factor in the leather industry impact, we must protect this essential resource. Companies are involved through supply chain, CTC offers its clients a new way of working and thinking, enabling them to evaluate and develop a sustainable approach for their whole production chain.

Corporate Social Responsibility is a priority for CTC, you can rely on our experts in reducing the environmental impact, improving working conditions, customer safety and health and at the same time, improving the quality of your products and the reputation of your brands.

CTC, your partner in sustainable development.
**DEVELOPMENT**

**NEW OPENING IN THE INDONESIAN MARKET...**

CTC continues its international expansion and is proud to announce the opening of its new office in Indonesia. CTC Indonesia provides footwear, leather goods and garment quality assurance solutions. CTC Indonesia is based on Surabaya, in the East of the Island of Java, the main footwear manufacturing area:

CTC Indonesia  
Wisma BII Level 12A,  
Jl. Pemuda No. 60 - 70  
Surabaya 60271  
Tel.: +62 31 28 99 72 01  
Fax: +62 31 28 99 70 01  
ctcindonesia@ctcgroupe.com

CTC is developing its South-East Asian hub and will assist you in Indonesia, Laos, Cambodia and Thailand for audits, inspections, physical testing and chemical analyses.

... A 2ND OFFICE IN INDIA

A new office has been opened at Apeejay, near Chennai, a historical area for leather, footwear and leather goods manufacturing:

Apeejay Business Centre  
Apeejay House, 39/12 Haddows Road,  
Nungambakkam, Chennai 600 006, India  
Tel.: +91 44 28 30 50 49  
Fax: +91 44 28 26 24 47  
ctcindia@ctcgroupe.com

**CTC, THE LEADING CE MARKING NOTIFIED BODY**

With more than 40 years experience in personal protective equipment (PPE) testing and as a European notified body since 1992, CTC is the worldwide leader of CE Marking.

In 2013, we reached the level of 20000 PPE certificates for the control of footwear, gloves and garments and 1000 PPE certificates “2013” with the last rules.

During the last A+A fair, the international team of the CTC CE Marking Department delivered the 1000th EC-Type examination certificate to NANTONG HENGHUI, a glove manufacturing based in Jiangsu (China).

> More information: cemarking@ctcgroupe.com

**DEVELOPMENT (CONTINUED)**

**CTC IS STRENGTHENING ITS OPERATIONS IN CLOTHING**

CTC is strengthening its position in the clothing industry, after the buyout of STR France, the joint-venture with STR Inc. which operates in quality services for the textile, garment and clothing market. The development of this business has been based on a 300 staff strong business across 17 locations worldwide.

According to Yves MORIN, “this operation will implement strong synergies and will make it possible for CTC to profit from our internationally recognized competences, in particular in quality assurance, close to fashion, sport and protective equipment business.”

He adds that “our offer is resolutely different, because we are not a generalist of quality but a “specialist” controlling both the design, the technology, the manufacturing and know-how in these industries. Our expertise enables us to support our customers in their “responsible” approach, in order to be in accordance with the regulations and, beyond that respond to consumer demand for greater transparency. In fact, we deliver our customers the confidence they require for their products.”

> For more information, contact: ctcfashion@ctcgroupe.com

**APPOINTMENT**

**MARKETING & COMMUNICATION DIRECTOR**

Olivia SEWARD has been appointed Marketing & Communication Director. She has a 15 years experience in marketing and innovation for international brands in the fashion, sportswear and PPE markets. Based in Lyon headquarters, she will be responsible for ensuring the continued international expansion of CTC as well as managing and in-house marketing and communications team.

> Contact: afaivretrouillet@ctcgroupe.com

**YVES MORIN RE-ELECTED AS UITIC PRESIDENT**

The International Union of Shoe Industry Technicians (UITIC) has re-elected Yves MORIN as its President for a second term, since his first election in 2010. Yves MORIN is the CEO of CTC. The UITIC aims to develop technical knowledge in the footwear industry in particular by organizing international conferences and setting up information exchanges between its members.

In 2013, from 13 to 16 November, the UITIC organized its 18th International Technical Footwear Congress in Guangzhou, China. During this Congress, which was a success, more than 300 professionals and experts, from world’s biggest names in footwear and prestigious brands, met to discuss a critical topic for the future of the industry: Corporate Social Responsibility.

www.uiitic.org

> See our report on p. 6.
> REACH REGULATIONS

LEATHER

COULD THE CHROMIUM VI ON LEATHER BE BANNED?

The main tanning agents of leather are chromium III, vegetable and synthetic tannins. Trivalent chromium is used in 80 to 85% of leather worldwide and this is the only form used in tanneries. Traces of chromium in its hexavalent form (chromium VI) are sometimes detected in some leathers, which can cause health damage. Presently, substance is already regulated in items of personal protective equipment (PPE) such as gloves, footwear and clothing.

When it comes into contact with the skin, chromium VI can cause an allergic reaction. Therefore, it has been regulated in Germany in leather products that come into contact with the skin since the 1990s. It is also regulated in Europe in Personal Protective Equipment (gloves and shoes). The acceptability limit for leather is 3 mg of chromium VI per kg of leather, the quantification limit for the testing method, the EN ISO 17075 standard. The presence of Chromium VI is still a critical test for many companies responsible for bringing leather products to the market (shoes, clothing, gloves, luggage, small leather items, bracelets, watches, furniture, etc.).

According to its “Background document on chromium VI in Leather” dated March 2013 (http://goo.gl/UzKypR), the ECHA feels that the environmental risk associated with the presence of chromium VI in leathers is insignificant.

Within the context of the REACh regulations (1907/2006/CE), the European Union included components of chromium VI in annex XIV and the REACh candidate list: it is therefore essential to communicate when it comes to the issue of chromium VI in leathers that come into contact with the skin.

It is estimated that between 0.04 and 0.11% of the European population might be allergic to hexavalent chromium by skin contact. As a comparison, the allergy to gold (more than 1% of the population) is more common. For nickel, 1% of men and 9% of women might be allergic. Although regulated in metal accessories in Europe (Annex XVII of REACh), nickel is still used to make coins. Between 80 and 85% of leathers are tanned using chromium under its trivalent form (chromium III). This form is neither toxic nor carcinogenic. This tanning process gives leather irreplaceable properties.

> A REINFORCEMENT OF EUROPEAN REGULATION

The European Commission is planning to reinforce this regulation by introducing a restriction on chromium VI in leathers that come into contact with the skins. Leather items that come into contact with the skin will no longer be allowed on the market with concentrations higher than or equal to 3 mg of chromium VI per kg of leather. This project to amend Annex XVII of REACh was discussed in Brussels on 17 September 2013.

Chromium VI is carcinogenic and mutagenic when inhaled, toxic when ingested and an allergen when it comes into contact with the skin. Inhalation of chromium VI from a pair of shoes simply makes no sense. Ingestion might be possible in the very specific case of a child sucking on a shoe. On the basis of the WHO threshold for drinking water (0.05 mg/l), one would have to ingest a total of 2 pairs of shoes a month to reach this dose. Inhalation and ingestion are not exposure risks worth considering for chromium VI in leather. It is for the risk of skin sensitisation connected to leather items containing chromium VI in contact with the skin that the European Commission is anticipating this restriction on chromium VI of 3 ppm in leathers that come into contact with the skin.

> PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES TO PREVENT THE FORMATION OF CHROMIUM VI

To avoid the presence of chromium VI in leathers tanned using chromium, a number of precautionary measures are possible in the tanning process:

- Use good quality tanning agents provided by recognised suppliers
- Do not use any oxidising agent during the tanning process
- Finish tanning processes at a low pH (3.5 to 4)
- Rinse the leather after tanning
- Mature the leather after tanning
- Avoid excessive levels of ammonia in dyes
- Be prudent when it comes to using unsaturated oils during the fat liquoring process
- Add 1 to 3% of vegetable tannins when retanning
- Use synthetic anti-oxidants when retanning with vegetable tannins are not possible
- Carry out regular checks on the production process

As an expert of tanning, CTC experts are committed to keeping you informed of changes to this regulatory text, which will be applicable following the thirteenth month after the regulation comes into force.

Want to check your leather or get technical services? Want to know more about chrome VI in leather and the different regulation?
Contact us: testing@ctcgroupe.com
Do you really understand Leather?

“The multiple facets of leather” is now available to buy from our online bookstore. Dedicated to all leather enthusiasts, this useful and educational book looks at leather at all stages of its life, from the hide and skin to the physical tests and chemical analysis, through to the tanning process and finishing and care procedures. It includes 16 leather samples, photos and illustrations.

ORDER IT ON:
www.ctcgroupe.com/bookshop
From 13 to 16 November 2013, more than 300 participants met in Guangzhou, China during the 18th International Technical Footwear Congress of UITIC (International Union of Shoe Industry Technicians). This event marks a resounding success with the main topic of discussion being “Social Responsibility: a challenge for the footwear industry”.

The UITIC congress was successful in more ways than one, due to the sensitive and strategic subject in-hand. The event managed to bring together a representative sampling of the international footwear industry with professionals and experts from nearly 30 countries, including 100 foreign attendees from outside China.

> A PREMIUM CSR EVENT IN CHINA FOR A TECHNICAL CONGRESS

The high level technical and scientific quality of the 37 presentations delivered by international experts made it possible to showcase innovative and operational solutions in all areas of CSR. The tour of the Belle Group and Huajian Group factories conducted at the start of the congress, were also interesting from technological and industrial perspectives. Finally, the Pearl River Delta won the hearts of the participants during an unforgettable dinner aboard a boat...

The footwear market is facing global changes and the last years have seen a growing interest from markets and especially consumers, media and stakeholders for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). CSR is a process of innovation based on social and environmental considerations, but also a cost-effective opportunity for the Sustainable Development of the footwear industries.

> CONVINCING CTC EXPERTS

In his opening speech, Yves MORIN CEO of CTC and UITIC’s President since 2010, reviewed the main themes of Corporate Social Responsibility, insisting on challenges related to safety, environment, work relations, working conditions, corruption and counterfeiting.

Consumer protection is a CSR challenge in its own right. Dr. Jean-Claude CANNOT, CTC’s Standardization and Technical Director, highlighted the expectations of consumers, who are increasingly sensitive to Annexes XIV (obligation to communicate and prohibition) and XVII (restriction) of REACH.

In its “Improvement of training methods for manufacturing operations in the footwear Industry” stated Christophe CUMIN, Head of the Shoe Department at CTC, he emphasised the significance of developing training and educational resources to sustain production and attract new talent to footwear industries.

The International Union of Shoe Industry Technicians (UITIC) is an organization which aims at developing technical knowledge in the footwear industry. UITIC has currently members coming from 27 countries covering the most part of the worldwide footwear market: Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, China, Colombia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Morocco, Peru, Portugal, Romania, Russia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Taiwan, Tunisia, United Kingdom, USA and Vietnam.

www.uitic.org

CTC Seminars at APLF

During the next APLF (www.aplf.com), CTC is pleased to invite you to attend the following seminars. Our experts will share information and ideas regarding the latest news of REACh regulation, CTC business activities and the “CTC Waste Water Index”, a new all-in-one business solution to monitor the impact of factories on local environments. Free entrance.

REACH - KEEPING FINISHED PRODUCTS HARMLESS
Explanation and update of the European REACh regulation and what businesses in the leather, footwear, textile and accessories industries have to be aware of, in order to make their products harmless.

Date: Monday, 31 March 2014
Time: 11:30 - 12:30
Venue: Room N107
Speaker: Mr. Arnaud DYDUCK, Executive Director - CTC Greater China
Language: English + Cantonese translation

CTC WASTE WATER INDEX
Rising concerns about environmental pollution and waste water in China, together with the global awareness of consumers about preserving the environment and producing “green” products make it a priority to engage in a circular economy. More and more global brands in textile, clothing and footwear have taken a pledge in this direction.

CTC, worldwide leader in footwear, leather and leather goods has created an all-in-one business solution to monitor the impact of factories on local environments: the Waste Water Index.

Date: Wednesday, 2 April 2014
Time: 10:00 - 11:00
Venue: Rooms N102 - 103
Speaker: Dr. Jean-Claude CANNOT, Standardization & Technical Director
Language: English + Cantonese translation

CTC GROUPE, OVER 100 YEARS OF EXPERTISE IN FOOTWEAR, LEATHER AND LEATHER GOODS
CTC offers global quality assurance solutions for footwear, leather, leather goods and PPE Industries.

Date: Monday, 31 March 2014
Time: 15:00 - 15:30
Venue: Room N107
Speaker: Yves MORIN, CEO of CTC
Language: English + Cantonese translation
Why choose CTC?

> 100 years’s experience in leather
> Expert in waste water analysis
> The world’s premier network of experts and consultants dedicated to the leather & textile industries
> Ethical & reliable third party expert
> A global vision & expertise in corporate social responsibility

NEW LAB IN CHINA dedicated to waste water analysis

CTC is a notified body working to official standards

www.ctcgroupe.com