

LEATHER AUXILIARIES

CONTRIPON A0

Preventing the formation
of chromium VI in leather production



ZSCHIMMER & SCHWARZ

CONTRIPON AO

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Under certain conditions, the reaction of the tanning agent chromium III with oxygen in the air may create chromium VI. Due to its toxicity and its increasingly frequent occurrence in consumer products, chromium VI is a major concern in leather production. When the presence of chromium VI is detected, there are only two options: to try and treat the affected products or to dispose of them altogether.

Tightened regulations regarding the handling of chromium VI in leather production call for preventive measures and effective products.

The risk of chromium VI forming is increased when low-quality fatliquors are used.

PREVENTING THE FORMATION OF CHROMIUM VI

- ▶ Using dye penetration auxiliaries instead of ammonia
- ▶ Avoiding high pH values (6.0 and above)
- ▶ Good fixation of the chrome tanning agent
- ▶ Replacing chrome tanning agents with vegetable tanning agents in the retanning process
- ▶ Removing or emulsifying natural fats that may be subject to oxidation
- ▶ Avoiding high temperatures in combination with high humidity because this increases the likelihood of chromium VI forming

All of the above needs to be particularly heeded in areas where high temperatures and high humidity occur at the same time because these conditions render the formation of chromium VI more likely.

FURTHER REDUCING THE RISK

CONTRIPON AO can be used to support these preventive measures. An amount as small as 0.2–0.6% of CONTRIPON AO in relation to the quantity of fatliquors ensures the absence of chromium VI in the finished product. Additionally, it reduces heat yellowing and unpleasant smells.