

LEATHER AUXILIARIES

CONTRIPON A0

Preventing Chrome VI in
leather production



ZSCHIMMER & SCHWARZ

CONTRIPON AO

Preventing Chrome VI in leather production

Only a few years ago, Chrome VI was not an issue at all concerning leather. At some point it started to be discussed about, and recently more and more cases come to light where consumer products were detected with high values of Chrome VI. If Chrome VI is being detected, there are only two options: to try and treat the goods to get rid of it – or dispose of the merchandise.

Chrome VI is a major concern in leather production, especially after it was detected in consumer products more and more often. Under certain conditions, the reaction of the tanning agent Chrome III with the oxygen in the air may result in Chrome VI. When faced with this problem there are two options available: To try and treat the affected products or to dispose of them altogether.

AVOIDING CHROME VI

- ▶ Avoiding the use of ammonia by using dye penetration auxiliaries
- ▶ Preventing 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 which increases the likelihood of Chrome VI formation

All the above is particularly to be addressed in areas with high temperature and high humidity at the same time, as under these conditions the formation of Chrome VI is more likely to happen.

Tightened regulations regarding the handling of Chrome VI in leather production due to its toxicity call for preventive measures and effective products.

This risk is increased when not the best fatliquors are used.

FURTHER REDUCING THE RISK

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

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