

Guide to

Classification and marking of cattle hides and calfskins

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Committees responsible for this British Standard

The preparation of this British Standard was entrusted by the Textiles and Clothing Standards Policy Committee (TCM/-) to Technical Committee TCM/17, upon which the following bodies were represented:

- British Clothing Industry Association
- British Footwear Manufacturers' Federation
- British Leather Confederation
- Chief and Assistant Chief Fire Officers' Association
- Consumer Policy Committee of BSI
- Footwear Distributors' Federation
- Hides and Allied Trades Improvement Society
- Institute of Trading Standards Administration
- Ministry of Defence
- Overseas Development Natural Resources Institute
- SATRA Footwear Technology Centre
- Scottish Hide, Skin and Tallow Markets Limited
- Society of Leather Technologists and Chemists

The following bodies were also represented in the drafting of the standard, through subcommittees and panels:

- Association of British Abattoir Owners Ltd.
- Federation of Fresh Meat Wholesalers
- National Federation of Hide and Skin Markets
- Scottish Hide Inspection and Improvement Federation
- Skin, Hide and Leather Trades Association

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Contents

	Page
Committees responsible	Inside front cover
Foreword	ii
1 Scope	1
2 Definitions	1
3 Trimming	2
4 Classification by quality	2
5 Classification by green weight	5
6 Marking	5
Appendix A Hide market codes	7
Figure 1 — Cattle hide	2
Figure 2 — Calfskin	3
Table 1 — Positions of classification markings for calfskins other than reject calfskins	6

Foreword

This British Standard has been prepared under the direction of the Textiles and Clothing Standards Policy Committee, and is a revision of BS 3935:1981 which is superseded and withdrawn.

The main purpose of this revision is to take account of the near elimination of bovine warble fly (*Hypoderma* species) throughout the United Kingdom. A recrudescence of bovine warble fly would have a greater adverse economic impact on the livestock husbandry sector than before, since a more severe evaluation of warble damaged bovine hides and skins will be made. Opportunity is also taken to update the hide market codes in Appendix A.

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Summary of pages

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, pages i and ii, pages 1 to 8 and a back cover.

This standard has been updated (see copyright date) and may have had amendments incorporated. This will be indicated in the amendment table on the inside front cover.

1 Scope

This British Standard provides guidance on the classification and marking of cattle hides and calfskins of UK origin. The hide market codes currently in use are listed in Appendix A.

2 Definitions

For the purposes of this British Standard, the following definitions apply.

2.1

brand

permanent mark on a hide or skin, generally for identification, made by means of a hot or cooled iron or chemical products

2.2

bull hide

hide having full scrotum, belly tuft and head and shoulders characteristics of a bovine male (entire)

2.3

calfskin

skin from a bovine animal and weighing less than 16 kg green weight

NOTE 1 See clause 5.

NOTE 2 The various parts of a calfskin are shown in Figure 2.

2.4

casualty calfskin

calfskin from an unbled or incompletely bled carcase

2.5

casualty hide

cattle hide from an unbled or incompletely bled carcase

2.6

cattle hide

outer covering from a bovine animal and weighing not less than 16 kg green weight

NOTE 1 See clause 5.

NOTE 2 The various parts of cattle hide are shown in Figure 1.

2.7

classer

person who is competent to classify hides and calfskins

NOTE See clause 5.

2.8

cow hide

hide of a female bovine which has the spread, pattern and characteristics of having borne calves

2.9

green weight

mass of a cattle hide or calfskin after dissipation of normal body heat; trimmed and defatted as appropriate, with allowances made for moisture, dung and/or other extraneous material and before treatment with sodium chloride or other chemical or natural curative agent or process

NOTE See 3.1 and 3.2.

2.10

hairslip

putrefaction revealed by a loosening of hair

NOTE Hairslip is revealed when hair, gripped between thumb and forefinger and pulled gently, slips readily, leaving the epidermis hairless at the point tested. The word “readily” means that the object is not to see if the hair can be tugged from the follicles but to ascertain if the hide or skin is putrescent and if the hair is separated or loose at its roots.

2.11

ox/heifer hide

any bovine hide, other than 2.2, 2.3, 2.8 or 2.15, being either female lacking the spread, pattern and characteristics of having borne calves, or male which is not a bull

2.12

score mark

cut produced on the hide or skin by the knife or flaying appliance, cutting into the dermis or skin substance without there being an actual perforation

2.13

slaughtered calfskin

calfskin from a bled carcase

2.14

slaughtered hide

cattle hide from a bled carcase

2.15

slink

skin of an unborn calf

2.16

warble hole

perforate damage caused by *Hypoderma* species

2.17

blind warble

imperforate damage caused by *Hypoderma* species, the aperture not being complete, but the hide substance materially eroded by the grub, which may still be in evidence

2.18

healed warble

trace of damage caused by *Hypoderma* species, the aperture through which the grub was exuded being closed and the hide substance replaced by scar tissue