



E-Newsletter



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The importing countries of leather and leather products from Ranipet region are mainly in Europe and North America. The mandatory specifications with respect to the residual chemicals on leather and leather products are very strict and the restrictions have expanded to a large extent in this decade. Some of the examples of these mandatory requirements on restricted substances in leather and leather products are REACH regulations in the EU and CPSIA regulations of USA and other country-specific requirements like those on formaldehyde, chromium VI etc. While the restrictions in mid 90's were limited to only a couple of chemicals, the same now extends to more than hundred chemicals. It is necessary for the manufacturers to be compliant with these restrictions. Hence screening all raw materials, intermediate goods and finished products for these restricted substances becomes necessary. With an objective of providing these testing services within the proximity of the industries, South India Tanners and Dealers Association (SITDA) promoted the testing lab in Ranipet.

The lab has been established with the aim to meet these growing needs of testing of leather and allied industries. The laboratory has all modern equipment for performance testing and for mandatory requirements on restricted substances. The laboratory is also equipped to meet the testing needs of buyer-specific private standards.



A view of the testing laboratory

Thus the laboratory, which has been established over a built up area of 12000 sq.ft, has the following sections: (i) samples reception and registration and coding area (ii) chemicals store room (iii) analytical gases storage and distribution room (iv) temperature and humidity precision-controlled physical testing room (v) organic wet labs, (vi) inorganic wet labs (vii) sample preparation room (viii) dedicated analytical instrument rooms for gas chromatography, ultra high performance liquid chromatography and inductively coupled plasma optical emission spectrometer, (ix) meeting hall for organizing training programmes and (x) auxiliary services section, namely office space, generator, EB room and used sample storage room.

Safety at work has been provided due importance during the design of laboratory and while establishing all safety provisions were incorporated, such as spacing of equipment, secondary exit and emergency provisions like wash facilities, wireless fire alarm and firefighting equipment with 'clean agent' which will not affect the equipment in case of release.

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While the most of the physical testing lab equipment were supplied by SATRA, UK, the chemical testing department has high sensitive and latest equipment such as Gas Chromatograph from Agilent, Germany, Ultra high performance liquid chromatograph from Shimadzu and Inductively coupled plasma optical emission spectrometer from Thermofisher, USA. It is expected that the lab will soon be accredited with ISO 17025 certification.

The laboratory is strategically located abutting the National Highway 46 for easy access by the users. The proximity of the lab to the manufacturers will aid reduction in testing lead time and result in faster response to the buyers. It is expected that the laboratory will result in providing authentic certification on the quality of the products, compliance to the product specifications, improved quality of the products manufactured in and around this location, prompt information on the quality of the products and importantly reduced logistic cost.

The testing laboratory has been established by South India Tanners and Dealers Association (SITDA) with financial assistance under ASIDE scheme from Council for Leather Exports (CLE). Council for Leather Exports (CLE) was the implementation agency and ILIFO, the project management consultant (PMC) for the project. The lab has been constructed at a cost of Rs. 9.79 crores in which 75% is contributed by ASIDE scheme and the

remaining amount by the promoter organization, SITDA. The laboratory has been recently completed and SITDA has appointed TUV SUD South Asia Pvt Ltd for operation and maintenance of the laboratory.

SITDA was formed and registered as a Society under the Societies Registration Act 1860 in the year 1944. During the last 65 years of its formation, the Association has been rendering yeoman service to the Leather Industry. The main activities of the Association are (i) disseminating information related to technology, trade, Government regulations and market related information, (ii) organizing seminars, and workshops in association with relevant agencies, (iii) addressing labour issues of the companies, and (iv) addressing unresolved issues (v) promotion of common infrastructural facilities for the industry.

TÜV SÜD South Asia was established as TÜV Bayern India, a branch office of TÜV Qualitäts Management GmbH, in 1995. In 1999, it became a wholly owned subsidiary of TÜV SÜD Group. Today, TÜV SÜD South Asia is the leading certification, testing, auditing, inspection and training company with a strong presence in India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

The testing charges in this laboratory will be provided to the members of the association with discount of 30% by TUV SUD South Asia.

Key handing over ceremony in Ranipet



The South Indian Tanners and Dealers Association (SITDA) organized the key handing over ceremony of the Ranipet Testing Lab on 9th June 2014 at Ranipet. The dignitaries present on the dais were Shri M.M.Hashim, Founder Chairman, CLE and Chief Guest; Shri P.R.Aqeel Ahmed, Regional Chairman South, CLE; Shri.Abdul Rahman, Shri.A.Sahasranaman, Hony. Director, ILIFO,

Mr.Ramesh Prasad welcomed Shri M.M.Hashim, Founder Chairman, CLE, the Chief Guest of this ceremony and Shri.M.Rafeeque Ahmed, President, FIEO for the efforts taken to establish this testing lab from the initial stage of identification of land and in obtaining the Government funding assistance under ASIDE.



Shri Ramesh Prasad, Joint Hon. Secretary, SITDA delivering welcome address



Shri A Sahasranaman, Hon'y Director, ILIFO speaking on the occasion

Dr.A.B. Mandal, Director, Central Leather Research Institute; Shri.R.Ramesh Kumar, IAS, Executive Director, CLE and Mr.Ezhilan, Country Manger, TUV SUD South Asia Pvt. Ltd.

The ceremony began with an introductory remark by Shri Ramesh Prasad, Joint Hony. Secretary of SITDA. Mr.Ramesh Prasad stated that the land was brought through the SITDA and handed over to CLE for construction of the Testing Lab. Expression of interest was sought from the testing agencies like Intertek, SGS, SUD South Asia Pvt Ltd and SUD South Asia Pvt Ltd was finally selected.

Mr.Ramesh Prasad welcomed Shri P.R. Aqeel Ahmed, Regional Chairman, South, CLE and thanked for his support. Of the total project cost of Rs.9.75 crore, 75% of grant ie Rs.7.34 crore was sanctioned under ASIDE and the land cost of Rs.2.54 crore was met by the RANITEC.

Mr. Ramesh Prasad welcomed Shri R. Ramesh Kumar, IAS, Executive Director, CLE for his presence in the ceremony. He thanked the Executive Director for successfully completing the project.

He recalled that the Executive Director's first visit after taking over charge as ED, CLE was to Ranipet for the site inspection and now that this project has seen its completion.

He thanked Dr. Mandal, Director, Central Leather Research Institute for their support in setting up the Ranipet Testing Lab.



Shri R Ramesh Kumar, IAS, Executive Director, CLE delivering his speech

He conveyed his thanks to Shri A.Sahasranaman, Hony Director, Mr.Emmanuel and Mr.Viswanathan of ILIFO for the support extended in completion of the project. He also welcomed Shri.B.Vijayan, President, ISF, the contractors and the CLE project officials and the members of SITDA.

Shri A.Sahasranaman, Hony. Director, ILIFO in his speech congratulated SITDA for the wonderful achievement of establishing the Testing Lab for the benefit of the industry. The Indian Leather Industry has seen major changes over the years, which has grown from a mere raw material exporter in 1980s to one of almost 100% value added products now. The industry has faced so many challenges. The first challenge faced by the industry in 1980s was the cumbersome import procedures and restrictive trade regime. Next came the challenge of meeting the environmental standards like the demand to meet TDS. The campaign by PETA (People for Ethical Treatment of Animals), USA



A view of participants

virtually threatened the leather industry as responsible for killing animals for their skins; and, this campaign was countered effectively under the leadership of Shri M.M. Hashim. The fourth challenge was to meet the social compliance standards. The fifth challenge is in terms of quality specification like meeting the REACH standards of EU. CLRI was the one testing lab initiated in the beginning in collaboration with SATRA, UK, under UNDP assisted NLDP; then came the FDDI lab in collaboration with Bally Switzerland and PFI, Germany; and thereafter the private testing

labs like TUV entered into the picture. Though there was some initial delay, now that the project is completed, he requested TUV to serve the industry and also to engage with the industry and inform them the compliance demands well in advance.

Shri.A.Sahasranaman congratulated the Executive Director, CLE for doing a wonderful job in a short time. He applauded



Prof. Dr. A.B. Mandal, Director, CLRI sharing his thoughts

Shri.M.M.Hashim, Shri.M.Rafeeqe Ahmed, Shri Aqeel Ahmed Prof. Dr. A. B. Mandal for their proactive role and the assistance provided by CLRI.

Shri R.Ramesh Kumar, IAS, Executive Director, CLE in his speech congratulated the SITDA for having completed the project successfully. He further stated that after taking over charge as Executive Director, amongst several other projects, the Ranipet Testing Lab project was completed in time. Several meetings were conducted with the objective to complete the project in time and he thanked the SITDA for their cooperation and support.

The Executive Director thanked Shri M.M.Hashim for his guidance in completing this project right from the beginning including site selection etc. While remarking that Shri A.Sahasranaman with his wide experience is an asset for the industry and that the Indian Leather Industry will overcome all the challenges and achieve the export target. The ED quoted the recent regulation on Chromium



Another view of participants

VI imposed by EU and informed that the Council is taking all efforts to sensitize the industry by conducting seminars in all regions. He also stated as said by Shri A.Sahasranaman, the TUV should coordinate with the industry and inform about the new regulations in advance to the industry.

Prof.Dr.Mandal, Director, CLRI congratulated SITDA for completing the project under the leadership of CLE. He congratulated Shri.M.M.Hashim for his association with the project. He said that Shri A.Sahasranaman rightly pointed out

that there are various standards and out of which 50% of the standards has already been achieved by the Indian Leather Industry. He said that while the industries like Pharmaceuticals have been able to achieve only 1% growth, the leather industry has been able to achieve 20% growth, which is a remarkable achievement.



Shri M M Hashim, Founder Chairman, CLE addressing the gathering

Shri M.M.Hashim formally handed over the key to Mr.Ezhilan, Country Manager of RUV SUD South Asia Pvt. Ltd.

Shri M.M.Hashim stated that the Ranipet Association is existing for about 70 years and has established the project for the industry. The Effluent treatment plant at Vaniyambadi was the first initiative of the industry in pollution control; and the Ranipet



Shri P R Aqeel Ahmed, Regional Chairman-South addressing the gathering

Shri P.R. Aqeel Ahmed, Regional Chairman-South in his speech said that the impressive Ranipet Testing Lab project would not have been possible without the initiative of Shri M.M.Hashim. He applauded Shri M.M.Hashim for guidance and support in completing this project. He further stated that Shri M.M.Hashim has not only been instrumental in setting up this project but also the Effluent Treatment Plants. The most successful and impressive plant in India is the Ranipet Effluent Treatment Plant. He lauded Shri M.M.Hashim for his social conscience by establishing a well



Shri M M Hashim, Founder Chairman, CLE handing over the key to Mr. Ezhilan, Country Manager of TUV SUD South Asia Pvt Ltd

project is the second one. The TUV testing lab is a comprehensive testing lab which tests not only leather but also products of some

other industries of the area such as automobiles and textiles.

Shri M.M.Hashim recalled the efforts taken by Shri.Habib Hussain, Former Chairman of CLE in getting approval to this project and thanked him profusely. He also thanked Shri.Rajendra K. Jalan, Chairman, CLE, Shri.Aqeel Ahmed, Regional Chairman-South and the Executive Director, CLE.

He thanked Shri.A.Sahasranaman and remarked that he is an Encyclopedia of the industry.



Shri. Ezhilan, Country Manager TUV SUD South Asia Pvt Ltd speaking on the occasion

renowned hospital and school in Ranipet. He said that Mr. Hashim had the vision for future. This is the second term in CLE as the Southern Regional Chairman and expressed his happiness that his desire to commission this project in his tenure has been fulfilled. He thanked Shri M.Rafeeqe Ahmed, the Chairman, FIEO and the Executive Director for their support in completing the project successfully in time.



Shri. Zafrullah, Secretary, SITDA delivering vote of thanks

Mr.Ezhilan thanked all the dignitaries for this project and stated that this is the 14th lab in South Asia. This is the 3rd lab specifically for leather. He has assured that the TUV will make this testing lab a Centre of Excellence in leather and footwear sector. Mr.Ezhilan also stated that TUV is circulating E-Newsletter to the industry and also through technical seminars the industry will be sensitized on the new regulations and their compliance.

The ceremony ended with vote of thanks by Shri CM Zafrullah, Secretary, SITDA, a relentless and silent worker for the development of the industry in this region.

Thereafter, Mr.R. Ramesh Kumar, IAS, Executive Director, CLE and other dignitaries visited the laboratory and interacted with the officials of ILIFO, SITDA and TUV SUD .

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Social aspects new code of conduct from BSCI



According to annual report 2013 of The Business Social Compliance Initiative (BSCI) released in June 2014, BSCI and its over 1,200 participating retailers and importers have raised their transparency and understanding of labour issues in their global supply chains. They continuously work to embed responsible sourcing in their business practices, support their suppliers in their efforts and partner with business associations, governments and other relevant stakeholders to achieve lasting change.

The complexity of today's supply chains is a constant challenge for businesses and, as this Annual Report shows, BSCI is devoted to developing strong synergies with other initiatives and important stakeholders to effectively promote responsible working conditions worldwide. In 2013 alone, more than 9,000 BSCI social audits were conducted and highlighted that working hours, fair remuneration and health and safety issues remain the most common labour challenges in supply chains. Over 1,000 BSCI participants and producers in sourcing markets were trained through BSCI capacity building activities on practical remediation measures and several round tables were held in main sourcing

countries to address the complex root causes behind poor working conditions in factories and farms with local governments, business organisations, trade unions, NGOs and other stakeholders.

Building on the experiences of the first decade, BSCI revised and adopted its new Code of Conduct in 2013 to reflect the growing call for responsible business practices and the latest developments within international conventions. Concluded after an intensive stakeholders consultation period, the text comprises a set of values and eleven core principles aiming at the highest labour protection and fostering shared responsibility among all actors in the supply chain.

In addition, the Annual Report takes stock of BSCI's engagement in Bangladesh, a long-lasting commitment that was strengthened after the tragic collapse of the Rana Plaza building in Dhaka in April 2013. BSCI remained actively engaged in policy dialogue supporting the adoption of additional measures to ensure building safety, and internally reinforced its own system to place more emphasis on fire safety issues.



Renewable Energy Expo and Conference

A large exhibition on renewable energy along with several workshop were organized by Tamil Nadu Energy Development Agency (TEDA) during 12-14 June 2014 in Chennai Trade Centre, Nandambakkam, Chennai. Large number of leading companies in the field of renewable energy comprising of

equipment manufacturers, system integration firms, manufacturers agents, consultants, project developers, etc. participated and exhibited their products and services. It is reported that more than 200 companies exhibited their capabilities. As could be expected, the solar photovoltaic and solar thermal

energy companies took the lion's share of the exhibition. The new products in the exhibition were of light pipe technology, which reflects the light from roof to the usable area through reflecting duct and cooling applications using solar thermal energy.

Seminar on Ecological beamhouse processing solution for pollution reduction in leather processing in Vishtec CETP, Melvisharam

A seminar was organized by Visharam Tanners Enviro Control Systems (Vishtec CETP) on 19 June 2014 on Ecological beamhouse processing solution for pollution reduction in leather processing" in Vishtec CETP, Melvisharam. The workshop was attended by owners, senior managers and technicians from tanneries associated with the CETP. The objective of the seminar was to sensitise the tanners about

the recent developments in leather chemicals including enzymes in beamhouse operations which results in substantial reduction in pollution originated in these operations.

The seminar was started with welcome address by Mr. K. Khalid Ameen, Project Manager, CEMCOT. He extended a warm welcome to all participants, Mr. Fakir Ahmed, Chairman, Vishetc CETP, Mr. Ashraf

Ali, Managing Director, Vishtec CETP, Guest Speakers Mr. Viswanathan, General Manager, ILIFO, Mr. Ashish Kumar, Senior Manager, TFL Quinn India Private Limited, and the entire unit Members & Technical staff.



bath. Similar to the cost saving by recovering the salt from raw hides and skins, every process step in the leather processing has options to reduce the pollution. Some of the other methods are recycling of relime liquor, reuse of pelt

swelling) and tanning powder (by increasing the uptake of tanning chemicals).

Mr. Ashraf Ali, Managing Director, Vishtec during his key note address exhorted the tanning industry to adopt new



Seminar in Melvisharam CETP

Mr. Viswanathan in his address stated that there is need for the leather industry to change to modern processes to minimize the effluent load to the CETP and thus reducing the treatment cost.



Mr. M. Ashraf Ali, Managing Director, Vishtec CETP addressing the gathering

The cost of effluent treatment which was around Rs.40/m³ is now sharply increased to more than Rs.250/m³ which is now hitting the bottom-line of the tanneries. The reduction in pollution parameters in the effluent will have direct cost saving in the CETP. Every kilogram of salt generated in the tanneries consumes about Rs.11 in the CETP for its recovery. Thus there could be considerable savings if the tanneries remove the salt from the raw hides and skins in the solid form before it is being dissolved in the soaking

wash liquor, enzyme aided unhairing, use of good quality of lime which has active content of more than 80%, recycling of chrome liquor or supernatant liquor.

Mr. Ashis Kumar, Senior Manager, TFL Quinn India Private Limited in his presentation briefed about the reduction of sulphide, chromium and wastewater in the tannery effluent process. The following methods were explained during the seminar:

- Improved soaking agent along with small quantity of soda ash in the soaking improves soaking and help reduce the use of liming chemicals, thus the discharge of excess chemicals are avoided.
- Use of unhairing auxiliary which reduces the quantity of sodium sulphide directly by about 50%. This leaves lesser sulphides and lesser suspended solids in the effluent
- Recycling of wash liquor after delimiting to delime bath to reduce the volume of wastewater
- Use of tanning additive in chrome or vegetable tanning which reduces the quantity of salt, acid (by avoiding the

technology in their process. He requested the members to adopt these cleaner technologies to reduce the discharge of wastewater, sulphide, salt and chromium



Mr. Ashish Kumar, Senior Manager, TFL Quinn India making a presentation

which are causing day-to-day issues in the CETP.

During the discussions, the CETP and few tanneries expressed their willingness to conduct trials. During the first phase, it was generally accepted to conduct in three tanneries and thereafter the results will be further propagated to other tanneries.

Mr. K. Khalid Ameen, Project Manager, CEMCOT proposed vote of thanks. Later it was noted that the demonstration trials are ongoing in the tanneries.

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