

NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS REPORT

8903

Report on International Travel to Colombia, S.A.

to

Conduct a Seminar and Assist in the
Development of Standards for Leather

May 29 to June 11, 1965

by

Joseph R. Kanagy
Consultant on Leather
National Bureau of Standards



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS

June 15, 1965

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* NBS Group, Joint Institute for Laboratory Astrophysics at the University of Colorado.

** Located at Boulder, Colorado.

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NBS PROJECT

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SUMMARY

A seminar on standards and specifications in the leather and hide industries was conducted in Bogotá, Colombia, May 31 to June 4, 1965. A general outline of standards organizations on leather and hides in the U.S.A. was discussed in relation to the U. S. Government and to International Groups. The need for parallel organizations in Colombia for future development and maintenance of competition with neighboring countries was stressed. A committee was appointed for the purpose of organizing a standards committee in the Colombian leather industry.

Visits were made to shoe factories and tanneries in the vicinity of Bogotá for the purpose of studying processes and discussing problems with chemists and technicians.

SPONSORS

The Leather Seminar in Bogotá was sponsored and organized by INCONTEC, Instituto Colombiana de Normas Tecnicas with the close cooperation of the Instituto Investigaciones Tecnológicas, also with the cooperation of AID, Agency for International Development, and INCOLDA, Instituto Colombiana de Administracion who made available their conference room where facilities were available for simultaneous translation into Spanish and English. The National Bureau of Standards, U.S.A., contributed many reports on standards and specifications, including copies of Federal specifications and Federal test methods. Test methods of the Joint ALCA-ASTM Committee on Leather were contributed by the ASTM. In addition, seven test methods of the Pan-American Standards Committee on Leather, COPANT, were distributed to all of those that attended the Seminar. The Instituto Investigaciones Tecnológicas generously contributed office space, information, and

assistance in the preparation of the seminars, and arranged conferences with technical experts in Colombia. The contributions of all of these organizations are highly appreciated.

SEMINAR ON LEATHER AND HIDES

A seminar on standards and specifications in the leather and hide industries was held in Bogotá, May 31 to June 4, 1965. The seminar was held at INCOLDA where facilities for simultaneous translations and recording were available. The seminar was attended by 6 to 12 representatives of the Colombian industry. (See Appendix).

In the first session of the seminar the importance and philosophy of standardization was discussed. The standards organizations of the U.S.A. were outlined with reference to their relation to the International Union and COPANT. The activity of the U. S. Government in standards was discussed, in particular the function and development of Federal specifications. The procedures and philosophy of standards development in the ASTM were explained. Finally a short resumé was given of the development of standards and test methods in the leather industry in the U.S.A.

On the second day further information was given on the functions of the U.S. standards organization on leather and the parallel function of a Colombian organization on leather standards through COPANT was indicated. Seven Pan-American standards which have been submitted for final approval were discussed. Copies of these seven standard test methods which are written in the Spanish language were submitted to those who attended.

Quality control in U.S. tanneries and its dependence upon test methods and standards were discussed in the third session. All of the participants from tanneries were then asked to give a review of the controls used in their plants. The response to this request was excellent. The participation of the members of the seminar in the discussion was most enthusiastic, and lack of time made it necessary to close the session before all of the members had concluded their comments.

On the fourth day, discussion of quality control was completed, and the subject of standards for hides was then introduced. Copies of a commercial standard on raw hides, issued by the U. S. Department of Commerce, were distributed and discussed. The function of commercial standards, their origin, and promulgation were explained.

A proposal by the Department of Agriculture, U.S.A., which recommends a much more drastic trim for cattle hides than the commercial standard was then discussed. The general opinion of the Colombian leather group was that this trim would not be adaptable in Colombia since all parts of the available hides must be used to supply the needs for leather.

On the last day of the conference Sr. Fernando Zauscher of the Instituto de Investigaciones Tecnológicas addressed the group on the facilities for tests and research which the Institute had to offer to the leather and shoe industries.

The need for an active standards group in Colombia was then discussed. It was pointed out that all of the other South American countries with the exception of Bolivia, Ecuador, and Paraguay already had active standards groups in leather working under COPANT and that it was necessary for Colombia to form such a group in order to remain competitive. Also, the common market LAFTA is considering compulsory conformation with COPANT standards for exportation of leather materials.

The response to the suggestion to form a Colombian committee to work on standards through COPANT under ICONTEC was most enthusiastic. A committee which is composed of the following members was formed by unanimous approval of the group.

Dr. Victor Rojas Aguilar
Calzado Bambi

Chairman

Dr. Hernando Dumit
Empresa Colombiana de Curtidos

Vice Chairman

Sr. Fernando Zauscher
Instituto de Investigaciones Tecnológicas Secretary

Since this committee consists of a consumer (shoe manufacturer), a producer (tanner), and a general interest representative, it comprises an excellent cross-section of the leather industry.

Much work remains to be done to organize an effective standards committee in Colombia, but this committee forms a capable nucleus to accomplish this. With the enthusiastic leadership of Dr. Rojas and assistance from ICONTEC and the office of U. S. AID continuous progress will be made.

CONCLUSIONS

1. Colombia has a small but capable and enthusiastic group of leather scientists and technologists.
2. There is a well-informed group among the tanners which is aware of their problems and is making strides toward the modernization of the industry.
3. Representatives of the shoe manufacturers are also aware of their problems and are working enthusiastically to improve their products.
4. The Instituto de Investigaciones Tecnológicas is doing excellent work to assist the tanner and shoe manufacturers. Plans are under way to provide more modern equipment to assist the industry further.
5. These groups form an excellent nucleus to further strengthen and unite the leather industry in Colombia through formation of a standards committee and cooperative work.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. ICONTEC and U. S. AID should assist and encourage the newly formed committee to develop standards for the leather industry.
2. The possibility of giving aid to tanners to obtain equipment for testing and control work should be investigated.
3. A committee should be formed to work with cattle producers to improve the quality of raw hides by chemical treatment of feeds to resist grubs and by controls in methods of branding.

APPENDIX

List of attendants at the Seminar on Hides and Leather

Dr. Hernando Dumit K.	Colombiana de Curtidos S. A.
Dr. Eduardo Bernal A.	" " " "
Sr. Harold Bracht M.	" " " "
Sr. Hernán Orozco L.	" " " "
Sr. José R. Zamudio	" " " "
Sr. Hernando Carrillo	Corporación Nacional de Industriales de Calzado CORNICAL
Dr. Víctor Rojas	" " " "
Dr. Alfonso Pareja	" " " "
Dr. Jorge Cáceres García	" " " "
Dr. Abraham Kersman	CICODEC
Sr. Manuel Uribe	EUDOC LTDA.
Sr. Jaime Arango	" "
Sr. Raúl Encinales	" "
Dr. Hernán Iglesias	Federación Nacional de Curtidores
Dr. Vicente Peláez R.	" " " "
Dr. Francisco De Zubiría	Industrias del Mangle S. A.
Dr. Julio Gómez	" " " "
Dr. Erik Onshuus	Instituto de Investigaciones Tecno- lógicas
Dr. Fernando Zauscher V.	" " " "
Sr. Enrique Uribe Escobar	Tenería Ancla
Sr. Ernesto Forsten	Curtiembres de Itaguí - Medellín
Sr. Rafael Galvis M.	Curtiembres Vegetales Col. S. A.
Sr. Alberto Salazar N.	Curtidos Consota Ltda. Pereira - Caldas



