

# Slow leather

**The traditional chrome tanning method  
needs the due time to be performing.**

*IL*  
**VELIERO**  
Slow leather



# Slow leather

**In the framework of INiziative Conciarie ASSociate “Il Veliero” division is characterized by a production process with low enviromental impact, named “SLOW LEATHER”, that combine the old tanning traditions with modern industrial techniques.**



# Slow leather

is a production process that was born in a unique technologically advanced reality, with the aim of obtaining a type of leather with the highest finishing and quality and with low environmental impact.

The company values a by definition eco-sustainable material: leather of animal origin that comes from consumption of meat. Our passion for preserving the essence of Leather and our commitment for achieving the goals of sustainable development (“SDGs” stated by United Nations) are reflected in making an high quality product that derives from an ongoing and studied in details manufacturing process.

**Slow leather** is based on oxymoron “Innovative craftsmanship” and it represents the enhancement of a noble product such as leather.



**Slow leather** reflects the times of traditional tanning, an approach that led the leather to maturation slowly as with a good vintage wine; we recovered the tanning processes which made famous the historical italian and french tanneries.



**The distinctive features  
of the process**

Olation process: leather rests on special humpback pallets up to 90 days in il Veliero's special warehouses



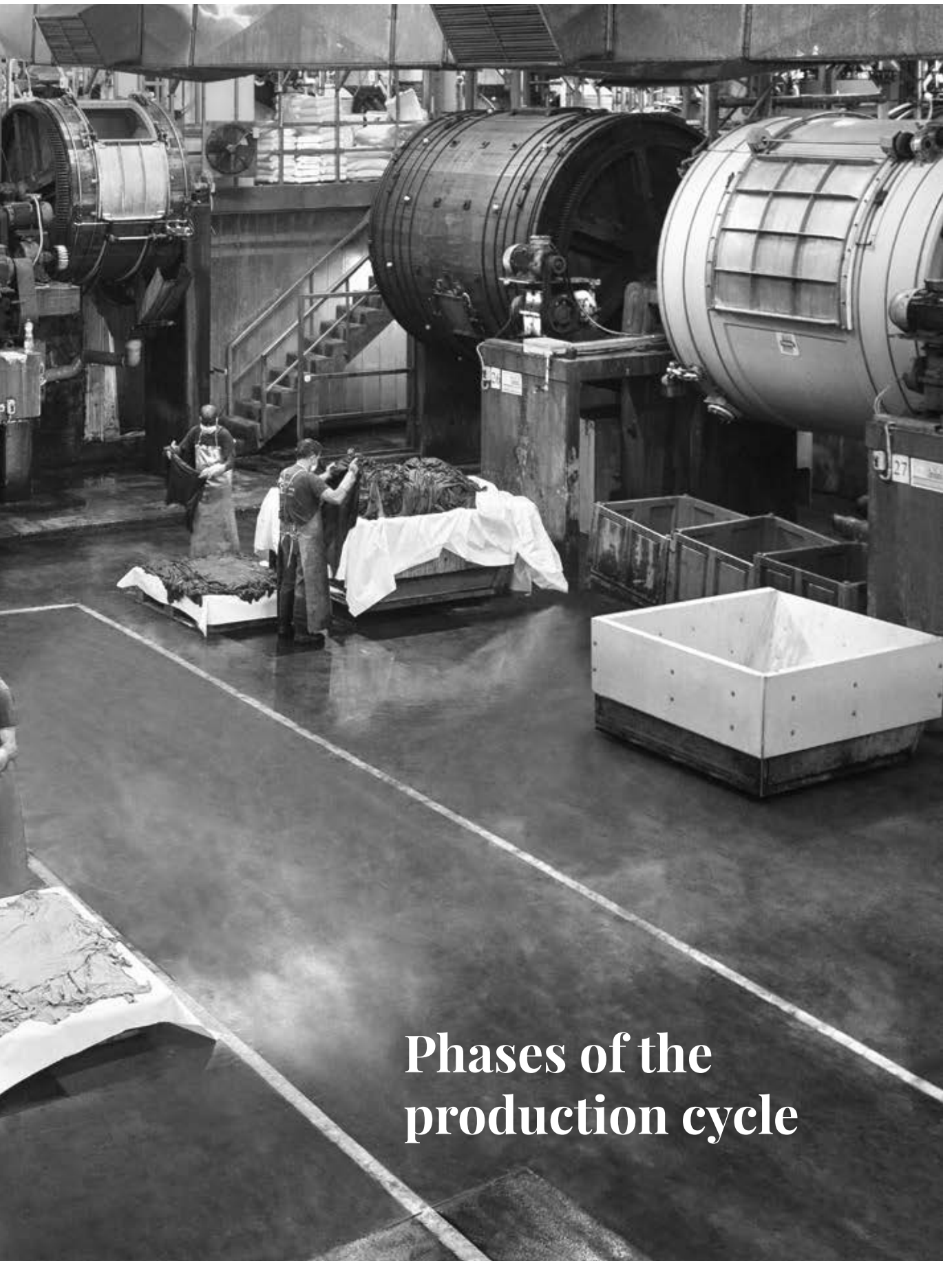
Acquisition of raw hides from certified suppliers which guarantee traceability up to the slaughterhouse

Recovery of lime baths

Long maturation of tanned hides







## Phases of the production cycle



## 1. Soaking and Liming

In the soaking process, the hides are processed to bring them back to natural hydration. The liming phase has, as main purpose, the depilation, the elimination of the epidermis, the saponification of the fats and the digestion of the proteins present in the chains of amino acids that make up the fibers of the skin. This treatment prepares the hides for the subsequent tanning stages.

It is in this precise activity that one of the distinctive elements that characterize the **SLOW LEATHER process takes place: the recovery and reuse of the liming baths.**

At the end of each liming cycle, the recovered solution is subjected to numerous treatments such as homogenization and sedimentation.

The solution thus obtained, stored at constant and controlled temperature, is returned directly to the drum, producing a notable saving in water and other products.

The waste sodium sulfide solution reintroduced into the liming cycle is highly rich in amines, containing nitrogen and other organic compounds, which enable to obtain a straighter, fuller and elastic leather. This mechanism improves the environmental impact caused by liming and soaking, along with a decrease in polluting substances levels.

## 2. Tanning

This step is based on the use of trivalent chromium salts. Its outcome is defined through accurate check of both temperature and PH parameters that influence the fixation of the tanning solution and also their exhaustion.



### 3. Olation

After the tanning step the skins will rest up to 90 days in a dedicated and supervised environment so that the chromium salts can continue their complex action (OXALATION) up to obtain a final product commonly defined as a “full and elastic” leather. This process allows to reduce the amount of chromium in the wastewater (-18%) generated by the pressing phase which will take place at the end of the resting.

### 4. Retanning, dyeing and fat liquoring

During the retanning, dyeing and fat liquoring phase the leather is defined on the basis of the specific characteristics requested by the final customer (color, softness, touch, resistances).

### 5. Finishing

Finishing creates the particular features on the leather requested by the customer, following specific guidelines. The conformity of the finished article is always verified by comparison with its standard or with client master. The recent adoption, for all spraying lines, of HVLP (high volume low pressure), allows a substantial reduction of the products used and consequently the containment of atmospheric emissions.

The finishing process, adopted even before the advent of current legislation, excludes fluorinated resins, xylene and tetrachlorethylene.

# Environmental impact of the process

Compared to a normal chrome production process, **SLOW LEATHER** allows:

- **Water savings in the liming process equal to 53.7%**
- **Saving of Sodium Sulphide in the liming phase equal to 32.5%**
- **Reduction by 18% in the amount of chromium in the pressing wastewater**
- **Reduction by 14% in the consumption of retannage products**

The working process respects the environment since controls are ensured by both **EMAS Registration** and **ISO 14001 certification** (cf. EMAS Certification and ISO 14001 issued by ICEC).

**“Il VELIERO” Division avails itself of the origin certification “100% Made in Italy”**, released by ICEC, since all the manufacturing processes are performed in Italy in one single production plant.

The sensitivity of INiziative Conciarie ASSociate towards the green economy has led to the achievement of the following objectives:

- **use of electricity from renewable sources only**
- **pre-treatment of waste water at the bottom of the production process resulting in a 63% reduction of COD**
- **obtaining the EMAS certification with which the company defines objectives of continuous improvement**
- **production processes are subject to the calculation of the environmental footprint of the product,**



**in accordance with the PEFCR Leather drawn up as part of the Single Market for Green Products initiative of the European Commission**

- **use of non-toxic chemicals and mainly in liquid form, which ensures the absence of dust, for the health of operators**
- **sending to recycling: plastic paper and wood resulting from the production process**
- **elimination of all plastic formerly used on the packaging of material in consignment.**

Our commitment to the SUSTAINABILITY of the production lines

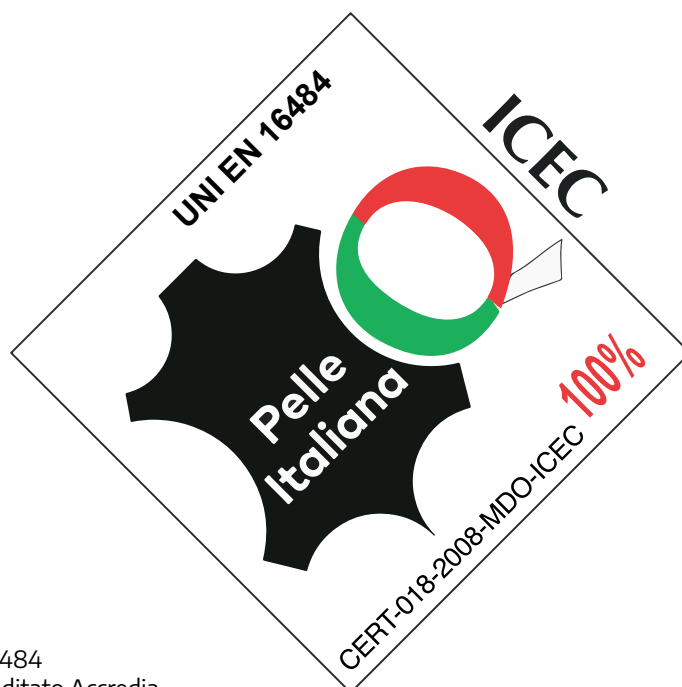
 <p><b>100% MADE IN ITALY</b> Certificazione ICEC L'unica conceria in Italia ad aver ottenuto questa certificazione.</p>	 <p><b>EN 15987</b> Il processo di lavorazione completo con concia organica metal-free</p>	 <p><b>LWG SILVER RATED</b> Unique reference number: CON039</p>	 <p><b>ISO 14001</b> Certificazione ICEC - Environmental Management System ISO 14001</p>	 <p><b>ISO 9001</b> Certificazione ICEC - Quality Management System ISO 9001</p>	 <p><b>ICEC TS 422</b> Emergenza Covid-19 Cert. n. CERT-001-2020-COVID-ICEC</p>
 <p><b>ICEC</b> Certificate ICEC "CERT-001-2014-SUSTAINABILITY"</p>	 <p><b>EMAS</b> Gestione Ambientale Verifica</p>	 <p><b>EMAS</b> GESTIONE AMBIENTALE VERIFICA Reg. n. IT-000648</p>	 <p><b>UNIC</b> Social Accountability</p>	 <p><b>SUSTAINABILITY CERTIFICATION</b> ICEC</p>	 <p><b>ENERGIA RINNOVABILE CERTIFICATA</b> Il 100% dell'energia elettrica utilizzata nelle fasi produttive proviene da fonti rinnovabili</p>

The 1st tannery in Italy to obtain the I.C.E.C. Sustainability Certificate.  
The 1st tannery in Europe to obtain EMAS Registration.



A small Italian flag on a stand is placed on a large piece of red leather in a factory setting. The background shows a blurred industrial environment with other leather pieces and lights.

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Certificato MADE IN ITALY  
in base alla Norma UNI EN 16484  
CERT-018-2008-MDO- Accreditato Accredia

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