

British Standard Specification for

Classification and marking of cattle hides and calfskins

1. Scope

This British Standard specifies procedures to be used in the classification by quality and weight of cattle hides and calfskins of UK origin. Details of the related marking procedures are described and definitions of a number of terms are provided. The hide market codes currently in use are listed in appendix A.

2. References

The titles of the standards publications referred to in this standard are listed on the inside back cover.

3. Definitions

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

3.1 classer. Person who is competent to classify hides and calfskins.

3.2 cattle hide. Outer covering from a bovine animal and weighing* not less than 16 kg green weight.

3.3 calfskin. Skin from a bovine animal and weighing* less than 16 kg green weight.

3.4 slaughtered hide. Cattle hide from a bled carcass.

3.5 casualty hide. Cattle hide from an unbled or incompletely bled carcass.

3.6 slaughtered calfskin. Calfskin from a bled carcass.

3.7 casualty calfskin. Calfskin from an unbled or incompletely bled carcass.

3.8 brand. Permanent mark on a hide or skin, generally for identification, made by means of a hot or cooled iron or chemical products.

3.9 slink. Skin of an unborn calf.

3.10 warble hole. A damage (perforate) caused by *Hypoderma* species.

3.11 blind warble. A damage (imperforate) caused by *Hypoderma* species, the aperture not being complete, but the hide substance materially eroded by the grub, which may still be in evidence.

3.12 healed warble. A 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.

3.13 score mark. A 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.

3.14 hairslip. Putrefaction revealed by a loosening of hair. 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 wants to slip.

3.15 green weight. The weight of a cattle hide or calfskin after dissipation of normal body heat; trimmed and de-fatted in accordance with 4.1 or 4.2 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.

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

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

3.18 ox/heifer hide. Any other bovine hide being either female lacking the spread, pattern and characteristics of having borne calves, or male which is not a bull.

NOTE. The various parts of a cattle hide and a calfskin are defined in figures 1 and 2 respectively.

4. Trimming

4.1 Cattle hides. Before being classified by quality and weight, foreshanks shall be knee-trimmed, hindshanks trimmed square at the hock, fat removed from rump and brisket, butt fairly shaped, and horns, tailbones and head meat removed. Heads shall be trimmed by removing masks (pates) and ears, leaving only cheeks. Tails shall be trimmed to not more than 30 cm (12 in) (see figure 1).

If the cheek of a hide bears a cut of more than 8 cm (3 in) in length, the portion of the cheek beyond the cut shall be removed by continuing the cut in both directions.

4.2 Calfskins. Before being classified by quality and weight, shanks shall be trimmed short, tailbones shall be removed and the skin shall be without head, i.e. cut off behind the ears, and without cheeks (see figure 2).

5. Classification by quality

5.1 General. Cattle hides and calfskins shall be classified and stamped by a classer within seven days of their arrival at the hide and skin market. No hide or calfskin shall be offered for sale unless it has been classified and stamped accordingly.

*In accordance with clause 6.

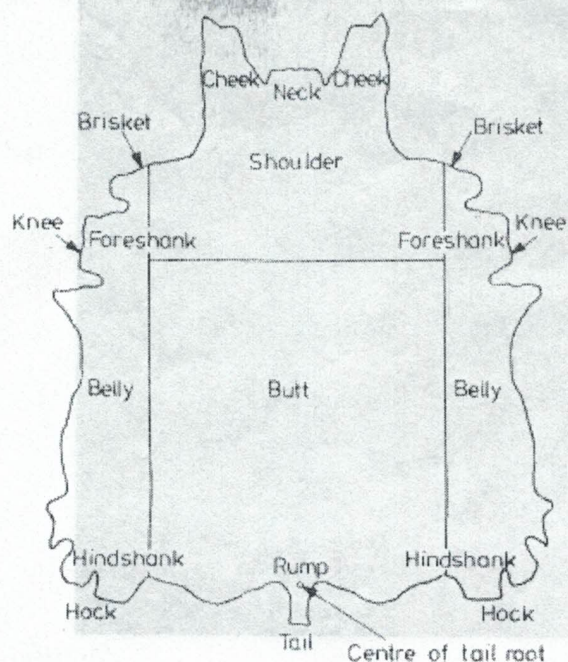


Figure 1. Cattle hide

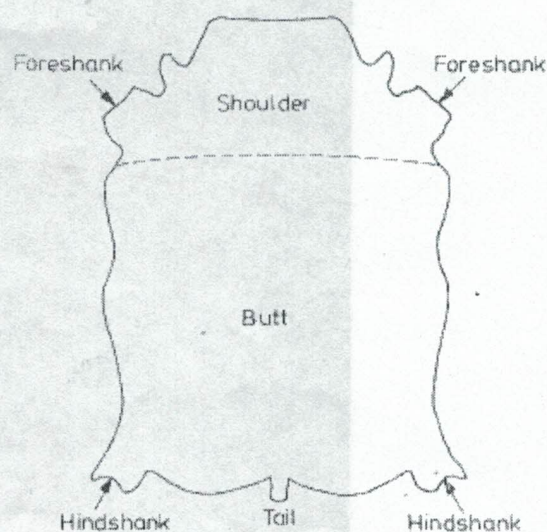


Figure 2. Calfskin

5.3 Calfskins

5.3.1 Slaughtered calfskins

5.3.1.1 First. A calfskin which

- (a) is of good pattern (i.e. correctly opened in the body of the skin and with properly shaped shanks);
- (b) is of sound grain;
- (c) is free from holes or score marks (any holes or score marks within 2.5 cm (1 in) from the edge of the skin or 5 cm (2 in) from the edge of the shank shall be disregarded); and
- (d) is free from warble damage.

5.3.1.2 Second. A calfskin having one or more of the following characteristics:

- (a) is of fair pattern;
- (b) is of medium grain;
- (c) has not more than 4 holes, totalling not more than 5 cm (2 in) in length, beyond 2.5 cm (1 in) from the edge of the skin, of which not more than 2 may be in the butt;
- (d) shows not more than slight score marking;
- (e) is free from warble damage.

The extent and nature of the faults taken together may justify downgrading from a second to a third class skin.

5.3.1.3 Third. A calfskin which has one or more of the following characteristics:

- (a) is of poor pattern;
- (b) is of poor grain;
- (c) has more than 4 holes beyond 2.5 cm (1 in) from the edge of the skin;
- (d) is badly score marked;

(e) has warble damage;

(f) has any part of the skin affected by hairslip.

The extent and nature of the faults taken together may justify grading the skin as a reject.

5.3.1.4 Reject. A calfskin with less than 50 % of its area suitable for the manufacture of leather.

5.3.2 Casualty calfskins

5.3.2.1 First. A calfskin having one or more of the following characteristics:

- (a) fair pattern;
- (b) sound grain;
- (c) free from holes (holes within 5 cm (2 in) of the edge of the skin shall be disregarded);
- (d) slight score marking;
- (e) free from warble damage.

5.3.2.2 Second. A calfskin having one or more of the following characteristics:

- (a) has a poorer pattern than a first casualty calfskin;
- (b) not so well flayed; has holes beyond 5 cm (2 in) of the edge of the skin but not totalling more than 18 cm (7 in) in length;
- (c) has up to 10 % of the total area affected by grain damage and/or hairslip;
- (d) has up to 8 warble holes.

The extent and nature of the faults taken together may justify downgrading from a second to a third class skin.

5.3.2.3 Third. All other casualty calfskins.

5.3.3 Slink calfskins. A slink calfskin shall be described as such.

4 Classification by quality

4.1 General

Cattle hides and calfskins should be classified and stamped by a classer within 7 days of their arrival at the hide and skin market. No hide or calfskin should be offered for sale unless it has been classified and stamped accordingly.

Slaughtered and casualty cattle hides and calfskins should be classified in accordance with the recommendations for classification reasonably ascertainable at the time of classifying and given in 4.2 and 4.3 respectively. Where any one of the individual recommendations for classification does not apply, this should be considered a penalizing fault. The severity, nature and number of the penalizing faults should be taken into account in deciding whether a lower class is appropriate.

NOTE. Certain faults may be hidden by the hair at the time of assessment, but are subsequently revealed when the hair is removed in later processing. Such faults are examples of those faults which are not reasonably ascertainable at the time of classifying.

4.2 Cattle hides

4.2.1 Slaughtered hides

4.2.1.1 First class

A slaughtered hide should be classified first class if the following apply.

- (a) The hide is deemed to be well flayed, with score marks in moderation only and with none beyond the belly area, as indicated in figure 1.
- (b) The hide is deemed to be of good pattern, i.e. correctly opened.
- (c) The hide is deemed to be of sound grain.
- (d) The hide is free from all other penalizing faults (see note).

NOTE. A pattern fault up to 80 mm in from the natural periphery of the neck, shoulder or belly is not considered a penalizing fault.

4.2.1.2 Second class

A slaughtered hide should be classified second class if the following apply.

- (a) The hide is deemed to be not so well flayed as a first class hide, i.e. it contains a hole or a combination of holes totalling not more than 80 mm in length in the butt, or more than 180 mm from the natural periphery of the belly or shoulder, but does not contain deep or excessive scoring in the butt.
- (b) The hide is deemed to be of fair pattern, i.e. reasonably well opened in the body of the hide with reasonably shaped shanks, and does not contain a pattern fault in consequence of excessive udder excision or other fault which extends more than 250 mm from the natural periphery of the belly or shoulder.

(c) The hide is deemed to be of medium grain.

(d) The hide bears a brand which is wholly within 180 mm of the periphery of the hide.

(e) The hide has the tail and/or an area not extending beyond 80 mm radius from the centre of tail root (see figure 1) affected by hairslip;

(f) The hide has no more than one warble hole.

A hide should not be downgraded from second to third class solely by reason of blind or healed warbles.

4.2.1.3 Third class

A slaughtered hide should be classified third class if the following apply.

(a) The hide is deemed to be badly flayed, i.e. contains deep or excessive scoring or is badly holed.

(b) The hide is deemed to be of poor pattern, including excessive udder excision or other fault which extends more than 250 mm from the natural periphery of the belly or shoulder or more than 80 mm from the natural periphery of the butt.

(c) The hide is deemed to be of poor grain.

(d) The hide bears a brand of which any portion is more than 180 mm from the periphery of the hide.

(e) The hide has holes or growths or callouses, or any combination of these, measuring more than 80 mm in diameter or length and coming wholly in the butt or more than 180 mm from the natural periphery of the belly or shoulder.

(f) The hide has up to 30 % of the area of the hide (excluding the area described in 4.2.1.2(e)) affected by hairslip.

(g) The hide has two or more warble holes.

4.2.1.4 Reject

A slaughtered hide should be classified a reject if less than 70 % of its area is suitable for the economic manufacture of leather.

4.2.2 Casualty hides

4.2.2.1 First class

A casualty hide should be classified first class if the following apply.

(a) The hide is deemed to be well flayed, i.e. does not contain a hole or a combination of holes totalling more than 80 mm in length in the butt or more than 250 mm from the natural periphery of the belly or shoulder and does not contain heavy score marks in the butt and where the total degree of damage is not more than 300 mm in length.

(b) The hide is deemed to be of good pattern.

(c) The hide does not have grain damage affecting more than 10 % of its total area.

(d) The hide is free of hairslip.