



**ahslea**

AUSTRALIAN HIDE, SKIN  
& LEATHER EXPORTERS  
ASSOCIATION

# Sustainability Framework

## Chemical Management

### Key points

- Use of higher concentration chemicals and eco-friendly alternatives where possible
- Effective chemical management in place
- Highly regulated area
- Ongoing interest and research into eco-friendly tanning alternatives

### Best practice

Chemical management includes both the **use of chemicals**, especially hazardous chemicals, the **handling of chemicals** and the safe **disposal of chemicals**. This reduces the impact of chemicals and/or reduces costs, as managing the consumption of chemicals includes both reducing the overall number and volume of chemicals used and using alternative “greener” chemicals. Best practice for handling and disposal of chemicals reduces the environmental and health impacts of chemicals and can lead to cost efficiencies.

### What the Australian industry is currently doing

- Implementation of full chemical re-use and recycling practices for chrome and salt at some sites.
- Boric acid is substituted with citric acid as an eco-friendly alternative in various processes.
- Opting to purchase chemicals in higher concentrations to reduce overall volumes required, leading to decreased transport and storage emissions.
- Effective chemical management system in place, tracking all chemicals from their origin to prevent environmental contamination (widely practiced across almost all sites).
- Regular testing for Chrome VI, conducting frequent checks on water and soil to prevent leaching and oxidation (performed several times throughout the year, nearly monthly).
- Ongoing research focused on eliminating chrome from the initial stages of the tanning process to minimise hazardous waste disposal.

### Sustainability Framework key industry commitment

- AHSLEA is committed to 100% compliance with EPA regulations and licence regulations, and zero use of restricted chemicals on an ongoing basis.

---

The Australian Hide Skin & Leather Exporters Association (AHSLEA) is the national membership body representing the interests of the major exporters of Australian cattle and calf hides, sheep and lamb skins, kangaroo skins and goat skins. It is also a member of the International Council of Hides, Skins and Leather Traders Association (ICHSLTA), which promotes, develops and protects the international trade in raw hides, skins and leathers.

[www.ahslea.com.au](http://www.ahslea.com.au)

---