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**Sustainable Leather Foundation  
Standard for Occupational Health and Safety**

**Reference:** FSG10.1

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**Peer Reviewed by:** I Kral and R Arbeid

**Accredited by:** XXX

**Original Creation Date:** 8 July 2021

**Peer Reviewed Date:** 1 November 2021

**Last Review Date:** XXX

**Next Review Date:** July 2022

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## **FSG10 OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY STANDARD AND BENCHMARK**

**Summary:** The SLF OHS infrastructure standard provides the context, audit of facility OHS infrastructure, and provides the facility under audit the methodology to analyse and report their health and safety infrastructure to an interested party ensuring the reporting of OHS matters, and such that the governance of the facility can be compared to global levels and to other facilities of similar size and type.



## 1. Scope

This SLF occupational health and safety standard (OHS) deals specifically with facility infrastructure – the physical facility details that are important to effective OHS. The SLF Audit Standard deals with specific questions that handle policy, systematic procedures, and the internal responsibilities for OHS (including emergency procedures). Worker protection (through non-infrastructure means) is directly handled in the Social Module of the SLF Audit Standard.

The Scope of this Audit Standard includes the facility and any of their sub-contractors. The method and definition of OHS infrastructure for all facilities in the leather value chain is included in this Standard. The facilities in the value chain include all facilities from the farm to the end-of-life of the leather.

The Standard on OHS infrastructure also includes the facilities (including their sub-contractors, and waste handling/treatment vendors) on their properties within Scope. The OHS infrastructure in question is only related to the Scope of the SLF audit (or mapped certification) that is being audited. The Scope of the OHS Infrastructure Standard does not include indirect activities that are related to the preparation of inputs - that are then used on the site (included within the Scope of the audit).

## 2. Normative references

The following referenced documents are useful in the understanding of this document and are provided for further guidance. In the case of dispute these references form the core of the evidence in support of the Standard and Benchmarks used here:

Health and Safety Executive (2021) A safe place of work. Online. (Available at: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/toolbox/workplace/facilities.htm>). Accessed on 8 July 2021.<sup>1</sup>

SLF (2021) *SLF Audit Standard v 1.0*. Sustainable Leather Foundation, Northampton, United Kingdom.

## 3. Terms and definitions

**Facility** – the facility being audited against this Standard. If the facility subcontracts to one or more third party, then the benchmarks found in this Standard will be used to judge the OHS infrastructure of those third parties.

**OHS** – occupational health and safety, the practices that ensure that workers in a facility are kept in good health and are supported in ensuring their personal safety is maintained. The corporate responsibility for safety supports the primary responsibility that the individual has for their own safety.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.hse.gov.uk/toolbox/workplace/facilities.htm>



## 4. Principle

### 4.1 Guarding or barriers

The facility should continuously invest in guarding and barriers that protect the worker against the effects of moving machinery and vehicles. Further the facility should continuously invest in barriers that ensure that the worker is contained at heights greater than 1 meter, or that in going up or down stairs or ramps there is a handrail that can help the individual in case of misstep or stumble. The barriers should be structurally fit for purpose, i.e., constructed of materials that can protect from moving parts. This Standard also acknowledges that in the absence of solid ground level guarding, that protects workers from fixed moving machinery, that an effective electronic eye system can be a viable replacement. The use of local positioning systems (LPS) on vehicles and worker detectors that ensure that a vehicle that electronically knows the location of humans is also accepted within this Standard – if the LPS/detectors are proven to avoid collisions.

### 4.2 Safety switches and electrical wiring

Safe electrical wiring means a wire conductor that is insulated (or safely embedded in connectors) that protects against current grounding on contact, and/or that prevents moisture (or actual water) from entering the circuitry.

Safety switches are cut-off switches that are located on machines, equipment, or are positioned in strategic positions within the facility that can be activated to terminate the movement (as rapidly as practicable) to ensure the worker against moving or closing parts of that machine.

### 4.3 Building integrity

The roofing, flooring and walls must be largely intact. Physical wear of roofing, flooring and walls will take place up to the point at which the roof, floor, or wall is imminently in danger of collapse (flooring in the case of platforms). Risk assessments should be initiated by the facility if the physical wear of a building component is beginning to cause concern.

Flooring can develop holes that increases the risk of trips and falls and could allow the leaching of chemistry into the soils below. Smooth flooring that becomes slippery when wet or contaminated with lubricants, must be slip-proofed to prevent injury. Risk assessments should be initiated by the facility if concerns begin mounting about a flooring component.

Hoses, equipment, drain, piping, materials (especially slippery materials that will be stood on) must be considered a slip or trip hazard and infrastructure to ensure worker safety must be planned for, with that planning resulting in a safety procedure. Drop-offs, holes, or drains should be guarded (see above) or should contain a grating, or solid cover.

### 4.4 Fire and first aid facilities

In the event of a fire emergency initial firefighting may be undertaken by trained personnel, who on the balance of a situational risk assessment deem a fire to be controllable by first responder fire wardens. The infrastructure to manage fires will include: regularly serviced, appropriate extinguishers (rated for that type of fire, hand-held or automatic systems); fire blankets (where appropriate); fire hoses; and fire buckets. Fire alarms or panic button for fire can also form part of appropriate fire prevention/control infrastructure.



First aid facilities located in the facilities accessible by trained first responders are appropriate essential infrastructure required by this Standard. Regular assessment of first aid equipment, that identifies missing elements or out-of-date consumables must form part of the expected approach to medical emergencies.

Appropriate signage designating emergency evacuation routes should be evident in the facility. Signage should also direct emergency (internal and external) to the location of emergency equipment and to safety evacuation meeting locations.

## 5. Procedure and benchmark

### 5.1 Guarding or barriers

- 5.1.1 The audit of the facility should consider evidence that the guarding and barriers on platforms, drop-offs, and moving machinery prevent the worker from being able to touch the moving parts.
- 5.1.2 The audit of the facility should consider evidence that the electronic detection systems on moving machinery or vehicles can prevent the worker from being injured.
- 5.1.3 There must be evidence that the guarding, barriers, or electronic detection being interrupted (or removed) will cause immediate cut-off of moving parts.

### 5.2 Safety switches and electrical wiring

- 5.2.1 The audit of the facility should consider evidence that there are appropriate functioning safety cut-off switches on all machinery.
- 5.2.2 The audit of the facility should consider evidence that all electrical wiring is well insulated, is not worn, and cannot be affected by water or moisture.

### 5.3 Building integrity

- 5.3.1 The audit of the facility should consider evidence that the walls of the facility are structurally sound.
- 5.3.2 The audit of the facility should consider evidence that the roofing of the facility is structurally sound.
- 5.3.3 The audit of the facility should consider evidence that the flooring of the facility is structurally sound and that the flooring prevents slips, trips, and falls.

### 5.4 Fire and first aid facilities

- 5.4.1 The audit of the facility should consider evidence that there is appropriate firefighting equipment located conveniently to the identified fire sectors.
- 5.4.2 The audit of the facility should consider evidence that there is appropriate signage indicating evacuation routes and the location of emergency equipment.
- 5.4.3 The audit of the facility should consider evidence that there is appropriate first aid equipment located conveniently to the identified departments.
- 5.4.4 The audit of the facility should consider evidence that there is a clearly indicated meeting point in case of emergency evacuation.

## 6. Diagnostic parameters

### 6.1 Guarding or barriers

- 6.1.1 To achieve this, there must be clear evidence that an auditor does not question the safety of the guarding, or barriers in terms of protecting. Examination of the area by the auditor should be able to satisfy the following questions:
  - 6.1.1.1 Can the worker touch the moving parts?
  - 6.1.1.2 Is the guarding, barrier, or detector of sound structure and in working order?



6.1.1.3 Does the moving equipment cut-off if the guarding, barrier, or detector is opened or triggered?

## 6.2 Safety switches and electrical wiring

6.2.1 Examination of the area by the auditor should be able to satisfy the following questions:

6.2.1.1 Are there any questionable wiring, isolators, or circuit boxes that have doubtful integrity?

6.2.1.2 Do all machines and equipment have emergency cut-off switches?

## 6.3 Building integrity

6.3.1 Examination of the area by the auditor should be able to satisfy the following questions:

6.3.1.1 Are there any questionable walls, roof, or flooring components that have doubtful integrity?

6.3.1.2 Does the flooring infrastructure prevent slips, trips, and falls?

## 6.4 Fire and first aid facilities

6.4.1 Examination of the area by the auditor should be able to satisfy the following questions:

6.4.1.1 Was there evidence of serviced and appropriate firefighting equipment?

6.4.1.2 Was there evidence of serviced and appropriate first aid equipment?

6.4.1.3 Was there evidence of serviced and appropriate emergency signage?

## 7. Report

The test report for OHS infrastructure is the latest digital or printed report that shows:

1. A reference to this Sustainable Leather Foundation Standard (i.e., FS009.1: 2021)
2. The OHS infrastructure findings giving the conformance/non-conformances in the following areas:
  - a. Guarding, detectors, or barriers
    - i. Contact
    - ii. Cut-offs
    - iii. Structurally sound and appropriate
  - b. Safety switches and electrical wiring
    - i. Integrity
    - ii. Cut-offs
  - c. Building integrity
    - i. Roofing
    - ii. Flooring (Slips, trips, and falls)
    - iii. Walls
  - d. Fire and first aid facilities
    - i. Firefighting equipment
    - ii. Safety signage
    - iii. First aid supplies
3. Whether the number of non-conformances (major/minor) constitute an overall non-conformance that would prevent the facility passing the OHS infrastructure governance element.

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