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**Sustainable Leather Foundation**

**Standard for BATNEEC / BPEO**

**Reference:** FSG6.1

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**FSG6 BEST AVAILABLE TECHNIQUES NOT ENTAILING EXCESSIVE  
COSTS / BEST PRACTICAL ENVIRONMENTAL OPTION  
(BATNEEC/BPEO)  
STANDARD AND BENCHMARK**

**Summary:** The SLF Best Available Techniques Not Entailing Excessive Costs / Best Practical Environmental Option (BATNEEC/BPEO) standard provides the context, definitions, and methodology around BATNEEC/BPEO in the leather industry. This document gives the facility under audit the principles and general expectations, but it is not exhaustive and recognises that there will be differences within regions for national and local laws.

Where there are matters of interpretation in relation to the standard, applicable laws or organisational



## 1. Scope

1.1 The *SLF BATNEEC/BPEO Standard and Benchmark* specifies guidance for the development of best available techniques surrounding environmental, social and governance (ESG) and their methods of operation for the leather industry. Best available techniques are most recognised as latest industry standard and contain an implementation procedure that is economically and technically viable.

1.2 A BATNEEC/BPEO process is an integral part of promoting an efficient and resourceful operation for the employees, management team and associated supply chain while minimising negative impact on the surrounding resources. BATNEEC/BPEO procedures support reduction in long-term costs while improving environmental, social and governance principles throughout the organisation.

1.3 The *BATNEEC/BPEO Standard and Benchmark* is intended to ensure that SLF certified facilities are aware of the necessary systems required to build, implement, and manage BATNEEC/BPEO and are actively working to improve their efficiency and productivity.

## 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 used here:

United Nations Industrial Development Organisation – Best Available Techniques Reference Document (BREF) – Jakov Buljan, Ival Král<sup>1</sup>

United Nations Industrial Development Organisation – The Framework for Sustainable Leather manufacture, Second Edition – Jakov Buljan, Ivan Král<sup>2</sup>

## 3. Terms and definitions

**3.1 Best Available Technique:** The most effective and advanced stage in the development of activities and their methods of operation which indicate the practical suitability of particular techniques for providing in principle the basis for emission limit values designed to prevent and, where that is not practicable, generally to reduce emissions and the impact on the environment as a whole.

**3.2 Best Practical Environmental Option:** The best method for a procedure that is least environmentally damaging and cost-effective in both the short and long-term.

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<sup>1</sup>[https://open.unido.org/api/documents/4670685/download/Review%20of%20some%20EU%20normative%20documents%20and%20legislation%20and%20their%20relevance%20for%20the%20tanning%20industry%20in%20developing%20countries%20-%20Best%20Available%20Techniques%20Reference%20Document%20\(BREF\)](https://open.unido.org/api/documents/4670685/download/Review%20of%20some%20EU%20normative%20documents%20and%20legislation%20and%20their%20relevance%20for%20the%20tanning%20industry%20in%20developing%20countries%20-%20Best%20Available%20Techniques%20Reference%20Document%20(BREF))

<sup>2</sup>[https://leatherpanel.org/sites/default/files/publications-attachments/the\\_framework\\_for\\_sustainable\\_leather\\_manufacturing\\_2nd\\_edition\\_2019\\_f.pdf](https://leatherpanel.org/sites/default/files/publications-attachments/the_framework_for_sustainable_leather_manufacturing_2nd_edition_2019_f.pdf)



**3.3 Process Activity Diagram:** A visual depiction of all the inflows, outflows and intermediate steps associated with a particular operation or business process (also commonly referred to as a process flow).

**3.4 Forecasting Plan:** A strategic outline that identifies possible future events, processes, and associated risks (environmental, social and governance) based upon historical data and trends.

## 4. Principle

4.1 The principle of the *SLF BATNEEC/BPEO Standard and Benchmark* is based upon the need for responsible organisations to develop systems to standardize operations in a way that optimises their performance while delivering on improved environmental, social and governance aspects. The establishment of a BATNEEC/BPEO procedure is intended to provide a systematic approach to the application of best available techniques by:

- 4.1.1 Establishing a strong management and housekeeping plan
- 4.1.2 Outlining a plan for substitution of chemicals, raw materials, and resources
- 4.1.3 Incorporating BATNEEC/BPEO measures within organisational policies, plans, and procedures
- 4.1.4 Specific focus on the application of BATNEEC/BPEO water, waste, energy, and air use, management, and treatment
- 4.1.5 Creating a feedback loop of existing procedures and emerging techniques for continuous improvement in all above areas

4.2 The BATNEEC/BPEO Standard is based on research compiled at an international level, referencing current performance and installations throughout the industry. Benchmarks are established where data is available for emission and consumption levels. All BATNEEC/BPEO applications also consider the costs associated and feasibility of implementation. Product specifications and local and international ESG requirements are also considered within the scope of this standard.

4.3 The BATNEEC/BPEO procedure will be most effective with alignment directly related to the conformities, obligations, and requirements of the organisation's legal, regional and customer requirements for its facility, service, product, and operations. The *SLF BATNEEC/BPEO Standard and Benchmark* provides an outline for the method of creating a system, however it is up to the organisation to apply a risk-based approach, seeking confirmation of its environmental obligations and requirements prior to audit and certification.

## 5. Procedure

5.1 The facility will provide data and documentation that demonstrates an effective management system to meet the requirements of the *SLF BATNEEC/BPEO Standard and Benchmark* as follows:

- 5.1.1 Evidence of a process activity diagram for each product type
- 5.1.2 List of all chemicals used in facility (and subcontractors, if applicable) with associated chemical classification
- 5.1.3 Table of comparison for each process step that compares the organisation's current technical against BATNEEC/BPEO (and subcontractors, if applicable)
- 5.1.4 Forecasting plan that outlines progress towards BATNEEC/BPEO



- 5.1.5 Evidence that the organisation has implemented and measured BATNEEC/BPEO benefits
- 5.1.6 Evidence linking BATNEEC/BPEO development with economic risk assessments, quality reports, environmental performance reports, and with health and safety assessments/reports
- 5.1.7 Feature BATNEEC/BPEO as part of the company annual report to the public and shareholders

5.2 The measurement of total BATNEEC/BPEO may differ throughout the leather industry based upon which part of the leather-making process the facility takes part in. Please reference the following SLF Explanatory Notes & Templates for specifics on BATNEEC/BPEO performance metrics and measurement methods. These documents are located in the “Technical Library” within the Partner Only Resources area of the website and are designed to support either in preparation for audit or for improvement measures:

<https://sustainableleatherfoundation.com/partner-only-resources/technical-library>

- 5.2.1 Explanatory Notes and Templates
  - a. Template 5 – Best Available Technique Register



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Industry Led – Consumer Focused

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