



A new system for hide cooling and weighing introduced in Spain

A system for the automatic weight classification and cold storage of raw skins has recently been installed by Industrial Igualadina S.A. at Igualada near Barcelona, Spain.

With the new equipment Industrial Igualadina, which is already well known as liming and tanning contractors, can now also provide the weight classification and cooling of raw skins with proper preservation procedures prior to further processing. Director General David Serarols was responsible for the project and is pleased with the fact that it enables him to offer yet another service to his clients.

The supplier of the new system is Feltre SRL of Chiampo near Arzignano in Italy. Forty years of experience working closely with tanneries in order to supply machinery for the automation of processes resulted in the creation of a partner in research and development of new solutions, explains Feltre principal Domenico Feltre who is supported in Spain by Luca Tisato.

The process and the equipment

The raw material is delivered from the slaughter house suitably crated or in bulk loads and is unloaded at the machine. The skins are picked up individually by an operator who suspends them on hooks mounted on wheeled trolleys. A conveyor arrangement then lifts the appended skins and places them into a temporary

holding magazine equipped with three tracks providing a storage capacity in excess of 200 skins. As soon as the batch of skins is loaded the operator moves to the weighing station where the skins, one at a time, are weighed on a PLC connected weigh scale. The PLC processes the recorded weights into three programmable categories.

The system signals track points following the weigh station leaving the operator to push each skin along as it enters the correct track leading to the cooling chamber. Skins remain on different tracks as programmed according to weight category and any special customer requirements.

The cooling chamber with a surface area of approximately 110 square metres holds up to 1,500 skins on 11 tracks. The tracks carrying the hook trolleys are inclined so as to minimise effort to move the skins.

Cooled skins ready for the liming process are moved by the operator to the exit point of the chamber. Disengagement of the suspended skins is automatic which are then taken by the operator to a maximum of three discharge points and placed into the containers as they become free. The hook trolleys are braked as they slide down their track, drop into a box and return to the start of the line.

The support structure of the equipment is executed in galvanized steel and the hooks are made of stainless steel.



Weighing the hides individually



Separating the hides by individual weight