



Tannery of the Year: China

The fifth programme of Tannery of the Year has yielded a candidate list of 10 excellent tanneries for China, two of which have been selected as finalists. We featured the report from Meihua Leather Company in the previous issue of World Leather.

All Tannery of the Year candidates have caught the attention of industry experts for their commitment to corporate social responsibility, including issues such as fair treatment of workers, respect for the environment, compliance with local and national laws, openness to innovation and to forming strong partnerships with suppliers and customers.

Fengan Leather, Fujian Province

Launched in 1984, Fengan Leather operates two factories in Jinjiang Fujian, one located in the Hongshan Industrial Area and the other in Andong Industrial Zone. Its main products are full-grain leather and split leather for the footwear, leathergoods and upholstery sectors and it has won a number of awards in its province. It places a strong focus on innovation, and has invested heavily in research and development.

Foshan Nanhai LandScore Leather, Guangdong Province

LandScore Leather Company is part of a wider industrial group in Guangdong province that also specialises in leather chemicals, leather gloves for industrial use and other finished products. The tannery, based at the Shang Bai Industrial Zone, works mostly from wet blue, importing the material from South America and other origins and finishing it in southern China.

Guangzhou Jiasheng, Guangdong Province

Based in the Huadu District of Guangzhou in the southern province of Guangdong, Guangzhou Jiasheng Leather was founded in 2010 and now employs more than 200 people. As well as making leather, the company has its own finished product factory and also manufactures accessories and other leathergoods.

Kasen Industrial Group, Zhejiang Province

The Kasen Group is one of China's largest furniture manufacturers, employing 12,000. The tannery supplies its own furniture factories, which export globally. Kasen also specialises in automotive leather and claims it has a significant presence in the Chinese automotive leather market.

Xinje Meihua, Hebei Province

Specialist Hebei-based tannery Meihua processes 23,000 sheepskins per day, concentrating on high-quality raw material: larger skins with fine wool. It uses around 90% of this material to make double face for

fashion footwear, although it also processes shearlings for lining leathers, and rugs. Meihua employs 1,600 people in total and the workforce has built up the high levels of skill required to work both sides of the skin with great care, as high-quality double face requires.

Quanzhou Jinxing Leather, Fujian Province.

Quanzhou Jinxing Leather supplies finished leather for footwear and gloves, and operates its own finished goods factories. Its glove-making division was established in 2004, and produces protective work gloves from full-grain leather, split leather, pig leather and pig splits.

Shavket Leather, Xinjiang Province

Shavket Leather was founded in 1999, initially processing fur but then moving into cattle and sheepskin processing, from wet blue to finished leather. It employs around 600 and mainly services the domestic market. The group also owns and operates a hotel.

Xinji Haiyang Leather, Hebei Province

Xinji Haiyang Leather was founded in 1984, and is located 60km from Shijiazhuang City. It operates a full-service tannery, supplying to the apparel, furniture, automotive and shoe industries. It works mainly with sheepskin, tanning 4 million pieces per year, as well as goatskin for the gloving industry.

Zhejiang Dazhong Leather Industry, Haining, Zhejiang Province.

Based in China's 'Leather City', Haining, Dazhong claims to be the country's oldest ongoing manufacturer of leather, having begun production 90 years ago. It consumes between 1,800 and 2,000 wet salted hides and 1,000 wet blue hides per day to make, mostly, chrome-tanned leather. It also processes 6,000 wet salted sheepskins per day and some goatskin. It makes finished shoe upper leathers, some crust for automotive leather, and fashion and golf-glove leathers from the small skins.

Zhejiang TongTianXing Group, Zhejiang Province

Zhejiang TongTianXing tannery is located in the Shenjia industrial zone in Quzhou City, Zhejiang Province. It mainly produces upholstery leather from cattle hides and has an annual capacity of about 50 million square-feet. About 400 people are employed at the site including more than 80 technicians and engineers. The tannery has received awards from provincial and central government authorities for its high technical and quality standards. ●

