



Flesh-side resin coating

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Gemata's 30 years of experience in the production of complete finishing lines, comprising roller machines, drying tunnels and spray booths, offers precision and reliability. Adding to this, Starface is a new, patented roller-coating machine specifically designed to apply a coating on the flesh side of hides.



Close up of the roller configuration. In conventional roller coating, the engraved roller would normally be on the bottom, applying a coating to the grain side of the leather. On the new Starface machine, the setup is altered so that the roller applies the coating to the flesh side.



The flesh finishing operation carried out by the Starface now allows full production line possibilities without having a break in the production.

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In traditional procedures, hides that are to be coated on the flesh side are turned upside-down. This means that it is impossible to include this process in a finishing line composed of machines that process hides on the grain side.

The Starface machine introduces a significant innovation in this practice as it allows the automation of the resin coating on the flesh side, therefore creating a continuous finishing line with the other coating machines. With the new roller-coater, hides no longer need to be put on a stand or pallet to be taken to the finishing line, but can be conveyed directly to the roller-machine or to the spray booth for base-coating. This eliminates possible contamination caused by the stacking of hides and by surrounding dust. Starface, therefore, offers advantages to the tannery, including an increase in the quality of finished leather and, consequently, its cutting area.

The new machine is designed differently compared with traditional roller machines. In this case, the lower roller is the engraved cylinder that conveys the chemicals and processes the flesh side of the leather. The quantity of resin

deposited is calibrated by the depth of the engraving of the coating roller. On the upper side of the machine, which comes into contact with the grain side, is a rubber feed-roller.

After coating on the flesh side, the hide is conveyed to a drying tunnel and then to the roller-coater or spray booth for its base-coating. Optimal drying and conditioning are achieved by selecting the drying tunnel most suitable to the production cycle for the customer. The hide can then be conveyed to the next machine and fed in by conveyors and feeding belts, which work in sync with the Starface and allow a perfect spreading and stretching of the hide.

This is technically favourable because all parts of the line communicate with each other and are in sync in terms of speed, pitch and emergencies. This is also advantageous in terms of management information because the centralisation of all process data in a single unit allows the factory's systems to acquire the information more easily and efficiently. The integrated design of the complete finishing line results in high added value for the end user. ●