



Ostashkov Tannery, Russia

In the records of Iosifo-Volokolamsky Monastery, it is stated that the merchant Grigory Savin founded the Ostashkov tannery in 1730. Built on the coastline of Lake Seliger, being a source of pure water for processing, the tannery is located around 350 km from Moscow and 320 km from St Petersburg.

Emperor Alexander I visited the tannery in 1870 in acknowledgement of services to the Russian army during the Patriotic war of 1812, and its customers included the British Navy throughout the 19th century. During Soviet times the factory specialised in leathers for high quality leathers for army officers' boots from imported raw materials, and industrial leathers.

Under the ownership of Russian entrepreneur Leonid Parfenov and the Australian industrial group Victor Smorgon, today, Ostashkov Tannery is one of the leading manufacturers of finished and semi finished leathers in the territories of the former USSR. It is also one of the largest integrated tanneries in Europe. At full capacity the tannery is capable of processing 120 tons of raw hides per day, with an annual output in excess of 45 million square feet of leather.

Considerable investments were made in the 1990s when the factory was fully upgraded. This included the construction of a new building 570 metres in length, and machine purchases from Yugoslavia's Costroi and Rizzi, totalling \$85 million. Further machinery has since been purchased from Barnini, Cartigliano, Fishini, Lixflora, Mosconi, Mostardini, Poletto, and Selini, and at present the capital investment is maintained



Ensuring the correct substance before dispatch

at more than \$1 million per year.

The company has developed its own system of procurement based on Russian hide supply. This is based on knowledge of the average quality, weight range, common defects and seasonal variations from each region. On arrival at the tannery, each skin is examined, cleaned and trimmed, then placed into categories that account for aspects of hide quality and characteristics. From these categories input lots are made up to enter manufacture for a full range of shoe upper leathers, crust furniture leathers and splits. Auxiliaries and processes are provided by the major international chemical companies.

The leathers are tested throughout manufacture, undergoing close selection in the crust state, and inspection as finished leather before customer shipment. Appropriate chemical and physical testing by the quality control department support these inspections.

As a large company, employing more than 1,000 people, the company acknowledges responsibilities for the district. Headed by a young team of European managers, an increase in both prosperity and social programmes for Ostashkov is seen as a long-term project for the company.

Based on 300 years of Russian tanning traditions, it is seen that the company is providing confidence for the future, contributes to the development of the Russian economy, and promotes a new business profile of Russia. 🌐

