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# WORLD LEATHER

THE WORLD'S NO 1 MAGAZINE  
FOR THE LEATHER INDUSTRY



**Tannery of the Year: China**  
**On the way to VOC-free leather**  
**Nothing to Hide: issues around land use**  
**Combatting counterfeit at London conference**



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- 6 Leatherscene** People from around the industry and famous lovers of leather who have hit the headlines in recent weeks.
- 8 Backtrack** News headlines from *www.leatherbiz.com*

## SPECIAL REPORT

- 13 Beast to Beauty Conference** The head of Mulberry's legal team joined Trading Standards, lawyers and private investigators to discuss the scourge of counterfeiting in the leathersgoods industry and the damage it does to brands. False labelling of leather was also on the agenda at the London-based event.

## NOTHING TO HIDE

- 13 Issues of deforestation** The livestock and leather industry has, in recent years, been linked to deforestation in the Amazon region. JBS Couros sustainability manager Fernando Bellese outlines the progress the Brazilian group, and the country as a whole, have made to improve traceability, and highlights a number of national and international sustainability initiatives in this, the third essay in our Nothing to Hide series.

## TECHNOLOGY

- 21 VOC-free leathers** Fogging problems considered to be resolved in automotive leather have begun to emerge again because of challenges associated with VOCs. Lanxess describes the difficulties this can pose to the tanner.

## REGIONAL COMMENTARY

- 26 China** The first six months of this year have proved turbulent as the government clamped down on 'polluting' industries and closed tanneries in Hebei. The knock-on effects are being felt across the entire leather pipeline but the China Leather Industry Association insists the changes will be positive for the country's best tanners in the long run.

## TANNERY OF THE YEAR

- 31 China** All 10 nominated tanneries from China for the fourth Tannery of the Year awards programme.
- 32 Henan Prosper** The tannery has ambitions to become one of the biggest and most successful sheepskin suppliers in the world. It produces footwear for brands including Ugg and has high hopes for its own finished-product brands.
- 42 Mingxin Leather** Automotive-focused Mingxin is proud of the pioneering work it has done in the sector, in particular its research into the best ways to produce chrome-free leather at an economically viable price.



**Cover image:** Image comes from Berlin-based leathersgoods brand Gretchen, showing the Solar Striped tote bag in pepper red from its current collection. Eight pairs of hands created the bag in 110 minutes of craftsmanship, using 28 hand-cut pieces of leather and more than 4,000 stitches.

CREDIT: GRETCHEN



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## AT A GLANCE

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