



Standard Practice for Sampling and Preparation of Salt Preserved (Cured) Hides and Skins for Chemical and Physical Tests¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This practice covers the sampling and preparation of salt-preserved (cured) hides for physical and chemical tests. The hides or skins to be tested are grouped into lots. Each lot is randomly sampled in such a manner as to produce a representative sample of that lot. This lot sample may be used to determine compliance of the lot with applicable specification requirements, and on the basis of results, the lot may be accepted or rejected in its entirety.

1.2 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as standard. The values given in parentheses are mathematical conversions to SI units that are provided for information only and are not considered standard.

1.3 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

2. Terminology

2.1 Definitions:

2.1.1 *brine-curing*—preserving by immersing flayed hides into concentrated/saturated salt (sodium chloride) solution until sufficient salt has been absorbed by the hide, thus making it temporarily resistant to bacterial action (cured).

2.1.2 *cure*—commonly used industry reference to salt preservation.

2.1.3 *cured hides (salted hides)*—commonly used industry term for salt-preserved hides.

2.1.4 *laboratory terms*—any laboratory terms and definitions employed within this practice are commonly used in normal laboratory practice and require no special comment.

2.1.5 *lot (or batch)*—units of products from a single type, grade, class, size, and composition, manufactured under essentially the same conditions and time.

2.1.5.1 *Discussion*—Salt-preserved hides in formed lots should be produced from:

- (1) Units of product of similar size and type,
- (2) Salt-preserved hides obtained from the same producer (functionally equivalent),
- (3) A single product method, or
- (4) Sequential production batches.

2.1.6 *salt preservation (cure)*—is defined as the action of applying salt (typically sodium chloride) to flayed hides in order to make them temporarily resistant to degradation by bacterial (enzymatic) action. Typically, this is achieved by either brine-curing or wet-salting (salt-packing).

2.1.7 *salt-preserved (cured) hides*—are defined as hides that have been processed into a condition that makes them temporarily resistant to degradation by bacterial (enzymatic) action. This is achieved by the application of adequate salt (typically sodium chloride) to the hide.

2.1.8 *unit*—an item of salt-preserved hide in the form in which it is purchased, such as a single hide, skin, or any part thereof.

2.1.9 *wet-salting (salt-pack)*—the action of applying sufficient granular salt (sodium chloride) to flayed hides (normally upon the flesh side) over sufficient time, in order to have the salt absorbed by the hide, making it temporarily resistant to bacterial action (cured).

3. Significance and Use

3.1 The sampling procedures described in this practice have been designed to ensure random sampling of salt-preserved hides and skins for physical and chemical tests. Salt-preserved hides are natural products and as such are subject to extensive variability. The physical and chemical properties vary considerably depending on location on that specific hide, side, or skin from which the test sample is taken. Random sampling of specimens from a predefined location and orientation minimizes test bias and variability. This practice defines these parameters.

3.2 In general, tests carried out upon salt-preserved hides require composite lot samples generated using the preparation methods described within this practice. Subsequent tests typically require those composite samples to be in two forms:

3.2.1 *Expressed Hide Fluid*—where residual hide fluid is pressed from each de-haired and cleaned individual hide sample, then equal volumes of each extracted fluid are blended together to create the composite sample.

¹ This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D31 on Leather and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D31.02 on Wet Blue.

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