



## NPDES Stormwater Multi Sector Generic Permit Guidance Sector Z: Leather Tanning and Finishing Facilities

This document was published as a guide only and it does not include all the applicable legal requirements. Facility Operators are responsible for obtaining complete information about applicable regulations. The Department does not relieve any person from any requirements of federal regulations or Florida law though this guide. As this document is only a guide, facilities may find that some aspects contained in this publication may not be applicable in their case.

**Sector Z – Leather Tanning and Finishing Facilities** of the Multi-Sector Generic Permit (MSGP) covers storm water discharges associated with establishments primarily engaged in tanning, currying, finishing hides and skins into leather and facilities which make fertilizer solely from leather scraps.

### Common Industrial Activities (not limited to):

Leather tanning or finishing is the conversion of animal hides or skins into leather. The three major processes required to make finished leather are beamhouse operations, tanyard processes and retanning and finishing processes. Beamhouse Operations—These consist of four activities: side and trim; soak and wash; fleshing and unhairing. Tanyard Processes—These consist of bating, pickling, tanning, wringing, splitting, and shaving. Retanning and Wet Finishing Processes—These include retanning, bleaching, coloring, fatliquoring, and finishing. Significant materials include raw materials, brine or salt cured hides and skins, fuels, materials such as solvents, detergents, finished materials; hazardous substances designated under Section 101(14) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), any chemical required to be reported pursuant to Section 313 of Title III of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act; fertilizers; pesticides; and waste products such as sludge (7.7 percent) that have the potential to be released with storm water discharge.

### Recommended BMPs (not limited to):

Stormwater treatment BMPs are intended to prevent or minimize the contamination of runoff, or treat runoff contaminated with pollutants.

- Store hides indoors if possible.
- Cover the hides with a roof or temporary covering (e.g., polyethylene, tarpaulin etc.).
- Minimize storm water runoff by enclosing the area or building a berm around the area.
- Inspect regularly for proper implementation of good housekeeping and control measures.
- Cover chemical drums & bags, empty lime & depilatory chemical containers and leather scraps with roof or temporary covering (e.g., tarpaulins, polyethylene) and store on elevated impermeable surface.
- Dust reduction through frequent inspection of vacuum, collector (bag & cyclone), filter systems, enclosure and covering.
- Employee training on good housekeeping, proper handling of chemicals.
- Grade berm or curb area to prevent storm water runoff contamination, divert rain gutters away from loading area.
- Conduct waste reduction assessment—develop guidelines for the elimination of waste generation emissions.
- Inspection of waste management areas for leaking containers, spills, damaged containers, uncovered waste piles, dumpsters, hoppers.

Industrial facilities which have the potential to discharge stormwater to surface waters of the State or into a municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) and fall under any one of the 11 categories of industrial activities identified in 40 CFR 122.26(b)(14), may require coverage under the Multi-Sector Generic Permit. To submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) for coverage, request a permit determination or to obtain a copy of [the MSGP Sector Z Specific Language](#) in its entirety, please contact the NPDES Stormwater Notices Center at: 866-336-6312 (toll-free) or by email at [NPDES-stormwater@floridadep.gov](mailto:NPDES-stormwater@floridadep.gov)

**NPDES Stormwater Notices Center**  
2600 Blair Stone Road, MS #3585  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2400  
<https://floridadep.gov/water/stormwater>



**Discharge Monitoring Reports**  
2600 Blair Stone Road, MS #2511  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2400  
<http://prodenv.dep.state.fl.us/DepEzDMR>