

Corporate Social Responsibility Highlights of 2018

FOOTPRINT MILESTONES

Smit & Zoon was active to reduce waste in the leather value chain:

- 🔹 Syntan ZLR 100, a zeolite-based retanning agent, received a Platinum Cradle to Cradle Material Health certificate
- 🔹 The second edition of the Product Passport was published; a guide for leather manufacturers to make more informed and sustainable chemical choices in their production processes
- 🔹 Started an R&D project to replace phenol with lignin in retanning products, thereby increasing its bio-based content and assessing the impact on the degree of biodegradability'
- 🔹 Smit & Zoon is the lead participant in the LIFE Biopol project, developing a new class of bio-based polymers as an innovative, eco-friendly alternative to existing products
- 🔹 Reconfirmed compliance of our products to (M) RSL and thereby confirming the absence of any restricted substances

SAFETY & HEALTH MILESTONES

Safety and health is the important topic and Smit & Zoon contributed to improvement in the following ways:

- 🔹 Continued promotion of "Safe Use of Leather Chemicals" through support to the Leather Working Group to include chemical management in its protocol
- 🔹 Roll out of a global 'Safe Use of Chemicals' campaign: educating employees, agents, and students

- 🔹 Improving Health and Safety at our own production facilities via thorough risk assessment in the Netherlands
- 🔹 Achieved compliance with the strict emission levels set by the authorities in China
- 🔹 Started a new production site in India adhering to industry standard HSE standards
- 🔹 Initiated a 'life and work in balance' program to ensure sustainable employability for our employees

ENCOURAGEMENT MILESTONES

Smit & Zoon recognizes that we cannot change the leather industry just on our own. We therefore are active in global industry initiatives to inspire and encourage others:

- 🔹 Became a member of ZDH in January 2018 and is active in a number of working groups
- 🔹 Issued and shared our Business Partner Code of Conduct with agents, distributors and key suppliers
- 🔹 Made significant contributions to the Responsible Leather Assessment tool, an initiative of the Charter of the Responsible Round Table
- 🔹 Smit & Zoon is a founding partner and active board member of the Tannery of the Future online tool. This tool helps leather manufacturers understand their role to create a more sustainable leather supply chain
- 🔹 Smit & Zoon is a member, financial contributor, and chair of the Leather Naturally organisation; globally promoting the use of sustainably manufactured leather

PEOPLE MILESTONES

At Smit & Zoon, we are proud of our employees and take good care of them. In 2018, highlights of our role as a sustainable employer included:

- 🔹 Finalization of the Competence Program: an extensive training program
- 🔹 Adjustment of the organizational structure, in order to ensure that everyone is working towards the same goals and with relevance and impact on the leather value chain
- 🔹 Participated in initiatives and projects in the communities where we are present



A drop makes a difference

When it comes to sustainability and Corporate Social Responsibility, a drop can make a difference. As small as any specific action, initiative or innovation may seem, it all adds up to the other efforts, big and small. This equally applies to everything that we do at Smit & Zoon as well as to all the contributions of others. By providing this summary of our CSR efforts, we aim to inspire others to take the necessary steps towards a more sustainable leather supply chain.

In order to minimize our footprint, our 2018 CSR report will not be published in print. Our complete CSR Report can be found online:

www.smitzoon.com/csr2018

SmitZoon.com



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 **SMIT & ZOON**