

**THE GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS OF GOODS**  
(Registration and Protection) Act, 1999

[To be filed in triplicate along with the statement of case Accompanied by Five  
Additional Representation of the Geographical Indication)

One Representation to be fixed with in the space and five others to be sent separately

Form G I - I

<b>A</b>	Application for the registration of a geographical indication in part A of the registration section II (1), Rule 23 (2) Fee. Rs. 5000 (See Entry No. 1-A of the First Schedule)
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To

The Registrar of Geographical Indications.  
Office of the Geographical Indications Registry  
Intellectual Property Office Building Industrial Estate,  
G.S.T. Road,  
Guindy, Chennai-600 032.

1. Application is here by made by Trichy Tanners Association, Trichy and Dindigul Tanners Association, Dindigul for the Registration in Part A of the Register of the Accompanying Geographical Indication furnishing the following particulars:-

- (a). Name of the Applicant : 1. The Trichy Tanners Association  
Society Registration No. 33/88
- (b). Address : No. 10, Pudukkottai Road,  
Sembattu,  
Trichy - 620 007.  
Tamil Nadu.  
  
2. The Dindigul Tanners Association  
Society Registration No. 38/85
- Address : 227/86, B Madurai Road,  
Begambur, Dindigul.  
Tamil Nadu.
- (c). List of Association of Persons / Producers organization / Authority : Please Refer Annexure - 1
- (d). Type of Goods : E.I. Leather (A particular Type of Vegetable Tanned Leather)
- (e). Specification :
- Colour : Characteristic Light Beige / Pale Golden  
Yellow Colour Depending on the Type of extract used.
- Taste : Astringent
- Tensile Strength : About 180 Kg/ Cm<sup>2</sup>
- Shrinkage Temperature : About 85° C

- Degree of Tannage : 40%
  - Smell : Characteristic Fragrance of Vegetable Tanned Leather Smell
  - Sound : Exclusive Characteristic crackling Sound if handled by hand.
  - (f). Name of the Geographical Indication (And Particulars) : 1. E.I. Leather  
2. LOGO (Enclosed)
  - (g). Description of the Goods : The product is leather made out from raw hides and skins which is Vegetable Tanned. The Age old process followed to manufacture this G.I. Product is unique with respect to pure vegetable extracts and other materials of vegetable origin used, combining the Human Skill involved in various stages with traditional recipes. The secret of Tanning lies in understanding the visual changes that the skin exhibits in various stage along with natural sunshine air and quality of water used in the process. Trichy E.I. Leather has its own uniqueness that are hidden with in the skin. Its unmistakable sound its feel, specific fragrance, its natural characteristics light beige colour, all are its individual characters exhibited under the influence of natural Geographical environment prevailing in Trichy.
  - (h). Geographical area of production : and MAP : These E.I. Leathers are produced in Tamil Nadu predominantly in Trichy, Dindigul and part of North Arcot District. Leather was the most important commodity that commercialized during the colonial period. In those days trade, markets, Railways and Ports have played major role in Transformation of whole range of industries. One such industry is Tanning. Thus Calcutta, Bombay and Madras were main destination of Tanned Leather and more Tanneries were established in colonial regime. Another important thin is availability of Raw Materials like Raw skins, Vegetable Tannins and Housing of British Army in Cantonments. Hence the Tanneries were established in Madras, Trichy, Kanpur, Bangalore and Amritsar etc.
- Similarly Pallavaram, a suburb of Madars, Trichy and Dindigul 200 miles South, Ambur about 110 miles West, witnessed a spectacular growth of Tanneries shortly before and during the first World War. The region enjoyed proximity to the best Vegetable Tannins in India, the South India Avaram Bark (Cassia Auriculata) Salem Myrobalan Nuts

(Terminalia chebula) and South India Konnam Bark (Cassia Fistula). The characteristic light beige color and exclusive fragrance of E.I.Tanned Leather were imparted from these vegetable Tannins.

Avaram Bark was generally acknowledge to be superior to the North Indian Tanins and its best use was in skins and not in hides. An added factor in the choice might have relative advantages of regions in live stock. The Madras presidency's lay in goats and sheeps animals more adaptable to drier and drought prone regions. Further Railways connected Madras, Trichy and Erode with a wide area stretching from Tamil Nadu Country side to the Southern Andhra, Kerala and from the Deccan to Orissa supplying skins. To these natural advantages were added the growth of the cities resulting as a destination of migrant Labour/ The main body of manual workers drawn from agrarian Labour castes, chiefly the "PARAYARS" who have mastered the art of E.I. Tanning process. In light of the above reasons Trichy and Dindigul continue to produce E.I. Leather ever since its existence till today where us other Tanning Centre has mostly switched over to chrome Tanning. Certified Map already sent.

(i) Proof of the origin  
(Historical Records)

Traveller – Adventurer Venetian Diplomat, Marco polo extensively report about his travels in India in the 13<sup>th</sup> century and mention about use of Tanned Leather Dress in India. The Tanning Technology under went many changes during mogul period. Evidences and records are available on various use of leather including for coins during mogul periods. The British East India Company Assumed administrative functions in India and in order to merchandise cheaply the essential items such as leather and army related leather accoutrements, Tanneries were set up based on European methods of vegetable Tanning. The first large sized Tannery was set up in India by Thomas Parry in 1805 in San Thome Madras followed by three more in Hoosure, Bangalore and Chennai.

Until the beginning of 19<sup>th</sup> century, avaram tanning was popular for tanning of skins and hides in South but tended to produce leathers that on exposure to air underwent fawn red discoloration which was the distinguishing feature of county tanned

leather. Another significant Development took place in the 1804's when a French Eurasian in Pondicherry, Charles De susa, introduced Techniques of Leather Tanning using Myrobalan (Terminalia Chebula) to prevent darkening of colour on oxidation of locally produced avaram bark tanned vegetable leather with some modification in process and this created the famous East India (E.I.) Tanning Technology that has endured till today, almost unchanged. After the first war of Independence in 1857, the British realized that as supplies from England to the British Army in India were severely impeded by distance and other factors. They setup additional Tanneries in India particularly in Madras and more Tanneries came in Trichy Dindigul and North Aroct. There after E.I. Leather export picked up in European Countries namely London, France, Spain, Italy, Germany and also to Japan. E.I. Leather from Indian is listed in leather markets in the world till today.

Trichy has the History of connection to Tanning since 1850. On 17<sup>th</sup> April 1851, a trade council meeting was held at College Road in Madras which was a preparation for an Indian Industrial Exhibition in London in 1851. The council was led by William Urquhart Arbuthanot. In this there were raw hides and skins, vegetable Tanned leather from Trichy Vegetable dyes and other Animal bye products were on display and waiting for export for display in London Exhibition. The skins were tanned from cassia fistula bark from Condpilly, Tungadoo Bark from Trichy. The exhibition was a great successes and Indian Raw hides and skins, Vegetable Tanned Leather (E.I. Leather) fetched a good price.

In the year 1915, a leather trade institute was opened in Washermanpet, Madras with Mr. A. Guthrie M.B.C., was appointed as leather expert and Principal and Mr. Rajamanickam Naidu as Vice Principal. The Tanners of Madras Presidency consulted the institute for solving certain Technical problems that the Tanneries faced in those days and produced good number of leather Technicians.

(j) Method of Production : The original method of E.I. Tanning which employed locally available tanning material chiefly, avaram and myroblanhas undergone evolution primarily to reduce drudgery, duration of processing as well as to improve the yield but retaining all the

other important characteristics of the leather. Now days wattle extract in solid and powder form extracted from wattle bark tree (*Acacia Mollissima* Wild) is used in entire supersession of avaram bark for Tanning of skins as this contains 35% Tanning contents compared to 18% Tannins present in avaram bark. Wattle bark extract in the form of power or solid when processed in drum penetrates the pelt very quickly thus shortening the time of tanning greatly and produces fairly light colored E.I. Leather which is liked by both domestic and foreign buyers. The traditional process followed for the process as given in the monograph by B.M.Das, who had used the information available from Department of Industries, Madras Bulletin No. 40 entitled Handbook of the Tanning Trade of South India by Major A.Guthrie, are reproduced to appreciate the changes that has happened primarily in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Traditional E.I. Tanning process for the skins :

**Soaking :**

The skins are soaked in pits which are usually built above floor level. The size of the soaking pits varies from tannery to tannery. In many tanneries the pits are 4 feet square and 2 feet deep. Fresh are soaked in these pits in 2 to 3 hours then trampled to remove the salt and to soften after which they are washed with water. Dry salted skins are left overnight in the soak water by which they are salted. Next morning they are broken over the beam house proves stretches them out and considerably softens them by the mechanical action of the blunt edge of the unhairing knife with which they worked. Dry skins are soaked for 24 to 36 hours in many tanneries in water alone in some of the advanced ones in a 0.1 per cent solution of caustic soda or 0.2 per cent solution of sodium sulphide. Certain amount chlorine is a useful addition to the soak pit to prevent putrefaction. Chlorine

gas is nowadays available from Tata Chemical Works in combined forms. It is beneficial even to the soaks in which caustic soda has been used, but is no good adding to the sodium sulphohide as the latter reacts with chlorine producing inert substance which have little antiseptic action.

**Liming :**

Soaked skins are limed. Sheep skins having wool are coated on the flesh side with a thick paste of lime and folded up into bundle piece by piece. The bundled skins are kept overnight and next morning the wool is pulled out by women who grip the wool with their fingers and a short piece of wooden rod like a pencil while pressing the skin with their feet. Black and white wool are kept in separate heaps as the latter fetches higher price than the former. The dewooled skins are put in old lime liquor. The hair sheep and goat skins whose hair is of no commercial value is put in to the old lime liquor straightaway. The lime pits are 4 feet square and 2 feet deep sunk below the floor. The lime liquor through which one lot of skins has passed may be considered as old. It is strengthened by the addition of some slaked lime. It is advisable to take this lime in a loosely woven basket and partially immerse it in the lime liquor of the pit retaining the coarser particles of the lime and its gritty impurities in the basket. The lime liquor is then thoroughly stirred to mix up the lime sediment with the water. The skins are then thrown in and immersed in the liquor one by one. They are kept in the old lime for 8 to 10 days during which period they are taken out and piled on the sides of the pit the lime liquor stirred up

and the skins put back every days. After this time the hair or the remnant of the wool becomes sufficiently loose to allow the unhairing to be done. Unhairing is done in the usual way on beam. The unhaired skins are put into fresh lime liquor for 4 5to 6 days, hauling up stirring the lime and putting the skins back every day. In the new lime liquor the swell up. For total liming about 1 lb. Shell lime required per skin.

**Washing, fleshing and scudding :**

Washing after liming is done in the pits which are built above the floor level in order that the water after washing may be easily run out. The pits are 5 to 8 feet square and 2 feet 6 inch deep. Skins are washed in 8 to 20 changes of water, over a period of 3 to 96 hours depending upon the nature of skins. The better the quality of the skins the more will be the washing. Between these washing the skins are fleshed and scudded.

This fleshing is done by putting one skin at a time on the beam flesh side up and scraping that side with a fleshing knife by placing a number of skins on the beam grain side up. The limed skins are taken in the water in a pit and are washed by trampling upon them in two changes of water. They are then fleshed on them beam. They are then washed again by trampling in two more changes of water after which they are scudded. After this first the skins are washed again. The wash water is run out and the skins kept in fresh water over night. Next day they are fleshed second time after which they are washed by trampling again in two changes of water and scudded for the second time. After this they are washed twice by tramping and left

overnight in clean water and the following morning again in two changes of water. They are again scudded, washed by trampling twice and scudded finally. In addition to all the above goat skins are beaten with specific beaters or kicked by wormal's feet twice., once before the last but of and again before scudding. In the first scudding the skins are removed of the short hair, lime soap and the natural dirt of the skins. The skins fall in the process and the falling ensures softness and pliability in final leather.

Madras tanners delime the pelt by this long and laborious process. But can be replaced by the quicker and less arduous process of chemical liming followed by bating with synthetic bates or by bran trenching. In chemical deliming boric, acetic or oxalic acid may be used. One per cent on the pelt weight of the first two and half per cent of the third will be sufficient. After removal of the lime from about one third the pelt thickness at the grain and flesh with the deliming a acid the pelt weight of synthetic bate until thoroughly delimed. Instead of chemical deliming and bating, the deliming may be done by drenching with wheat bran. For this 5 percent on pelt weight should be soaked in tepid water to which some quantity of old drench liquor should be added to quicken the fermentation, a day before use and allowed to ferment. The pelt should be treated with this fermented liquor suitably diluted with water until it is completely delimed, well pulled down and cleansed.

**Tanning :**

This is invariably done with avaram bark mostly in large wooden tubs and rarely in



masonry pits. The tubs are about 3'-6" to 4' height and 3'-6" in diameter in which 100 skins can be tanned. Tanning wooden tubs produces a lighter color than in masonry pits. Very great care is taken to ensure the lightest possible color in the tanned skins because dark and dull color considerably depreciates their value. For this the bark used is at first cleansed so that the dirt, sand and grit often associated with the bark may not darken the color of the leather. The bark is at first sieved which removes the fine particles which pass through the sieve. It is then put into water and after a short immersion taken out. In this way it is rapidly passed through about 3 waters whereby the sand and grit settle down at the bottom of the tub containing the wash water and the bark is washed out in this process but this is more than compensated by the better color obtained in the leather.

Three pounds of the air dry avaram bark are required for a pound of tanned skin. To start the tanning old avaram bark liquor through which the lot of skins has passed is taken in a tub. About 1.5lb of avaram bark of each pound of the expected leather is taken and cleansed as described above. The clean bark is then put into the tub containing the old liquor and soaked in it for 24 hours. During this period the bark is stirred several times to facilitate the extraction of its tannin by the liquor. The washed and delimed skins are then dipped in this liquor one by one moved to and from bottom of the tub when all the skins have been laid down they are hauled from the liquor one by one and piled on the place where the rims of adjacent tubs touch each other. This is done to avoid the skins

are coming in contact with the iron hoops of the tubs whereby the skins would be stained black. The bark in the liquor is then stirred. The skins are paired grain to grain and each such pair is dipped in the liquor moved to and fro a few times then pressed down into the liquor. Pairing grain to grain is done to cause the absorption of tannin more through the flesh than grain side of the skins. This produces a lighter and more even color in the tanned skins. After about 2 hours the skins are removed and piled the bark and the liquor stirred up and the skins put back again as usual. The skins remain in the liquor overnight.

The skins are hanged facing one another and one of their hind shanks is thrown over a fixed round wooden peg and taking the loose ends of the shanks into the fold of the hanging skins the latter are twisted to wring out the water. Each wring out skin is then places flesh side up on a slanting beam made from the followed out trunk of a palm tree and worked by an unhairing knife in stretch out the skin first lengthwise and then breadthwise to give it a square pattern as far as possible.

The skins are then placed in the liquor of the tub. But this time the bark which used to lie on the bottom of the tub in previous handling is now strewn between the skins just as is done in dusters and layes in heavy leather tannage. They are kept thus laid down for one day. The following morning the skins are taken out and piled over the sides of the tubs for some tome and laid down again strewing the bark on each skin. The skins are handled in this way for four days by which time they absorb the available tannin and the bark

and the liquor are both practically exhausted. After these four days the skins are wrung out and worked on the beam on the flesh side with the unhairing knife for the second time.

The spent bark of the tub is thrown away and the liquor is undisturbed for some time so that the sediment in it may settle down at the bottom. About two thirds of the clear liquor is removed with bucked to another tub and diluted with water to make the required volume for handling the skins in it again. About 1.5 lbs of avaram bark per each pound expected leather is sieved and washed as previsouly for cleaning and soaked in the liquor of the tub. The stretched skins are put in this liquor strewing bark on each skin and dept so laid during the day. Towards evening the skins are taken out and piled. They are then dipped in the liquor paired grain to grain moved to and fro a few times and finally immersed in it by pressing them down. They remain in this condition without any bark between them during the night. The following morning they are removed from the liquor piled and then again laid down in the liquor strewing bark on each skin and are kept so during the day. In this way they are then removed wrung out and worked on the flesh side with the unhairing knife over the beam for the third time. Skins of light and medium weight are by now tanned through and given the myroblan bath. But heavy skins are given another liquor for a further week and then wrung out and worked on the beam which completes their tannage.

After tanning with avaram bark the skins are treated with myroblam liquor. For this

25lbs of myroblans of the yellow colored Salem variety are taken for 100 lbs of the expected leather. The nuts are crushed and soaked in boiling water. The extract so prepared is diluted with cold water to make up the required volume of the liquor which is then strained through a piece of cloth to separate the solid particles from the liquor by one an piled in another tub placed near by. When all the skins have so piled the myrob liquor is poured over on the pile of skins. Care is taken to avoid formation of air bubble between the skins which would cause dark edged round stains on them. The skins are kept in this liquor for a short time after which they are removed one by one and piled in another tub. The liquor is poured on the pile on this tub and the skins kept overnight. This completes the myrobaln treatment which is necessary to prevent the tanned skins from assuming a dirty reddish color on exposure to light to which discoloration pure avaram tanned leather is piled flesh side up and stretched out well with an unhairing knife lengthwise, breadth wise and at all angles to give a square pattern. The stretched out sknis are kept in a pile placing them grain side up and flesh to grain. Each skin is then oiled up by sprinkling til (Sesame) oil well in by hand. The oiled skins are kept in another pile grain to flesh. After the skins have remained in the oiled condition for some time, they are again rubbed with hand both grain and flesh and then hung up to dry partially. When the skins are in sammed condition, that is to say when a little moisture oozes out on strongly squeezing them at a double fold they are taken down and piled in a tub covered up and left overnight to equalize the moisture. Next day they are set out with a brass or

copper slicker on a marble or glass table. The setting is done on the flesh side stretching the skins out in the same directions as was done when they were worked on the beam after the myroblam bath. This keeps the shape and pattern on the skins intact otherwise they may go out of shape and become shaggy. The set out skins are hung up again and dried out completely.

The dried skins are then staked by hand on a hand staker to make them pliable. Staked skins are fluffed by rubbing the flesh side with "Jhama", i.e., a piece of over burnt brick or with sand paper warpped round a piece of wooden block of suitable size for gripping with the hand. The fluffing produces a nice nap on the flesh side. The edges of the skins are trimmed and they are then sorted first on the basis of weight.

**Current Method of production of E.I. Leathers from Skins:**

Salted skins are soaked for 4 hours and washed twice. The skins were pasted with lime and sodium sulphide for about 6 hours and then the hair is removed using knives on wooden beams in traditional tanning process. Today, unhairing machines are used to increase productivity.

The unhaired skins are put in lime pits with 35% lime and handled twice manually for four days and checked every day for plumping. On 5<sup>th</sup> day, scudding is done using scudding knives on traditional wooden beams to remove the short hair and pigments (today some tanneries use scudding machines to increase productivity) and reliming is done in the pits. On 8<sup>th</sup> day, skins are removed and fleshing is done by fleshing knives on

wooden beams (now machines are used for unhairing to increase productivity as well as to reduce the dredgery.

At this stage after removal of hair and flesh, the skins are called "PELTS" and pelt is weighted. Then the pelt is delimed and degreasing carried out in paddle after which the pelt is pickled with 10% salt and about 0.5-1.0% sulphuric acid and kept over night. Next day (9<sup>th</sup> day) the pelt is adjusted for pH to 4 and tanning is done with 15% wattle extract 5% G.S. powder in drum. Next day (10<sup>th</sup> day) myrobing is done in drum with 8% myroblan (Fermented Bath) and piled over night. On 11<sup>th</sup> day the tanned skins are sammed and dipping done in glucose, Epsom salt, hypo, oxalic bath in tub and taken for oiling with 1% pungam oil, then hooked in dry shed for drying for a day. Next day (13<sup>th</sup> day) after checking the dryness setting is carried out in setting machine and hooked again for drying the skins. Next day (14<sup>th</sup> day) buffing is done in the machine in the flesh side for smooth feel and trimmed and packed for dispatch.

As is evident from the above process descriptions, the pit method has given way to drum method and ready to use wattle/mimosa extracts and spray dried powders have replaced avaram almost completely.

(k). Uniqueness

: The following are the unique qualities of the product

E.I. Leather take times to develop, then only it reveals the qualities that are hidden with in the skins :

Its unmistakable sound

Its Unique feel

Its specific fragrance (smells like Leather)

Its capacity to age properly as leather ages, its appearance alters for better

The combination of Tanning materials is very unique. Possibility to generate high gloss on rubbing, flat and smooth surface are its special characters.

E.I. Leather enjoys the advantage of fullness, covering of minor defects leading to up gradation, increased fibre compaction better hygiene, Good water perspiration absorption and cost effectiveness.

The colour of the product is very special and the light that lends the natural leather a warm pale golden tone which is unique that is amenable for converting into different uses like garments, shoes, furniture and Leather Goods.

(1). Inspection Body : Association will regularly monitors the source of Tanning materials used, the process technique adopted and every day production reported to the association etc.,

A panel of competent and experienced technical personnel both with in association and from Central Leather Research Institute will help the Tanners to produce good quality E.I. Leather.

Association will ensure that its members should adopt the prescribed procedure and materials as set by the association in the course of Tanning process in order to produce uniform quality and nature of the product.

Other : NIL

Along with the statement of case in class 18 in respect Goods : Leather in the name of Trichy and Dindigul Tanners Associations whose address is No. 10, Pudukkottai Road, Sembattu, Trichy - 620 007. who claims the interest of the producers of the said goods to which the geographical indication relates and which is in continuous use since 1865 in respect of the said goods.

2. The other particulars called for in Rule 32 (1) are furnished in the statement of case itself.

3. All communications relating to this application may be sent to the following address in India.

1. The Trichy Tanners Association  
"Tanners Mansion"  
No. 10, Pudukkottai Road,  
Sembattu, Trichy - 620 007.

2. The Dindigul Tanners Association  
227/86, B Madurai Road,  
Begambur, Dindigul.  
Tamil Nadu.

4. Additional particulars incase of application from convention country.

Does not arise.

SIGNATURE

*V.S.M. Varis Mohideen*

**V.S.M. VARIS MOHIDEEN**  
**SECRETARY TRICHY**  
**DATE : 16.10.07**

SIGNATURE

*C.K.C.M. Maha Boob Subahani*

**C.K.C.M. MAHA BOOB SUBAHANI**  
**SECRETARY DINDIGUL**