

Leather Impact Accelerator (LIA) Document Guide

LIA is a framework that sets existing industry tools into a coherent package and enables leather supply chain members – from farmers to retailers – to contribute to a more responsible leather supply chain. This guide is intended to provide an understanding of the breadth of documents available for use and to assist those wishing to participate in LIA with details and links to applicable documents.

Core LIA Documents

The core LIA documents are those which provide criteria and procedures for becoming LIA-approved at the farm or leather production levels, as well as which third-party verifiers will assess conformity with, and standards owners will be benchmarked against.

Farm Level LIA Documents

- [Animal Welfare Standards Benchmark](#)
- [Deforestation/Conversion-Free \(DCF\) Protocol](#)

Leather Production Supply Chain LIA Level Documents

- [Leather Production Environmental Standards Benchmark](#)
- [Leather Production Social Standards Benchmark](#)

LIA User Groups & Accompanying Documents

Brands & Retailers	Farmers	Partner Programs	Third-Party Verifiers	Leather Production Supply Chain	Standards Owners
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Brands and Retailers

Brands and retailers may work with LIA in several different ways. They may choose to source directly from LIA-approved suppliers or farms (when available), purchase Impact Incentives, or participate in the LIA Corporate Commitment and map their supply chains. Brands and retailers may also use the *LIA Claims Guide* to communicate about their work with LIA.

Documents for Brands and Retailers



[LIA Claims Guide](#)



[LIA Corporate Commitment Guide](#)



[Leather Production Supply Chain Mapping & Traceability Guidelines](#)

Farmers

In order to become a LIA-approved farm, a farm must be certified to a standard that is approved to the LIA *Animal Welfare Standards Benchmark* and/or be verified to the *DCF Protocol*. The farm must also be participating in a live animal traceability system that tracks the purchase and sale of individual cattle, guidelines for which are included in both farm-level documents below.

When available, a list of LIA-approved animal welfare standards will be shared.

Documents for Farmers

 [Animal Welfare Standards Benchmark](#)

 [Deforestation/Conversion-Free Protocol](#)

Partner Programs

Partner Programs are on-the-ground projects or initiatives that support a farms or farm groups to improve their practices by helping them meet the *DCF Protocol* and/or the *Animal Welfare Standards Benchmark*. Partner Programs may join [Impact Partnerships](#) with brands and sell Impact Incentives to aid their work in helping farmers meet LIA.

Documents for Partner Programs

 [Animal Welfare Standards Benchmark](#)

 [Deforestation/Conversion-Free Protocol](#)

 [LIA Verification Manual](#)

Third-Party Verifiers

Third-party verifiers confirm that the criteria for the *Deforestation/Conversion-Free (DCF) Protocol* are met. They are also responsible for verifying the required Farm Questions, confirming the traceability system used, and registering qualifying Impact Incentives onto the Incentive Trading Platform.

Note: *Requirements for third-party verifiers/certifiers for animal welfare are determined by the individual standards approved to LIA Animal Welfare Standards Benchmark. These verifiers may also register Impact Incentives associated with animal welfare on the Incentives Trading Platform.*

Documents for Third-Party Verifiers

 [LIA Verification Manual](#)

 [Deforestation/Conversion-Free \(DCF\) Protocol](#)

Leather Production Supply Chain

Leather production supply chain facilities may become LIA-approved through being certified to standards that meets both the environmental and social benchmarks for LIA. In addition to certification, supply chain members are also required to be participating in a hide traceability system; guidelines for traceability are included in the *Leather Production Supply Chain Mapping & Traceability Guidelines* document below.

When available, a list of LIA-approved leather production standards will be shared.

Documents for Leather Production Supply Chain

 [Leather Production Environmental Standards Benchmark](#)

 [Leather Production Social Standards Benchmark](#)

 [Leather Production Supply Chain Mapping & Traceability Guidelines](#)

Standards Owners

Schemes may apply to have their standard's criteria benchmarked against the applicable LIA benchmark document for either animal welfare or leather production*.

The overall process for being benchmarked is outlined through the *Standards Benchmark Approval Process*, during which the standard's management protocols will be assessed through the *Standards Management Criteria*.

**Leather production supply chain facilities must meet both environmental and social benchmarks*

Documents for Standards Owners

Benchmark Scope Documents

 [Animal Welfare Standards Benchmark](#)

 [Leather Production Environmental Standards Benchmark](#)

 [Leather Production Social Standards Benchmark](#)

Benchmark Process Documents

 [Standards Benchmark Approval Process](#)

 [Standards Management Criteria](#)