Guidelines for Applying for the JLIA Sustainable Certification

June 2025

Version 1.1

JLIA: Japan Leather and Leather Goods Industries Association

(Non-Profit Organization)

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1. Introduction

1-1. Background and Objective

In recent years, there has been a rapid increase in global interest in sustainability, driven by concerns such as climate change, resource depletion, and the need for improved labor conditions. In 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the "2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development," which includes the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Since then, various initiatives have been undertaken worldwide to achieve these goals under the guiding principle of "leaving no one behind," while aiming for sustainable economic growth.

The leather and leather goods industry are no exception, and there is a growing demand for efforts to reduce environmental impact and establish responsible production systems.

In international markets, it is becoming increasingly difficult for companies to maintain business relationships and brand value unless they meet standards related to environmental responsibility and respect for human rights. Major fashion brands and retailers are accelerating efforts to impose strict environmental and social standards throughout their supply chains.

In the global leather industry, audits are now being conducted by organizations such as the Leather Working Group (LWG) and the Sustainable Leather Foundation, and obtaining certification is becoming a prerequisite for doing business with global brands. However, these international audit systems require responses entirely in English, have rigorous certification criteria, and involve high costs.

For small and micro enterprises in Japan, whose production volumes have significantly declined compared to their peak, obtaining and maintaining such global certifications poses a considerable burden.

Considering these circumstances, our association has established the "JLIA Sustainable Certification" (hereinafter referred to as "this certification") as a unique sustainability certification system tailored for the leather industry. This certification has been designed with the following objectives:

- Fulfillment of Social Responsibility: To ensure safe working environments and the
 protection of human rights, and to offer an attractive leather industry market with fair
 and appropriate labor conditions.
- Reduction of Environmental Impact: To support the reduction of environmental impact
 throughout the life cycle of leather and leather products, in response to growing
 international demands, and to minimize the environmental footprint of the domestic
 leather industry.
- Ensuring Transparency: To promote traceability across the supply chain—from raw material procurement to final product—and to build a system that earns the trust of consumers and business partners.

This guide is intended to serve as a support tool for companies aiming to obtain certification, helping them understand these objectives, assess their current practices, and move forward with concrete sustainability initiatives.

1-2. Purpose of this guide

This guide is designed to support applicants in proceeding with the certification process smoothly and accurately. By helping users understand the purpose of the certification and the intent behind the questionnaire, it aims to support the following three objectives:

① Deepening understanding of the certification

It supports applicants in clearly understanding the standards and background required by the JLIA Sustainable Certification, enabling them to approach the application process with confidence by aligning these requirements with their own company's initiatives.

② Supporting the completion of the checklist

The checklist includes technical terms and industry-specific standards. This guide provides clear explanations of these elements to support the accurate and effective completion of responses.

③ Encouraging the enhancement of your company's sustainability initiatives

Obtaining the certification is not the goal, but rather a step toward promoting sustainable management. This guide is designed to provide insights that can help enhance your company's efforts to reduce environmental impact and strengthen social responsibility.

2. Application Procedures

Companies wishing to obtain certification under this system should follow the procedures outlined below:

① Submission of Application Documents

Companies seeking certification must prepare and submit a complete set of application documents in the prescribed format to the Association. For details on the required documents, please refer to Section 3, "Application Documents."

Submission	₹111-0043
address	JAPAN LEATHER AND LEATHER GOODS INDUSTRIES
	ASSOCIATION
	7F Hikaku Kenpo Kaikan, 1-12-13 Komagata, Taito-ku, Tokyo, 111-0043
	e-mail: sdgs@jlia.or.jp
	TEL: 03-3847-1451、FAX: 03-3847-1510

The application fee for this program is currently free of charge. However, please note

that there may be changes in the future due to revisions in the program's operation, including the potential introduction or modification of application fees. Any such changes will be announced in advance through the official website and other relevant channels, with sufficient notice provided prior to implementation. Please be aware that future applications, including renewal certifications, may be subject to a fee.

2 Review of Application Documents by JLIA

The submitted documents will be reviewed by the JLIA secretariat to check for consistency of the information provided and the completeness of the required materials. If any deficiencies or omissions are found during the review, the company may be asked to submit supplementary materials or provide additional information.

③ On-site Inspection

Based on the document review, certification auditors—comprising third-party members (hereinafter referred to as "auditors")—will visit the applicant company's facilities to conduct an on-site inspection. This inspection involves not only verifying the information provided in the documents but also conducting a comprehensive assessment, including interviews and visual checks of equipment conditions, working environments, and management systems. If multiple facilities are reported at the time of application and their business activities are similar, a representative facility will be selected for the inspection. The selection of facilities to be audited will be determined through consultation between the applicant and the Association.

4 Review and Decision by the Certification Review Committee

The results of the on-site inspection are compiled into an audit report by the auditors and submitted to the Certification Review Committee (hereinafter referred to as the "Committee"). The Committee comprehensively evaluates the findings from both the document review and the on-site inspection to determine whether to grant certification.

(5) Notification of Results and Issuance of Certificate

The certification results will be notified to the applicant company by JLIA. Companies that receive certification approval will be issued certificates in both Japanese and English. Additionally, the company name, facility name, and certification rank will be published on JLIA's official website.

6 Application for Use of Certification Label

Certified companies may apply, following the prescribed procedures, to use the "JLIA Sustainable Certification Label (Certification Mark)."

3. Application Documents

When applying for this certification, the firm must assemble and submit the prescribed application forms and any required attachments. This chapter explains key points and important considerations for filling out certain items in the application forms required for this certification system—specifically, Form No. 1 (Application for Certification), Form No. 2 (Overview of Business Sites), and Form No. 3 (Declaration of Application). The focus is on sections that may be particularly difficult to understand for companies applying for the first time. For Form No.4 (Checklist), please refer to Section 4. "How to Fill Out Application Form No.4: Checklist" and Section 5 "Explanation of Application Form No.4: Checklist".

When completing each form, please ensure that all information is accurate and based on facts. Incomplete or unclear entries may delay the acceptance or review of your application.

For the most up-to-date versions of the application forms and detailed instructions on how to complete them, please refer to the latest documents available on our association's official website or contact the secretariat directly.

[Form No.1] Application for JLIA Sustainable Certification

This document requires the applicant to provide basic company information. Please note that the information entered in this form may be published on the JLIA Sustainable Certification website and other related platforms after certification is granted.

(Public Information)

- (1) Company name, address, contact details, business type, types of leather/leather products handled, business overview, and website URL
- (2) Certification rank, certification number, certification date, and certification expiration date
- (3) Any other items the certified company agrees to have disclosed

As mentioned earlier, this certification was developed with consideration of the increasing international demands for sustainability in leather and leather products. Therefore, it is expected that the certification details may be accessed by overseas stakeholders as well. For sections of the form that include fields for both Japanese and English, we kindly request that you fill in both languages to the extent possible.

[Form No.1] Application for JLIA Sustainable Certification

Title:	Name:	:
Department:	Title:	
TEL:		FAX:
TEL:		FAX:
	•	
Rawhide Dealer (), Tanner (), Leather Wholesaler (), Product Manufacturer (),Product Wholesaler (), Retailer (), Other (please specify:)		
Leather (), Footwear (), Bags/Luggage (), Small Goods (), Belts (), Gloves (), Apparel (), Furniture (), Other (please specify:)		
	Department: TEL: TEL: Rawhide Dealer (), Manufacturer (),Prod Other (please specify: Leather (), Footwear	Department: Title: TEL: TEL: Rawhide Dealer (), Tanner (Manufacturer (), Product Wholes Other (please specify: Leather (), Footwear (), Bags/Lu

Contact Person's Email Address (For Website Publication)

Please provide an email address intended for general inquiries that can be published on the JLIA Sustainable Certification website (e.g., info@~).

Affiliated Organization Name

Enter the name of any industry association your company belongs to (e.g., local chambers of commerce, leather industry organizations). If none apply, you may write "None."

Business Overview (Japanese & English)

Briefly describe your main business activities (e.g., OEM manufacturing of bags, tanning of cattlehide) in 120 characters or fewer. As this will be published on the website, please use clear and simple language for a general audience.

Industry/Handled Leather and Leather Products

These are checkbox items. Please circle the applicable categories for your industry and the types of leather/leather products you handle. If your industry or products are not listed, please write them in the "Other" section.

[Form No.2-1/2-2] Overview of Business Sites

If your company has multiple locations, please complete and submit a separate form for each business site.

This application form is intended to identify the activities carried out at the business sites owned by the applicant. The purpose is to gather basic information for each site as well as data regarding production volume, resource inputs, and emissions, mainly to understand the environmental impacts of operational processes. Please note that this form must be submitted on a business site basis, not on a company-wide basis. Applicants with multiple business sites are required to submit separate application documents for each site instead of providing aggregated data for the entire company. Additionally, the format of the application form differs depending on the type of activity conducted at each site. For sites engaged in the manufacture and sale of leather products, including tanning (such as rawhide dealers,

tanners, and leather wholesalers), please use **Form No. 2-1**. For sites that purchase leather as a raw material and manufacture and sell products such as shoes, luggage, or bags, please use **Form No. 2-2**.

Attached documents must, in principle, have been issued within the past six months to be considered valid.

(Form No. 2-1) Overview of the Business Site (for companies handling hides, skins, or leather)

Form No. 2-1]		
	Overview of Business Site	
	(for companies handling hides, skins, or leather)	
Please submit one sh	eet per business site.	
Business Site Name		
Address		
Site Area	mi	
Building Area	mf	
Number of		
Employees		
Types and States of	- Cattle: Raw Hide (), Wet Blue (), Crust ()	
Raw Hides Used	Others (specify):	
	- Horse: Raw Hide (), Wet Blue (), Crust ()	
	Others (specify):	
	- Sheep: Raw Hide (), Wet Blue (), Crust ()	
	Others (specify):	
	- Goat: Raw Hide (), Wet Blue (), Crust ()	
	Others (specify):	
	- Pig: Raw Hide (), Wet Blue (), Crust ()	
	Others (specify):	
	- Other animals (specify:):	
	Raw Hide (), Wet Blue (), Crust ()	
	Others (specify):	
Use of South	□ In Use □ Not in Use	
American Cattlehide		
Annual Production or		
Shipment Volume	- Horsehide:	
	- Sheepskin:	
	- Goatskin:	
	- Pigskin:	
	- Other leather (specify):	
Condition of Leather	- Cattle: Finished Leather (), Crust (), Wet Blue ()	
at Shipment	Others (specify):	
	- Horse: Finished Leather (), Crust (), Wet Blue ()	
	Others (specify):	
	- Sheep: Finished Leather (), Crust (), Wet Blue ()	
	Others (specify):	
	- Goat: Finished Leather (), Crust (), Wet Blue ()	
	Others (specify):	,

	- Pig: Finished Leather (), Crust (), Wet Blue ()	
	Others (specify):	
	- Other Animals: Finished Leather (), Crust (), Wet Blue ()	
	Others (specify):	
Main Equipment		
Annual Electricity		
Consumption	kWh	
Water Source	☐ Tap Water ☐ Industrial Water ☐ Groundwater	
Annual Water	,	
Consumption	m	
Wastewater		
Treatment Status		
Waste Disposal Status		
Quality Control		
Implementation		
Status		
Raw Leather Material		
Acceptance		
Inspection Status		
Complaint Handling		
Status		

Attached Documents

- Organization chart
- Factory layout map (including site map) and manufacturing equipment layout
- Raw material: copy of documents verifying origin of raw materials
- Manufacturing process diagram
- Wastewater treatment: copy of documents proving proper wastewater treatment
- Waste disposal: copy of documents proving proper waste disposal
- Quality inspection example: copy of document showing quality inspection of leather
- Raw material acceptance inspection records
- Complaint handling records
- Chemical substance inspection: copy of document proving chemical substances were inspected in accordance with the "Gold" standards of the Japan Eco Leather certification for major leather types

(Form No. 2-2) Overview of the Business Site (for companies handling leather products)

	Overview of Business Site (For companies handling leather products)
lease submit one sheet p	er business site.
Business Site Name	
Address	
Site Area	m²
Building Area	mi
Number of Employees	
Types of Leather Used	Cattle (), Horse (), Sheep (), Goat (), Pig (),
	Other (specify):
Use of South American	☐ In Use ☑ Not in Use
Cowhide	
Products Handled	Footwear (), Bags/Luggage (), Small Goods (), Belts (), Gloves (),
	Apparel (), Furniture (),
	Other (specify):
Annual Production or	- Footwear:
Shipment Volume	- Bags/Luggage: - Small Goods:
	- Belts:
	- Gloves:
	- Apparel:
	- Furniture:
	- Other (specify):
Main Equipment	
Annual Electricity	kWh
Consumption	
Water Source	□Tap Water □ Industrial Water □ Groundwater
Annual Water	m³
Consumption	
Wastewater Treatment	
Status	
Waste Disposal Status	
Quality Control	
Implementation Status	
Raw Leather Material	
Acceptance Inspection	

Acceptance Inspection	
Status	
Complaint Handling	
Status	
Attached Documents	
- Organization chart	
- Factory layout map (incl	uding site map) and manufacturing equipment layout
- Raw material: copy of do	cuments verifying origin of raw leather materials
- Manufacturing process d	liagram
- Wastewater treatment: co	opy of documents proving proper wastewater treatment
- Waste disposal: copy of d	locuments proving proper waste disposal
· Quality inspection examp	ple: copy of document showing quality inspection of leather products
Raw leather acceptance is	nspection records
Complaint handling reco	rds
- Chemical substance ins	spection: copy of document proving chemical substances were inspected i
accordance with the "Gold	l" standards of the Japan Eco Leather certification for major leather types

Type and Condition of Raw Hides and Skins Used (for Leather-Handling Companies)

Please indicate the types of raw materials used by animal species and specify the processing stage at which they are received (e.g., raw hides and skins, wet blue, crust, etc.). If you are unsure, please confirm with your supplier.

Condition of Leather at the Time of Shipment (for Leather-Handling Companies)

Please check the condition of the leather at the time it is shipped from your company (e.g., if only finished leather products are sold, check "Finished Leather" only).

Major Equipment

List the main production equipment (e.g., drum, fleshing machine, dryer, toe lasting machine, sewing machine, etc.). Technical names for equipment are acceptable.

Annual Electricity / Fuel / Water Consumption

Enter the annual consumption based on actual performance. Please calculate using invoices or other records from within the most recent one-year period.

If exact figures are unavailable and consumption remains relatively stable throughout the year (e.g., minimal seasonal variation), it is acceptable to estimate the annual usage by multiplying the usage from the previous month (before the application month) by 12, assuming consistent monthly consumption.

Wastewater Treatment / Waste Disposal Status

Please briefly state the name of the contractor and the method of treatment (in-house treatment / outsourced). You are also required to attach documents that prove proper treatment. For wastewater treatment, attach documentation showing that appropriate wastewater treatment is being conducted, such as a copy of a certificate or invoice issued by the managing authority for the treatment facility or fee, etc. For waste disposal, indicate the types of waste (by-products) generated in the process, and attach documents proving that each is appropriately treated. Examples include a copy of the manifest or similar documentation. If the waste is being reused in other industries, attach a copy of documents related to the transaction.

Quality Control / Raw Material Acceptance Management / Complaint Handling Implementation Status

Please briefly describe the following for the leather and leather products manufactured or sold by your company: quality control (e.g., management system in place, records of quality checks), raw material acceptance management (e.g., system for managing acceptance, records of incoming raw materials), and internal procedures for handling customer complaints (e.g., use of complaint forms, designated personnel in charge). A formal description is acceptable, but please clearly indicate that some form of system is in place.

[Form No.3] Declaration of Application

This document is a self-declaration regarding compliance with laws and regulations, environmental considerations, and the severance of ties with antisocial forces. Please review the contents and clearly state the position and name of the representative.

[Form No. 3]

Declaration of Application

To:

President, JLIA

- We hereby declare our active commitment to contributing to the achievement of the SDGs through our corporate activities.
- We declare that our company treats and manages wastewater and waste in compliance with governmental standards. Furthermore, we declare that reusable waste is being reused.
- 3. We declare that no regulated chemical substances (listed on the ZDHC list) are used.
- 4. We declare that there have been no legal violations during the past three fiscal years, including the current application year. We also declare our commitment to legal compliance and fair business practices.
- 5. The applicant hereby declares and guarantees that it is not currently, nor will be in the future, a member of or affiliated with any antisocial forces, including but not limited to organized crime groups, members of such groups, companies affiliated with such groups, corporate extortionists (sokaiya), or other similar entities ("antisocial forces"). The applicant also declares that it is not under the influence or control of such groups, does not use such groups, and that none of its major shareholders or officers are members of such groups.

Please review the content and fill in the necessary information below.

Date

Company Name

Title of Representative:

Name of Representative:

The ZDHC List

ZDHC (Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals) is an international initiative that aims to eliminate the discharge of hazardous chemicals in the textile and leather industries. The ZDHC List refers to a compilation of chemical substances that are either included in products used in the textile, apparel, and footwear sectors or restricted in the manufacturing process, as published by ZDHC. For more details about this list, please refer to the ZDHC website. (https://www.roadmaptozero.com/)

[Form No.4] JLIA Sustainable Certification Checklist

This document serves as a hearing sheet to confirm the applicant company's efforts on various sustainability-related issues (such as environmental and human rights issues). As part of the certification process, auditors will actually visit the business sites to verify the status of these efforts, referring to this checklist for factual confirmation. For details on how to answer and the purpose of each question, please refer to the later sections:

- 4. How to fill out 【Form No.4】 JLIA Sustainable Certification Checklist
- 5. Explanation of [Form No.4] JLIA Sustainable Certification Checklist

[Form No.5] JLIA Sustainable Certification Change Notification Form

This document is for companies that have obtained the JLIA Sustainable Certification to report changes to their company information at the time of certification acquisition (such as changes in company name or company location). Please describe the details of the changes and submit this form. If the change information cannot be fully described within the form, please prepare and submit multiple copies of the same form as needed.

[Form No.6] JLIA Sustainable Certification Withdrawal Notification

This document is submitted by companies that have obtained the JLIA Sustainable Certification and wish to withdraw their certification. Please clearly state the certification number and the reason for withdrawal, then submit the form.

4. How to Fill Out the [Form No.4) JLIA Sustainable Certification

Checklist)

4-1. Key Points for Filling Out

Please prepare and submit one checklist per company applying for certification.

This checklist is basically in a multiple-choice format with options YES/NO/Not Applicable, and each item includes a free-text field. There is no "correct" answer between YES or NO. Regardless of which option you choose, providing a concrete and accurate description of your current situation and future approach is a crucial factor for appropriate evaluation.

This checklist serves not only to accurately grasp the status of your initiatives but also as an important document to clearly demonstrate your future direction and attitude toward challenges. Rather than completing it solely by selecting options, please actively utilize the free-text fields to appropriately convey your company's current efforts and willingness to improve, maximizing the potential for obtaining certification. With these points in mind, we kindly ask that you fill out the form carefully and thoroughly.

(1) Accurately and sincerely describe the current situation

The purpose of this questionnaire is to accurately understand your company's status and comprehensively evaluate your efforts toward sustainable management. Even if there are items not yet addressed or initiatives that do not align with your company's policies at this time, it is important to honestly and clearly disclose these facts.

Furthermore, by including not only a report of the current status but also your awareness of challenges and future response plans, you can demonstrate a proactive attitude toward improving the situation.

2 Effectively utilize the free response sections

Please make full use of the free response sections to provide detailed information on your specific initiatives, unique efforts, and future plans that cannot be fully conveyed through the selected options alone. For items not yet implemented, describing the status of consideration, progress of planning, and approaches to challenges toward realization can contribute positively to the evaluation.

Additionally, for initiatives already underway, specifying any unique efforts or strengths that exceed industry standards will clearly demonstrate your company's distinctive advantages.

Even when answering "Not Applicable," please explain the reasons why it is considered not applicable, as this can help facilitate a smoother audit process by addressing potential questions in advance.

Examples of entries:

- "Although not currently implemented, based on industry trends and our company's growth strategy, we plan to introduce it by [year]."
- "We have established a management system that not only meets legal standards but also sets stricter internal standards and utilizes external audits."
- "Our company engages only in craft processing of leather products; therefore, our processes do not involve water use or the use/discharge of hazardous substances."

③ Preparation for On-Site Audit

The information provided in this questionnaire is intended to be verified during the onsite audit. Auditors will visit your site to confirm how the recorded information is actually being implemented, conducting interviews with relevant personnel and reviewing documents as necessary.

Please organize in advance any details you have entered in the free-text fields so that they can be verified by the auditors later, and prepare related materials or evidence as needed. If the information recorded pertains to future plans, please describe the concrete progress made toward implementation, and ensure that progress can be demonstrated through supporting documents or testimonies from relevant personnel. Doing so will increase the likelihood of receiving a higher evaluation.

4-2. Structure and Classification of Questions

This questionnaire is divided into the following six main categories to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of sustainability in the leather industry. These categories are designed with reference to international standards (such as ILO, OECD, the Paris Agreement, and national environmental regulations) as well as the LWG certification system, while also considering the specific characteristics of the leather industry.

① Human Rights and Labor

In the leather industry as well, ensuring proper working conditions and respecting human rights are essential. Protecting workers' rights is a critical element for achieving sustainable business operations in compliance with international standards such as ILO conventions and OECD guidelines.

- **X** Examples of specific checkpoints:
 - Prohibition of child labor and forced labor (including throughout the supply chain)
- Proper management of working hours and minimum wages (compliance with legal standards)
- Fair treatment of foreign workers and technical interns (particularly important as a domestic issue in Japan)
 - · Guaranteeing the right to form labor unions and engage in collective bargaining

Due to some production countries in the leather industry having been reported to have issues with child labor and harsh working conditions, businesses are required to understand labor conditions across their entire supply chain and take appropriate measures.

② Health and Safety

In the leather manufacturing process, where handling of chemicals and machinery work is common, ensuring the health and safety of workers is crucial.

※Examples of specific checkpoints:

- Implementation of measures to prevent occupational accidents (use of appropriate protective equipment, safety measures for machinery)
- Management system for chemicals (toxic substances, hazardous materials, organic solvents, etc.) including proper storage and usage
 - Safety of the work environment (ventilation systems, noise and dust control)
 - · Provision of safety and health education for workers

In the leather industry, particular challenges include the management of chemicals in the leather manufacturing process and health risks associated with prolonged standing work. Therefore, businesses are required to implement appropriate safety measures.

(3) Environment

In the leather industry, environmental burdens such as wastewater treatment, chemical management, and CO₂ emissions are often highlighted as critical issues. Appropriate environmental management is essential for sustainable business operations.

- **X** Examples of specific checkpoints:
- Compliance with environmental regulations (wastewater standards, air pollution control, etc.)
- Reduction of water usage and proper wastewater treatment in the leather manufacturing process
- Use of chemicals with lower environmental impact (reducing and optimizing chemical usage, adoption of water-based finishing agents and adhesives)
 - Promotion of waste management and recycling (reuse of lower-grade raw hides and skins, trimmings, splits, shaving scraps, edge trimmings, cuttings, and offcuts)
 - Initiatives to reduce CO₂ emissions (optimization and reduction of energy consumption, introduction of renewable energy)

Especially from the perspective of "greenhouse gas emission reductions" based on the Paris Agreement, major brand companies are accelerating demands for CO₂ emission

reductions and the adoption of renewable energy. The leather industry needs to adapt to this trend as well.

(4) Fair Trade

In business activities, it is required to ensure transparency in transactions and to thoroughly comply with anti-corruption measures and antitrust laws.

- **X** Examples of specific checkpoints:
- Establishment of a fair process for selecting business partners (prohibition of bribery and bid-rigging)
 - · Proper execution of contracts and payments
 - Ensuring ethical transactions throughout the supply chain

In the leather industry, due to issues related to deforestation and animal welfare, securing traceability on a global scale is becoming increasingly important.

(5) Quality and Safety of Leather and Leather Products

Since leather and leather products are delivered directly to end consumers, it is important that they meet standards related to quality and safety.

- * Examples of specific checkpoints:
- Harmful chemicals contained in leather and leather products
- Establishment of internal standards regarding durability and safety of leather and leather products
 - · Providing accurate information about leather, leather products, and services

In recent years, international chemical regulations (such as the EU REACH Regulation) have been tightened, and compliance with these regulations is required even for exports of leather and leather products.

6 Business and Management Planning

To achieve sustainable corporate management, it is essential to have long-term management plans and risk management systems. Recently, investors and major brand companies have increasingly demanded the integration of ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) factors into management, and the leather industry is also required to respond accordingly. This section is provided as a free-text response area, where you are encouraged to freely describe any plans or policies related to sustainability.

Conclusion

This questionnaire evaluates the sustainability efforts of businesses based on the six categories outlined above. While addressing the unique challenges of the leather industry, it also considers alignment with international standards. Please review each item carefully and respond accordingly.

5. Explanation of (Form No. 4) JLIA Sustainable Certification

Checklist

This document provides detailed explanations for each question item in the checklist. Please refer to it if you are unsure about how to answer or if you want to understand the background of the questions.

Human Rights and Labor

Prohibition of Forced Labor

No	Questions	Explanation
	Are all workers employed based on their own free will?	According to the ILO, forced labor refers to all work
1		or service that is exacted under the threat of penalty
		and is not undertaken voluntarily by the person

		concerned (ILO Convention No. 29 on Forced Labor,
		1930). Please respond whether your employment
		practices comply with this definition and do not
		involve any form of forced labor.
	Are the terms and any changes	A proper explanation refers to providing information
	in employment conditions	in a language that workers can understand. Please
	properly appropriately	indicate whether employment contracts and working
2	explained to the workers? (By	conditions are explained in a language
	"proper explanation," we mean	understandable to the workers. In some cases, you
	explanations provided in a	may be asked to submit actual documents such as
	language that workers can	employment contracts or work regulations.
	understand.)	
	At the workplace, are workers	"Activities unrelated to work duties" refer to activities
	restricted from engaging in	such as restroom breaks and lunch breaks. Please
	activities unrelated to their	indicate whether, due to the workplace environment
3	work duties?	or business practices, it is necessary to restrict
3	(This includes restrictions	employees' personal needs or freedom during
	based on work instructions,	working hours.
	such as limiting restroom or	
	lunch breaks.)	
	Are there any delays or failures	Under Article 24 of the Japanese Labor Standards
	in paying workers' wages, or are	Act, wages must be paid in cash directly to the worker
4	any portions of their wages	in full. Please provide your response based on the
	forcibly withheld or saved	compliance status with this requirement.
	without their consent?	
		Even if there have been no formal cases, such as legal
		action, internal reports or consultations, please
	Have there been any instances	respond based on any factual recognition. If such
5	of violence or harassment?	incidents have occurred, please describe the situation
		in the free comment section to the extent possible,
		ensuring full consideration of individual privacy.
		Article 37 of the Labor Standards Act stipulates that
	Do you allow workers the	"in principle, workers may resign at any time." Based
6	freedom to quit their jobs?	
	freedom to quit their jobs?	on your circumstances, please answer whether there
		have been any delays in the resignation process or

	failure to carry out necessary procedures due to the
	employer's convenience after a worker has expressed
	their intention to resign.

Prohibition of Child Labor and Consideration of Young Workers

No	Questions	Explanation
1	Do you employ any workers under the age of 15?	Under the Labor Standards Act, in principle, individuals under the age of 15 are prohibited from being employed. However, when a business owner involves their own child in activities such as helping out or watching the store, this is not considered a labor contract. In family-run businesses, such assistance is generally accepted under both the Labor Standards Act and social norms. However, if the tasks assigned are dangerous or may hinder the child's healthy development—such as those involving a high risk of serious injury or exposure to toxic substances—they may be considered child abuse. If there is an actual instance of such involvement, we may ask for clarification regarding the nature of the tasks assigned.
2	If you employ workers under the age of 18, is there a possibility that they may be assigned to hazardous locations or tasks?	Under the Labor Standards Act, individuals under the age of 18 are classified as minors and are subject to various employment restrictions. This section focuses on verifying whether such individuals are engaged in hazardous work. If any of the following apply to your operations, please respond with YES: • Handling of heavy objects • Cleaning, inspecting, or repairing machinery while in operation • Operation or handling of boilers, cranes, or

1 , 1 (2,)
large trucks (over 2 tons)
• Work in pits deeper than 5 meters or areas at
risk of landslides
Work at heights over 5 meters with fall
hazards
Assembly of scaffolding
Feeding wood into large circular saws or band
saws
Work involving high risk of electric shock
Handling hazardous or dangerous substances
Work in areas with significant dust, harmful
gas, vapor, powder, or radiation exposure
Work in extreme temperatures or abnormal
pressure environments
Work involving attending to customers at
drinking venues
Work in certain entertainment establishments
(e.g., bars, cabarets, nightclubs)
Underground labor

Consideration of Working Hours

No	Questionnaire	解説
1	Have you established regulations for working hours in accordance with the law?	In Japan, in principle, working more than 8 hours per day or 40 hours per week is restricted. In addition, under the Agreement on Overtime Work (Article 36 Agreement), limits are set for overtime work: 45 hours per month and 360 hours per year. This question asks whether your organization has established rules to comply with these legal regulations. In some cases, you may be asked to submit actual documents such as employment contracts or work regulations.

2	Do you operate during nighttime hours (in principle, from 10:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m.)?	When employing workers, companies are required to ensure their health and safety and to have them work within appropriate working hours. In particular, for night work (in principle, from 10:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m.), proper rest and health management are necessary. In addition, under Article 61 of the Labor Standards Act, minors under the age of 18 must not be employed between 10:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. However, this does not apply to males aged 16 and over who are engaged in shift work. If you answer "YES," you may be asked to provide attendance records or other documentation for verification.
3	Are workers scheduled to work no more than six consecutive days?	Article 35 of the Labor Standards Act stipulates that the maximum number of consecutive working days is, in principle, 12 days. However, if a modified holiday system is adopted that ensures at least 4 days off in a 4-week period, up to 48 consecutive working days may be allowed. On the other hand, the leather industry is generally a manufacturing industry, and the need for consecutive work due to customer demands is relatively low. In addition, considering that the business process may involve risks of injury, we ask that you use six consecutive working days as a threshold for assessing worker health and safety.
4	Are legally mandated holidays granted to workers? **If yes, please specify the types of holidays provided in the free description section.	This question is intended to confirm the provision of the types of leave listed below. Statutory leave must be clearly stated in the work rules. If you respond "YES," please describe in the free comment section which types of leave are provided, referring to the list below: • Annual paid leave • Menstrual leave • Leave for pregnancy or medical appointments • Maternity leave (pre- and postnatal) • Childcare leave for nursing sick children

		Care leave
		Paternity leave at childbirth
		Childcare leave
		Long-term nursing care leave
		Leave for jury duty
		Article 34 of the Labor Standards Act requires that
5	Are legally mandated break	workers be given a rest break of at least 45 minutes
	times granted to workers?	when working more than 6 hours and up to 8 hours,
		and at least 1 hour when working more than 8 hours.

Appropriate wages and allowances

No	Questions	Explanation
		In addition to the proper and fair payment of wages to
		workers, companies are also responsible for
1	Are there regulations regarding	appropriately providing allowances—such as
1	wages and allowances?	transportation expenses—and other welfare benefits.
		If you answer "YES," you may be asked to submit
		documents that describe the relevant policies.
		Please explain whether the wages currently paid to
		employed workers meet or exceed the regional
	Are wages set at or above the	minimum wage, regardless of the workers' attributes.
2	legally mandated minimum	For the latest regional minimum wage rates, please
	wage?	refer to the "List of Regional Minimum Wages
		Nationwide" on the Ministry of Health, Labor and
		Welfare's website.
		Overtime work refers to working hours that exceed
3		the statutory working hours stipulated in Article 37 of
		the Labor Standards Act—specifically, more than 8
	Is overtime compensated at a	hours per day or 40 hours per week. For such
	premium rate of at least 125% of	overtime work, employers are required to pay an
	the regular wage?	increased wage rate of at least 25% and up to 50%
		over the regular wage rate, as stipulated by
		government ordinance. Furthermore, if the extended
		working hours exceed 60 hours in a single month,

		employers must pay an additional wage of at least
		50% over the regular wage rate for the portion
		exceeding 60 hours. If your payroll practices meet
		these requirements, you may select "YES" for this
		item.
		Late-night premium wages refer to the additional
		wages paid for work performed during late-night
		hours, specifically between 10:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m.
		According to Article 37 of the Labor Standards Act,
		the premium rate must be "25% or more." If late-
		night work overlaps with overtime or holiday work,
	16 : 1	the respective premium rates are combined, resulting
	If nighttime operations are	in a higher total premium wage. Please indicate
4	conducted, are appropriate premium wages paid?	whether your payroll practices reflect this
		requirement.
		If your answer is "YES," you may be asked to submit
		documents such as actual pay slips or employment
		regulations. If there is no late-night operation and
		therefore no obligation to pay such premium wages,
		please select "NO" and explain this in the free
		description field.
1	I	

Prohibition of inhumane treatment

No	Questions	Explanation
1	Is there an internal reporting system in place for harassment and other workplace issues, and is it properly implemented and communicated to employees?	Article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) states that "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment." To prevent such violations, companies are encouraged to establish mechanisms (whistleblowing systems) that allow workers to report harassment or issues related to the working environment. Depending on the size of the company, this may involve structured reporting processes, dedicated

		departments, or the use of third-party external agencies. In smaller companies, implementing such processes may be more difficult. Please respond based on the actual situation. Auditors will conduct interviews or verifications according to the size of the company.
2	Are there facilities for storing personal belongings and valuables, as well as sufficiently spacious personal areas that allow appropriate access and use?	Workers are expected to work in conditions that guarantee at least a minimum level of safety and security, and employers have the responsibility to provide such an environment. Please respond based on actual conditions regarding whether a workplace environment that considers factors such as privacy has been properly established.

Prohibition of Discrimination

No	Questions	Explanation
1	Do factors such as race, nationality, gender, health checkup results, or pregnancy status potentially affect equal opportunities or treatment?	Article 4 of the Labor Standards Act states that "Employers shall not discriminate against workers regarding wages, working hours, or other working conditions based on nationality, creed, or social status (Labor Standards Act, Article 3)." If there are differences in employment conditions, work styles, or treatment due to gender, health status, race, religion, or other attributes, please answer "YES" and specify the affected attributes and reasons in the free comment section.

Freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining

No	Questions	Explanation
	Do you recognize the right of	A labor union is an organization formed voluntarily
1	workers to form and join labor	by workers with the aim of maintaining and
1	unions, and do you also respect	improving working conditions and enhancing their
	the rights of those who choose	economic status. This question asks whether the

	not to participate in unions or	company recognizes the right to such negotiations
	who work in organizations	regardless of whether a labor union exists. If meetings
	without unions?	between the labor union and the company have taken
		place in the past, you may be asked to provide records
		of meetings held by the union representatives.
2	Do you provide workers' representative organizations or workers with such rights with the necessary information to enable meaningful negotiations?	This question asks whether information on internal systems and policies necessary for workers to improve their quality of life—such as working conditions, criteria for salary increases, and promotions—is disclosed or provided. If you answer "YES," you may be asked to clarify how such information is made available.

Health and Safety

Workplace Health and Safety

No	Questions	Explanation
1	Do you have any regulations or policies regarding occupational health and safety?	While there is no explicit legal requirement to declare a "health and safety policy," one of the duties of the "General Safety and Health Manager"—who must be appointed at workplaces above a certain size—is to express such a policy. In the leather industry, work processes may involve risks of injury, health hazards, or the handling of chemical substances. Therefore, if your company has established any regulations or policies to promote safety within these processes, please respond "YES." If you answer "YES," you may be asked to submit the actual regulations or policy documents.

2	Are the regulations related to occupational health and safety properly communicated to workers?	This question asks whether regulations or policies for ensuring workplace safety are communicated to workers in a way that allows them to regularly check and refer to them—not just explained during onboarding. Examples include displaying them at the worksite or creating manuals. If you answer "YES," you may be asked to provide details on how workers can access or view this information daily.
3	Are trends and updates related to labor safety laws, regulations, and systems appropriately monitored, and are those updates properly reflected in your internal rules and policies?	Please make your judgment based primarily on whether the established regulations and policies comply with the standards set forth in the Industrial Safety and Health Act. This law was enacted to "ensure the safety and health of workers in the workplace" and to "create a comfortable working environment." To achieve these goals, the Act promotes comprehensive and systematic occupational safety and health measures, including the establishment of hazard prevention standards to prevent occupational accidents, clarification of responsibility structures, and promotion of voluntary initiatives.
4	Do you regularly identify and assess situations involving potential physical hazards in the workplace—including the possibility of their occurrence—and review or consider countermeasures accordingly?	If workers handle raw materials that may pose risks of injury or health damage, you may answer "YES" if measures such as emergency stop devices on equipment, air purification in the workplace, or monitoring of hazardous substances are regularly or periodically implemented. If such checks are conducted periodically, please specify the frequency in the free description field.
5	Do you provide appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) such as safety goggles, helmets, gloves, and masks?	Under Article 24 of the Industrial Safety and Health Act, employers are obligated to take necessary measures to prevent occupational accidents arising from workers' activities. Please answer "YES" only if the necessary protective equipment—such as safety goggles, helmets, gloves, and masks—is purchased

		and provided by the employer, rather than being
		prepared or purchased at the discretion of individual
		workers.
		Under the maternity protection provisions of the
		Labor Standards Act, "An employer shall not have a
	Do you take measures to protect	pregnant or nursing woman engage in work that may
	workers from hazardous	be harmful to her pregnancy, childbirth, or nursing."
6	conditions by considering their	For example, if measures such as reassigning
0	physical condition, such as for	pregnant women from tasks involving heavy lifting
	pregnant women and nursing	are implemented or prepared, please answer "YES."
	mothers?	Even if there are currently no female workers, you
		may answer "YES" if such measures are in place or
		planned.
		Article 19 of the Industrial Safety and Health Act
		states that "Employers shall strive to improve the level
		of safety and health at the workplace by providing
		education, training, or opportunities to receive such
	Is regular education and	training for safety managers, health managers, safety
	training conducted to ensure	and health promoters, health promoters, and others
7	safety, including the proper use	engaged in work to prevent occupational accidents, in
'	and handling of personal	order to enhance their abilities related to their
	protective equipment by	duties."
	workers?	If your company implements not only manuals but
		also accident prevention training or training
		programs, please answer "YES." In the case of a
		"YES" response, you may be asked to provide details
		about the specific initiatives implemented.

Industrial Hygiene

No	Questions	Explanation
1	Do you measure the presence of	Article 22 of the Industrial Safety and Health Act
	dust, organic solvents, vapors,	requires taking necessary measures to prevent the
	hydrogen sulfide, and other	following health hazards:
	factors in the work	Health hazards caused by raw materials,

	environment, identify those	gases, vapors, dust, oxygen-deficient air,
	harmful to workers' health, and	pathogens, etc.
	manage them accordingly?	Health hazards caused by radiation, high
		temperature, low temperature, ultrasound,
		noise, vibration, abnormal air pressure, etc.
		Health hazards caused by tasks such as
		instrument monitoring and precision work
		Health hazards caused by exhaust gases,
		wastewater, or waste materials
		Since the leather industry involves production
		processes that may use or emit substances harmful to
		the human body, please answer "YES" if applicable,
		and describe in the free text field the substances of
		concern and the countermeasures in place to the
		extent possible.
		Article 23 of the Industrial Safety and Health Act
		requires that for buildings and other workplaces
		where workers are employed, necessary measures
		must be taken to maintain passageways, floors, stairs,
	Do you provide ventilation and	as well as ventilation, lighting, heating, moisture
2	other facilities in the workplace	control, rest areas, evacuation, cleanliness, and other
	to protect workers' health?	measures essential for the health, discipline, and
		safety of workers. If such measures are being
		implemented, please answer "YES," and if possible,
		provide details of the initiatives in the free-response
		section.
		Please answer "YES" if you provide education or have
		an education program for workers who handle or may
	Do you provide education on	be exposed to hazardous substances harmful to
3		human health (such as hydrogen sulfide, organic
	hazardous substances to	solvents, etc.) covering the facts, handling, treatment,
	workers who handle or are	Ŭ U
	exposed to them?	and disposal methods. If possible, please briefly
		describe in the free text field which hazardous
		substances are covered and what kind of education is
		provided.

	_	
4	Do you conduct legally	Please answer "YES" if the employer regularly
	mandated health checkups for	provides employees with medical checkups, especially
	workers at least once a year to	the annual health examination, as required by Article
	prevent illness and enable early	66 of the Industrial Safety and Health Act.
	detection?	
		Article 66 of the Industrial Safety and Health Act
		requires employers not only to monitor employees'
		physical health but also to conduct assessments by
	Do you implement measures to	physicians, public health nurses, or other designated
	prevent health damage caused	professionals to understand the degree of
_	by long working hours or	psychological burden. This question, considering the
5	excessive workloads, and do you	size of the responding organization, specifically asks
	consider mental health in your	whether measures addressing long working hours and
	efforts?	mental health are being implemented to support
		employees. Please answer "YES" if such measures are
		in place. If possible, provide details of the initiatives
		in the free text field.

Health and Safety Communication

No	Questions	Explanation
1	Are workplace hazards and occupational health and safety information posted inside the facility in the workers' native language or a language they understand?	This question asks whether efforts are made to ensure that safety and health information is properly received by employees. Considering the literacy rate of Japanese workers, the focus is mainly on workplaces employing foreign workers. Please answer "YES" if safety and health guidance is posted or provided in the native language of foreign workers or in a language they can understand. If you answer "YES," we may request translated materials or conduct interviews regarding how the information is communicated.
2	Do you conduct regular evacuation drills or equivalent training?	Article 36 of the Fire Service Act requires that disaster prevention management duties be carried out for large-scale buildings and similar facilities.

	Although this obligation may not apply depending on
	the scale of the business, regardless of business size,
	please confirm whether regular guidance is
	provided—such as confirming evacuation routes in
	the event of a disaster. If such regular guidance is
	implemented, please answer "YES."

Environment

Establishment of Environmental Management System

No	Questions	Explanation
1	Do you monitor energy consumption and emissions of pollutants/waste at the workplace and business premises?	The leather industry often involves the use of chemical substances and mechanical processes in the manufacturing of leather and leather products. You may respond "YES" if your operations include the measurement, monitoring, and management of resources and energy used in such processes (e.g., electricity and fuel), as well as emissions such as waste, wastewater, and exhaust gases. Examples include the installation of measurement equipment and its routine inspection as part of operational procedures, or the collection of performance data for mandatory reporting under regulations such as Japan's manifest system (for tracking industrial waste) and the Act on the Rational Use of Energy (Energy Conservation Act).
2	Do you have a management system and policy for controlling energy consumption and emissions of pollutants/waste at the workplace and business premises?	If the business operator has a management system for the energy and resources used in their business processes, as well as for wastewater, exhaust gases, and waste emissions, and has established policies regarding their handling, you may answer "YES." Such policies could include encouraging energy saving and water conservation, waste separation,

		setting strict prohibitions, or setting specific targets such as achieving carbon neutrality. If you answer "YES," please provide details on the policies established to the extent possible in the free-text section. Additionally, in cases of a "YES" response, there may be requests to review documents where these policies are clearly stated or to conduct interviews for confirmation.
3	Are you actively working to reduce energy use and emissions of pollutants/waste at the workplace and business premises?	This section checks whether the business is actively implementing initiatives to reduce the usage and emissions of environmental load substances such as electricity, fuel, waste, wastewater, and exhaust gases generated through business activities. You may answer "YES" if your company is conducting concrete reduction activities, such as: • Switching to LED lighting to reduce electricity consumption • Reviewing processes to curb fuel use • Efforts to reduce waste generation and improve recycling rates • Reducing and treating wastewater containing pollutants • Setting and managing energy-saving targets across the entire factory If you answer "YES," please briefly describe the specific initiatives, equipment, or activities introduced in the free-text section. Also, if you have numerical targets or performance data, please include those as much as possible.

Reduction of Energy Consumption and Greenhouse Gas Emissions

No	Questions	Explanation
		This question refers to whether the business monitors
		and manages the consumption of each type of energy,
		as well as the greenhouse gas emissions resulting from
		the use of those energies. For example, this includes
		extracting and managing usage data from purchase
	D	contracts or delivery notices from suppliers for
1	Do you monitor energy	electricity and fuels and calculating greenhouse gas
1	consumption and greenhouse	emissions (such as CO2) based on the energy
	gas emissions?	consumption data.
		If your company is conducting such monitoring and
		management activities, please answer "YES."
		Also, if you answer "YES," you may be requested to
		submit or report documents that record these
		measurement values.
		If your company is already undertaking reduction
		activities to decrease energy consumption or
		greenhouse gas emissions, please answer "YES."
		In the free response section, please describe the
		initiatives you have implemented to the extent
	Are there any initiatives in place	possible. Examples include:
	to reduce energy consumption	Upgrading to high-efficiency equipment and
	and greenhouse gas emissions?	machinery
2	XIf you have such initiatives,	Switching to renewable energy sources such
	please describe them in the free	as solar power
	comment section to the extent	Electrification of processes
	possible.	Improving transportation efficiency through
		measures such as transitioning to electric
		vehicles (EVs) or implementing shared
		delivery systems
		Please provide any relevant details about your
		reduction efforts.

Atmospheric Emissions

No	Questions	Explanation
1	Do you conduct surveys of substances emitted into the atmosphere (such as NOx, SOx, PM)?	This question asks whether your company conducts regular or continuous monitoring of emissions that cause air pollution. Typical substances include: NOx (nitrogen oxides): a collective term for nitric oxide (NO) and nitrogen dioxide (NO2), which contribute to photochemical smog and acid rain. SOx (sulfur oxides): including sulfur dioxide (SO2) and sulfur trioxide (SO3), generated mainly from burning fossil fuels like coal and oil, causing bronchitis and asthma. PM (particulate matter): solid or liquid particles such as soot from factories, dust from crushing operations, and black smoke from diesel exhaust. If you perform ongoing or periodic measurements of these emissions, please answer "YES." If you answer "YES," you may be asked to provide documents or reports showing the measurement data.
2	Do you comply with regulations on air pollutants emitted from factories and business premises, and implement appropriate measures to reduce the release of harmful substances into the atmosphere? **If you have such initiatives, please describe them in the free comment section to the extent possible.	If your company has implemented any measures to control or reduce the emissions of air pollutants, please answer "YES." In the free-text section, kindly describe the initiatives you have undertaken to the extent possible. Examples of such measures include the introduction of exhaust gas purification technologies and energy-saving efforts.

Water Management

No	Questions	Explanation
		This question asks about the actual usage of water
		resources, including the volume of water drawn from
	Do you monitor water intake,	public water supply and wastewater discharged. You
1	consumption, and discharge by	may answer "YES" if your company tracks water
	water source?	usage data. If you answer "YES," please note that you
		may be asked to provide documentation or participate
		in interviews regarding your water usage data.
		When chemical substances are used mainly in
		manufacturing processes, wastewater containing
		harmful substances may be generated. Leather
		tanning factories discharge wastewater containing
		sulfides, organic substances (mainly proteins and
		oils), chromium, and other pollutants. To protect the
	Do you monitor whether all	water quality of large water bodies, wastewater
2	wastewater meets regulatory	discharged from factories must be treated and
	limits for harmful substances	purified to meet the standards set by the Water
	before discharge?	Pollution Control Act and prefectural ordinances. It is
		necessary to monitor your company's wastewater
		volume and the pollutants contained in the
		wastewater. You may answer "YES" if you measure
		the number of pollutants discharged. If you answer
		"YES," you may be asked to provide or verify
		measurement data.
		This section confirms whether wastewater generated
		from business activities such as manufacturing and
		processing (including industrial and domestic
3	Do you treat wastewater to the	wastewater) is treated to comply with discharge
	standards required by local	standards set by regional or national laws and
	regulations before releasing it?	regulations.
		The "standards set by laws and regulations" refer to,
		for example:
		The Water Pollution Control Act

 Discharge standards based on local government "Pollution Control Ordinances" or similar regulations

If your company's wastewater treatment facility specifications or the water quality after treatment are regularly inspected or verified by administrative authorities or wastewater management entities (such as industrial park managers), you may answer "YES." Please note that you may be asked to submit related documents such as discharge permits or water quality analysis reports, so please prepare these as needed.

Efficient Use of Resources and Waste Management

No	Questions	Explanation
		This question concerns the status of waste
		management. In particular, the leather manufacturing
		process generates a large amount of waste, some of
	Do you comply with local laws	which can be reused. Usable waste should be
	and regulations for waste	effectively utilized. If waste is not properly managed,
	disposal and properly handle	it can cause odors and have adverse environmental
1	waste processing?	impacts. Therefore, certain types of waste are
1	Alternatively, do you	classified as industrial waste and are subject to strict
	appropriately outsource waste	disposal obligations, requiring appropriate handling.
	processing to licensed waste	In Japan, waste disposal is regulated by laws such as
	disposal contractors?	the Waste Management and Public Cleansing Law
		and the Water Pollution Control Act. As a rule, if
		proper waste management is conducted in
		compliance with these laws, you may answer "YES."
	Are you implementing	Leather and leather products have various
	initiatives aimed at reducing	opportunities for resource circulation throughout
2	waste generation through waste	their life cycle. Examples include:
	reduction, reuse, and recycling	Effective utilization of waste generated in the
	efforts?	leather manufacturing process
	XIf you have such initiatives,	Reduction of wastewater treatment burdens

please describe them in the free comment section to the extent possible.

• Reduction and reuse of water and chemical usage

• High-durability treatments that extend product lifespan

• Reuse of leather pieces as small leather goods or patchwork products

• Production of bonded leather fiber

If your company implements such reduce, reuse, and recycle initiatives, you may answer "YES." If answering "YES," please provide details of your efforts in the free-text section to the extent possible.

Chemical Substance Management

No	Questions	Explanation
1	Do you comply with the laws and regulations of the country where you operate regarding the management of chemical substances?	In Japan, the handling of chemical substances is regulated by the following laws: • Act on the Evaluation of Chemical Substances and Regulation of Their Manufacture, etc. (Chemical Substances Control Law) • Poisonous and Deleterious Substances Control Act • Act on Confirmation, etc. of Release Amounts of Specific Chemical Substances in the Environment and Promotion of Improvements to the Management Thereof (PRTR Law) Additionally, strict regulations and restrictions on handling chemical substances are imposed under laws such as the Industrial Safety and Health Act and the Fire Service Act. In principle, businesses handling chemical substances are legally required to comply with these regulations. If your company understands these legal regulatory

		requirements and manages chemical substances
		accordingly, you may answer "YES."
		Please answer "YES" if your operations involve
		handling hazardous substances regulated not only
		under Japan's Chemical Substances Control Law (化
		審法), Poisonous and Deleterious Substances Control
		Act (毒劇法), and PRTR Law, but also substances
		regulated under overseas frameworks such as the EU.
		Major hazardous chemical substances potentially
		relevant to the lifecycle of leather and leather
		products include the following:
		Inorganic compounds (heavy metals and
		inorganic salts): Hexavalent chromium
		(Cr ⁶⁺), lead (Pb), cadmium (Cd), cobalt
		(Co), nickel (Ni), sulfides (S ²⁻), ammonia
		(NH ₃)
		Organic solvents (VOCs: volatile organic
	Are hazardous substances used	compounds):
2	in the manufacturing process of	Toluene (C ₆ H ₅ CH ₃),
	leather and leather products?	xylene $(C_6H_4(CH_3)_2)$,
		acetone (CH₃COCH₃),
		methyl ethyl ketone (MEK), phthalate esters
		(plasticizers)
		Preservatives and fungicides: Formaldehyde
		(HCHO), phenols (C ₆ H ₅ OH),
		methylisothiazolinone (MIT), ortho-phenyl
		phenol (OPP)
		Dyes and pigments: Azo dyes, metal complex
		dyes (chromium VI and cobalt based),
		naphthalene-based dyes
		Surfactants: Nonylphenol ethoxylates
		(NPEO), linear alkylbenzene sulfonates
		(LAS)
		Fat liquors (leather softeners): Chlorinated
		paraffins, fluorinated compounds

		(PFOS/PFOA/PFAS)
		Please answer "YES" if your leather and leather
		products are manufactured in compliance with
		applicable national or regional regulations,
		certification standards, or limits related to the use of
		hazardous chemical substances.
		Key examples of substances subject to legal
		restrictions or bans include:
		• Hexavalent chromium (Cr ⁶⁺): Under the EU
		REACH regulation, placing leather products
		containing 3 mg/kg (0.0003 wt%) or more of
		hexavalent chromium in the total dry weight
		of the leather or leather-using product on the
		market is prohibited.
		Formaldehyde: Japan's Household Goods
	D-1	Containing Harmful Substances Regulation
	Do leather and leather products	sets limits on formaldehyde content in
3	comply with standards related	textiles and leather products.
	to the use of hazardous	Azo compounds: Japan's Household Goods
	substances?	Containing Harmful Substances Regulation
		prohibits the sale of textiles and leather
		products dyed with azo dyes that can release
		specific aromatic amines.
		Dimethyl fumarate (DMFu): Sales of leather
		products containing dimethyl fumarate are
		banned in the EU and South Korea.
		Chlorinated phenols (e.g., pentachlorophenol
		(PCP)): Use of PCP is regulated in the EU
		and South Korea.
		Cadmium and its compounds: EU regulations
		prohibit the sale or use of products that
		contain more than 0.1% cadmium by weight.
		• Volatile organic compounds (VOCs): The EU
		Eco-label for footwear limits the total VOC

use in final shoe manufacturing to an average
of 18.0 grams per pair.

Biodiversity Conservation

No	Questions	Explanation
		The leather industry relies on various blessings from
		nature, such as utilizing animal hides and skins and
		plant-derived raw materials. The conservation of
		livestock and wild flora and fauna is essential for the
	Are you working to avoid	sustainable development of the leather industry,
	environmental destruction	making biodiversity conservation and restoration a
	caused by business activities	critical issue for the entire sector.
1	and to conserve biodiversity?	If your company is engaged in efforts or contributions
1	※If you have such initiatives,	toward biodiversity conservation and restoration—
	please describe them in the free	such as sustainable livestock and grazing
	comment section to the extent	management, consideration for animal welfare, or
	possible.	participation in activities to reduce environmental
		impact in surrounding areas—please answer "YES."
		If you answer "YES," please also provide details of
		your initiatives to the extent possible in the free text
		section.
		In the leather industry, equipment used in the
		manufacturing process—such as drums, haspels,
		fleshing machines, buffing machines, dryers, presses,
		exhaust and ventilation systems, compressors, and
	Do you measure and manage	boilers—can generate noise levels of approximately 70
2	noise levels, such as operational	to 100 dB during operation. Noise can potentially
	noise, around the buildings of	disrupt the local ecosystem, so measures to address
	your workplaces?	this are required.
		Therefore, if your operations involve such processes
		and you measure noise levels and engage in activities
		to reduce noise, please answer "YES."
		If you do not have noise-generating processes and

		consider that noise control measures are unnecessary,
		please answer "NO" and explain the reason in the free
		text section.
		Convention on International Trade in Endangered
		Species of Wild Fauna and Flora(CITES) regulates
		the international trade of rare wild animals and
		plants. The species subject to regulation are listed in
		the "CITES Appendices I, II, and III." Similarly, the
		IUCN maintains the Red List of Threatened Species,
	Do you use raw materials	which provides the most comprehensive global
3	derived from endangered wild	information on the conservation status of animals,
	animals or plants?	plants, and fungi.
		If your operations involve the use of wild animals or
		plants listed in these sources that are subject to trade
		bans or restrictions, please answer "YES." In cases
		where "YES" is selected, you may be asked to provide
		relevant permits or certificates regarding the use of
		these items for verification.

Fair Trade

Anti-Corruption

No	Questions	Information
1	Do you have regulations prohibiting bribery, excessive gift-giving, corruption, extortion, and embezzlement?	The OECD Guidelines and the United Nations Global Compact require companies to implement systems and initiatives to prevent bribery and corruption as essential themes. In the leather industry, relevant examples include concealment of illegal livestock sourcing or fraudulent bidding during the raw material procurement stage, as well as bribery to evade environmental regulations or falsified reports on labor conditions during the manufacturing and

		processing stages.
		If your company has clearly established internal rules
		or policies prohibiting such actions to prevent these
		issues, you may answer "YES."
		Please answer "YES" if you have implemented an
	Do you provide anti-corruption	education program or manual is in place to inform
2	education and training to all	employees about what constitutes bribery and
	workers at your business sites?	misconduct, and to promote their understanding of
		these matters.
	In the past three years	If your company has received any administrative
	(including the current fiscal	guidance or penalties for violations of anti-corruption
	year), have you received any	or anti-bribery laws within the past three years
	administrative guidance related	(including the current fiscal year of application), you
3	to anti-corruption or been	should answer "YES."
	found in violation of anti-	
	corruption or anti-bribery	
	laws?	

Prohibition of Improper Offering and Receiving Benefits

No	Questions	Explanation	
	Have you refrained from	If your company has established written guidelines or	
1	promising, offering,	training programs that clearly define the value and	
	authorizing, providing, or	types of gifts exchanged in business interactions, as	
	receiving bribes or any other	well as customary practices and prohibitions—and if	
	means to obtain improper or	these are supported by internal processes such as prior	
	inappropriate benefits?	approval procedures for expense claims, receipt	
	Furthermore, are there clear	management, and third-party review within the	
	measures in place to prevent	company to ensure appropriateness—then you may	
	such issues in advance?	answer "YES."	
2	In your business activities,	This question is intended to confirm whether your	
	have you avoided engaging in	company or organization has engaged in any potentially	
	unfair practices such as	illegal activities that may hinder fair competition or	
	collusion, cartels, or abuse of	disadvantage business partners. Such "unfair trade	
	dominant market position?	practices" are strictly prohibited by law (primarily	

under the Antimonopoly Act) as they disrupt fair
market competition and harm the interests of
consumers and other businesses. If your company has
not been involved in any such misconduct, you may
answer "YES."

Quality and Safety of Leather and Leather Products

Ensuring Safety and Providing Information for Leather and Leather Products

No	Questions	Explanation		
	Do the leather and leather products you manufacture ensure safety and quality appropriate to their intended use?	Leather and leather products, such as clothing and		
		footwear, are items used closely by consumers, and		
		ensuring their safety during use is a critical quality standard. Accordingly, various standards and		
				regulations have been established. If your products
		meet the quality levels defined by such standards, you may respond with "YES."		
				 Key standards include those set out in the Japanese Industrial Standards (JIS) and others: • JIS K 6551 (Leather for footwear): Specifies benchmark values for strength, color fastness, and other properties of leather used in shoes. • JIS K 6653 (Leather for clothing): Sets
		1		
			benchmark values for tensile breaking load,	
		elongation, and tear strength based on the type of leather.		
			• JIS S 5050 (Leather shoes): Defines	
		benchmark values for thickness, hardness, ar oil resistance of leather materials according t		
			usage.	
		ISO standards: Provide benchmark values for		
		each component used in footwear.		

	EU Ecolabel for shoes: Sets minimum to the shoes is set in the shoes in the shoes in the shoes is set in the shoes in			
		strength values for upper leather depending on		
		the intended use.		
		For leather and leather products, the use of certain		
		chemical substances in handling may result in sales		
		restrictions. Additionally, because maintenance		
		methods vary depending on the type of leather, it is		
		important to provide appropriate information to users.		
		With growing awareness of sustainability, there is also		
		increasing demand for transparency across the life		
		cycle of leather and leather products—such as in		
		relation to deforestation and animal welfare.		
		Based on these factors, if the products are sold with		
		clear disclosure of the following information, you may		
		respond "YES":		
		Origin of raw materials: Source location of		
	Do you provide customers with	hides and skins, animal species and rearing		
2	accurate information about	methods, by-product status		
	leather, leather products, and	• Leather manufacturing process: Adoption of		
	services, including traceability?	environmentally friendly processing methods,		
		optimization/reduction of chemical usage		
		Transparency of production process:		
		Manufacturing country, working conditions,		
		quality inspection standards, chemicals used		
		Distribution and sales channels: Means of		
		transportation, environmentally friendly		
		packaging, price transparency		
		Durability and maintenance: Storage		
		instructions, cleaning methods, availability of		
		warranties or repair programs		
		Disposal and recycling: Manufacturer take-		
		back programs, biodegradability, carbon		
		footprint		

Business Management Planning

Business Management

		1 1 1 1 1		
		developing successors and ensuring the smooth		
		transfer of management resources (personnel, assets,		
		technologies, etc.).		
		You may respond "YES" if the following initiatives are		
		in place:		
		Successor candidates have been identified,		
		and a development plan is in place.		
		A business succession plan has been prepared		
		(including simple memos).		
		Preparations or discussions regarding the		
		succession of shares, assets, intellectual		
		property rights, etc., are underway.		
		The company has consulted with experts		
		(financial institutions, chambers of		
		commerce, external consultants, etc.).		
		Internal procedures for transferring		
		management authority and emergency		
		response protocols have been shared within		
		the company.		
		In this section, please provide a free-form description		
	Please describe any other initiatives or policies you have implemented to achieve sustainable management of your organization. **Please note that this question is intended to be answered in writing, not by selecting an option.	of your company's unique initiatives, policies, and		
		systems aimed at achieving sustainable		
		(sustainability-oriented) management.		
		Examples of relevant initiatives include, but are not		
		limited to, the following:		
		Development of a decarbonization transition		
		plan and activities to measure and reduce		
3		greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in pursuit		
		of carbon neutrality		
		Human rights due diligence (identifying,		
		assessing, and addressing human rights risks		
		in the supply chain)		
		Supply chain management (communicating		
		policies and conducting audits related to		
		environmental issues, occupational safety,		

and business ethics)

- Promotion of diversity and inclusion (systems and measures that enable diverse human resources to thrive regardless of gender, age, nationality, etc.)
- Biodiversity conservation activities
 (consideration for forest protection and sustainable resource use in raw material procurement)
- Coexistence with local communities (support activities for local communities, environmental conservation activities in the region, etc.)

These are merely examples. Please feel free to describe any other activities or policies your company is undertaking in pursuit of sustainable management. In particular, your response will be more specific and informative if it includes points such as:

- Description of the initiative (what kind of activity or policy it is)
- Background and objectives behind the initiative
- Current status, goals, and progress
- Outcomes and challenges associated with the initiative

The information you provide will be used as a reference to comprehensively assess your company's commitment to sustainability during the certification review.

6. Glossary

1. Sustainability related

• SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals)

A set of 17 global goals adopted by the United Nations in 2015, covering areas such as poverty reduction, environmental protection, and respect for human rights.

• ESG (Environment, Social, and Governance)

Three key factors used to assess a company's sustainability, especially important indicators for investors in evaluating corporate value.

• Carbon Footprint

A metric that calculates the amount of greenhouse gases emitted throughout the entire life cycle of a product.

• Paris Agreement

An international framework for climate change mitigation adopted at COP21 in 2015, which requires each country to set targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

REACH Regulation

An EU regulation on chemical substances aimed at protecting human health and the environment. It is a key regulation concerning the export of leather products.

2. Labor Environment and Human Rights-Related Matters

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)

Adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948, it is the most fundamental and universal international standard on human rights. It defines the basic human rights to which all people are entitled and serves as the foundation for international law and corporate human rights policies.

• International Labor Organization (ILO)

A specialized agency of the United Nations that sets international labor standards. It issues conventions calling for the elimination of child labor and forced labor.

OECD Guidelines

Ethical standards for multinational enterprises. The guidelines provide guidance on issues such as the environment, human rights, and anti-corruption.

- Child Labor and Forced Labor
 Standards based on ILO conventions that ensure workers have the right to work of their own free will.
- Work-Life-Balance
 A concept aimed at adjusting working hours and environments to help workers maintain a healthy and sustainable lifestyle.

3. Environmental load/emission management

- LWG (Leather Working Group)
 - An international non-profit organization aiming to minimize the environmental impact of leather manufacturing. Its main activities include establishing and certifying environmental auditing standards, promoting supply chain transparency and traceability, and fostering collaboration among stakeholders.
- BOD (Biochemical Oxygen Demand) · COD (Chemical Oxygen Demand)
 Indicators of water pollution levels. High BOD or COD values suggest significant organic contamination in the water.
- VOC (Volatile Organic Compounds)
 Air pollutants consisting of chemical substances. In leather manufacturing, they may be emitted during finishing processes or from adhesives used in leather product manufacturing.
- Waste Management Law (Waste Disposal and Public Cleansing Law)
 A Japanese law requiring the proper treatment of industrial waste. It is relevant to wastewater and waste disposal during the production of leather and leather goods.

4. Product Safety & Quality Standards

- JIS (Japanese Industrial Standards)
 National standards for products and services in Japan. Relevant standards include
 JIS K 6541 (terminology), JIS K 6551 (leather for footwear), JIS K 6553 (leather for clothing), and JIS S 5050 (leather shoes).
- Japan Eco Leather (JEL Certification)
 Environmentally conscious leather that meets the Japan Eco Leather Standard.
 Applicable to leather that complies with regulations on substances such as hexavalent chromium and formaldehyde.

 CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora)

An international treaty that regulates the trade of endangered wildlife and plants. It affects the trade of crocodile leather and other exotic leathers.

• Azo Dyes

Some azo dyes are regulated in regions such as the EU, as they can break down into specific aromatic amines that are considered harmful.

5. Fair Trade & Anti-Corruption

• Unfair Competition Prevention Act

A law aimed at preventing bribery and improper business practices among companies. Bribery of foreign public officials is explicitly prohibited.

• Anti-Bribery Laws

Laws that regulate the provision of improper benefits to public officials or between companies. These are particularly scrutinized in the context of international transactions.

• Traceability

A system that enables tracking the history of materials from raw leather to finished leather products. It plays a key role in ensuring ethical sourcing in the leather and leather goods industry.

7. Reference Information

In preparing this guide, the following international standards and guidelines have been referenced. Businesses aiming to obtain certification should consult these sources for more detailed requirements and applicable criteria.

- Leather Working Group
 - An international certification that sets environmental and social standards for the leather industry. It provides auditing criteria to promote sustainable leather manufacturing processes.
- o Official Website: https://www.leatherworkinggroup.com/

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EU Ecolabel

- An official EU certification awarded to products with low environmental impact.
 For leather products, it also sets criteria to assess the environmental impact of the manufacturing process.
- Official Website: https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/circular-economy/eu-ecolabel_en

EU Taxonomy

- An EU standard that classifies sustainable economic activities and evaluates whether companies conduct business with consideration for environmental and social factors. In the leather industry, reducing environmental impact is also required.
- Official Website: https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/banking-and-finance/sustainable-finance/eu-taxonomy-sustainable-activities_en
- OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
 - Guidelines that outline international standards on corporate social responsibility (CSR), human rights, labor conditions, environment, and anti-corruption. These also influence ethical supply chain management in the leather industry.
 - o Official Website: https://mneguidelines.oecd.org/
- UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights
 - O Principles for companies to respect human rights and prevent or mitigate adverse impacts in their business activities. These relate to the protection of workers' rights in the leather industry supply chain.
 - Official Website: https://www.ohchr.org/en/business-and-human-rights
- The International Labor Organization (ILO) "Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work"
 - O An international ILO standard that defines workers' fundamental rights, including the abolition of child labor, prohibition of forced labor, freedom of association, and elimination of discrimination. It is important for improving labor conditions in the leather industry.
 - o Official Website: https://www.ilo.org/declaration/lang--en/index.htm

8. Checklist of Required Documents for Application

Please use this checklist as a reference when preparing the required documents for the certification application.

Form	Submitted Documents	Remarks	Check
Form No.1	JLIA Sustainable Certification	Please submit one copy per company.	
Form No.2	Overview of the Business Site "Form No. 2-1: for companies handling hides, skins, or leather" "Form No. 2-2: for companies handling leather products"	For companies with multiple locations, please submit one copy for each business site.	
Please a	1.Organizational Chart	Please submit one for each business site.	
	2.Factory layout map (including site map) and manufacturing equipment layout	Please submit one for each business site.	
	3.Copy of documents showing the source of raw materials	Please submit one for each business site.	
tach th	4.Manufacturing process flowchart	Please submit one for each business site.	
lem to	5.Copy of documents certifying proper wastewater treatment	Please submit one for each business site.	
Form P	6.Copy of documents certifying proper waste disposal	Please submit one for each business site.	
Vo.2' ar	7.Copy of documents for quality inspection of leather/leather products	Please submit one for each business site.	
Please attach them to 'Form No.2' and submit them	8.Raw material acceptance inspection records	Please submit one for each business site.	
	9.Complaint handling records	Please submit one for each business site.	
	10.Copy of documents certifying that the main leather has been tested for chemicals as specified in the Japan Eco Leather Gold certification	Please submit one for each business site.	
Form No.3	Declaration of Application	Please submit one copy per company.	
Form No.4	JLIA Sustainable Certification Checklist	Please submit one copy per	
		company.	

- Once all required documents are prepared, please submit them by email or postal mail. (Send to: sdgs@jlia.or.jp)
- Attached documents must generally be issued within the last six months to be valid.
- All confidential information will be kept confidential.

• If any false information is found in the submitted documents, certification will not be granted. Furthermore, if false information is discovered after certification, the certification will be revoked.