

# AQC



ASSOCIATION POUR L'ASSURANCE QUALITÉ  
DES FABRICANTS DE BRACELETS CUIR

ENGLISH VERSION



BRASPORT  
SWITZERLAND — SINCE 1946

CAMILLE  
FOURNET  
PARIS

HIRSCH®  
The bracelet since 1785

INTERSTRAD  
MANUFACTURE

MULTICUIRS  
GENEVE

Since 2014, the AQC Board and Team are deeply committed to the vision and values of AQC.

Our mission is faithful to the same principles that unite and inspire us.

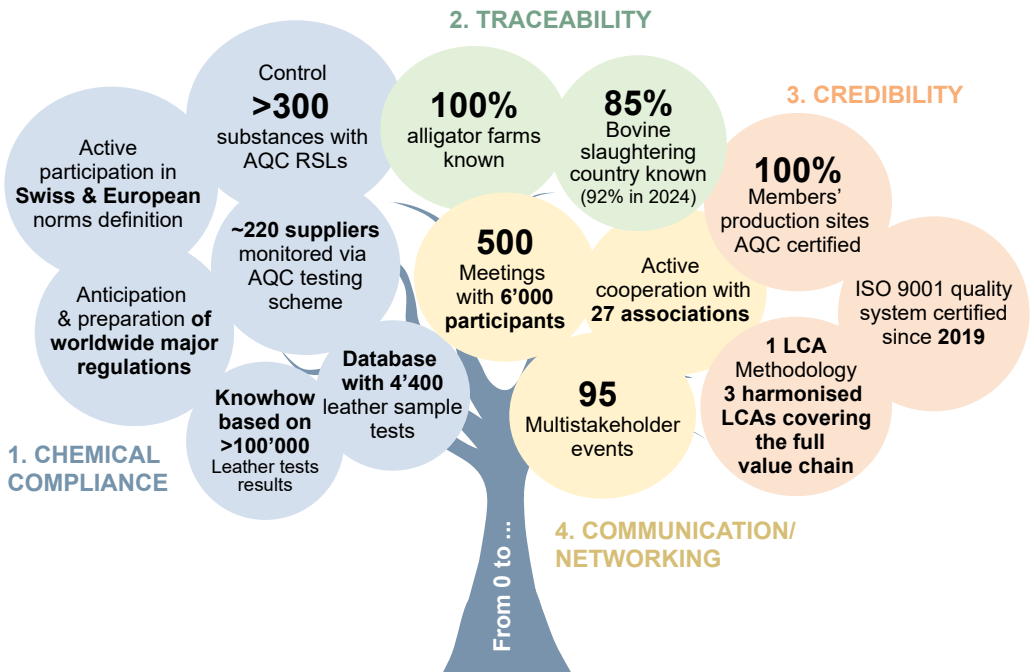
My heartfelt thanks go to all those who continuously support us and contribute to setting new standards in the watch bracelet industry, making our key achievements possible.

Together, we continue to turn a shared vision into reality.

Angelika Duckenfield, AQC President

## AQC 4 PILLARS

### 12 Years in Key Numbers





## ASSOCIATION POUR L'ASSURANCE QUALITÉ DES FABRICANTS DE BRACELETS CUIR

### VISION

Ensure a leather bracelet with the highest level of safety and proactively act for a responsible global supply chain.

### MISSION

Provide a center of competencies to facilitate and manage chemical compliance, traceability and impact of leather bracelets.

### STRATEGY

Our strategy lies on 4 pillars: chemical compliance, traceability, credibility and communication/networking.

### VALUES

Our values are: expertise, safety, confidentiality, mutualisation, in cooperation with all stakeholders.



[www.aqc-asso.ch](http://www.aqc-asso.ch)



The members of AQC are contributing transparently and collaboratively to the European Green Deal and the United Nations 2030 Agenda.

### E - ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENT



- Measure, monitor and reduce scope 1, 2 and 3 leather bracelet impact
- Support the circular economy, renewable energy, and reduce pollution and waste
- Develop strategies to preserve natural resources and biodiversity
- Limit chemical risks and ensure chemical compliance

### S - SOCIAL COMMITMENT



- Cooperate transparently and share knowledge pro-actively with all stakeholders
- Fulfil their legal responsibility for working conditions within their own workforce and monitor their value chain
- Contribute to the transmission and preservation of the leather bracelet artisanal craft
- Respect data protection policies and encourage feedback to manage risks and opportunities on the product

### G - GOVERNANCE COMMITMENT



- Implement governance within their own organisation



The members' commitment is based on 4 MAJOR PILLARS:

**CHEMICAL COMPLIANCE**

**TRACEABILITY**

**CREDIBILITY**

**COMMUNICATION & NETWORKING**



Open association and expert services



Leather supply chain mapping



Platform for exchange and multistakeholder projects



Leather Suppliers' Specifications



Interlaboratory Study



Leather Supplier's Rating



Bracelet Manufacturer Certification



Chemical Testing Schemes  
AQC RSLs



Pledge detail: [www.aqc-asso.ch](http://www.aqc-asso.ch)

**PARTNER ORGANISATIONS**



Fédération de l'industrie horlogère suisse FH  
Verband der Schweizerischen Uhrenindustrie FH  
Federation of the Swiss Watch Industry FH





ASSOCIATION POUR L'ASSURANCE QUALITÉ  
DES FABRICANTS DE BRACELETS CUIR

## EVENTS 2026

**AQC A PLATFORM FOR COOPERATION  
IN MONITORING & COMPLIANCE**



AQC events are interactive sessions intended to encourage exchange and practical dialogue, including Q&As. They are free of charge for members and annual service package subscribers.

Although certain events may be designed for a specific group, all events are **open to all stakeholders**.

### THE AQC LCA+ LEATHER COMMUNITY



**Online** | Brings together LCA expertise every 2 months to exchange knowledge and create added value for leather.

Please contact [info@aqc-asso.ch](mailto:info@aqc-asso.ch) if you would like to join.

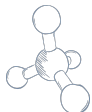
### WATCH BRANDS LCA WORKING GROUP



**5 March, 11am-12pm, online** | An in-depth review of AQC LCA results and methodology with LCA experts and alligator farmers.

Participation fee: 250 francs per company.

### LEATHER CHEMICAL COMPLIANCE WORKING GROUP



**9 March, 2pm-3pm, online** | Update on AQC chemical compliance management/tools and advice on chemical regulations with Dr. Beate Haaser, chemical leather expert within the industry for more than 25 years.

Participation fee: 250 francs per company.

### TANNERS WORKING GROUP



**31 March, 11am-12pm, online** | AQC cahier des charges for leather suppliers; tanners' rating evolution; Supply Chain Mapping process; timeline of AQC; LCAs and specific update on aggregated alligator tanners LCA; relevant takeaways from Lineapelle; PFAS and TF monitoring.

Participation fee: 250 francs per company.

### POD AQC SUPPLY CHAIN MAPPING



**24 April, 11am-11:30am, online** | Results of the 2026 AQC leather bracelet manufacturers' supply chain mapping, including updated traceability data from farms to bracelets.

Participation fee: 170 francs per company.



ASSOCIATION POUR L'ASSURANCE QUALITÉ  
DES FABRICANTS DE BRACELETS CUIR

# EVENTS 2026

AQC A PLATFORM FOR COOPERATION  
IN MONITORING & COMPLIANCE



## WORKSHOP UPDATE OF AQC CAHIER DES CHARGES (CdC) AND BRACELET MANUFACTURER CERTIFICATION



**11 June, 10:30am-12pm, online** | The CdC and certification now include 20 new questions aligned with upcoming regulations such as ESPR, EUDR, and DPP, as well as evolving industry needs. Backed by third-party verification, the certification is progressing toward becoming a NIHS standard. Participation fee: 250 francs per company.

## 2nd 2026 TANNERS WORKING GROUP



**9 July, 10am-11:30am, online** | Focus on key regulations, including Packaging and Packaging Waste, DPP, and EUDR, as well as the evolution of the Tanners' CdC and Rating, and the LCA+ projects. Participation fee: 250 francs per company.

## AQC RESTRICTED SUBSTANCES LISTS (RSLs) WORKING GROUP



**23 September, 11am-12:30pm, online** | 2026 AQC RSLs update in cooperation with all concerned stakeholders on the basis of risk analysis and the strictest international regulations. Compliance insights presented by our chemical experts. Participation fee: 250 francs per company.

## AQC IS PLEASED TO HOST AN ALLIGATOR SEMINAR WITH LAFRA



**29 September, 2pm-4pm, online in cooperation with Louisiana Alligator Farmers and Ranchers Association (LAFRA)** | Discover the key facts on alligator environmental positive consequences, nature-based solutions, LCA, natural capital accounting and ethical use. Participation fee: 100 francs per company.

## LABORATORY STUDY WORKING GROUP



**29 October, 10am-11:30am, online** | Key findings from the 6th interlaboratory study on the reproducibility of chemical compliance results. Participation fee: 250 francs per company.

## 9th AQC ANNUAL MULTISTAKEHOLDER MEETING (MSM)



**Geneva, 19 November 2026 - physical** | Full-day event dedicated to strategic dialogue and high-value networking. Topics: The future of leather in a digitalised world, in a regulated world, in a sustainable world. Participation fee: 390 francs for 1 or 2 persons from the same organisation.

To register or if you have any question or wishes, please contact us: [info@aqc-asso.ch](mailto:info@aqc-asso.ch)



**AQC and its partners have prepared this document to provide information about leather based on scientific and factual evidence.**

## LOCALISATION



- 47% of global leather exports in value come from Europe (30% from Italy, 17% from the rest of Europe).
- Thanks to its commitment to quality, sustainability and craftsmanship, Europe remains the cornerstone of the global leather industry.
- 69% of tanneries in Europe have been certified for environmental, social and governance good practice by independent certification bodies, such as the Leather Working Group, the Sustainable Leather Foundation, ICEC and Oeko-Tex.

## CIRCULARITY



- Bovine leather is made with a by-product of the meat industry.
- 60% of cattle hides are turned into leather worldwide each year, meaning that 40% go to waste.
- Leather is a fully biodegradable material, with the time to biodegrade depending on the type of tanning and finishing used.

## CLIMATE



- 51 million tonnes of beef and veal were consumed worldwide in 2024.
- 40 million tonnes CO2 are emitted yearly from hides that go to waste (=annual emissions from 8.7 million cars).
- 8 kg CO2eq per m<sup>2</sup> are emitted on average during production of bovine leather in Europe.

## SOCIAL - EUROPE



- 30'000 people work in the leather industry.
- More than 90% of tannery workers have permanent employment contracts.
- 50% of leather workers remain in their companies for more than 10 years.

## AQC MEMBERS LEATHER BRACELET SUPPLY CHAIN MAPPING 2025 – BOVINE LEATHER



- 67% of the farming countries are known and are located primarily in Europe.
- 92% of the slaughtering countries are known, located primarily in Europe.
- 90% of the bovine skins used have a known origin.



[www.aqc-asso.ch](http://www.aqc-asso.ch)

# AMERICAN ALLIGATOR KEY FACTS



## ECONOMIC & SUSTAINABILITY VALUE



- 5 million *Alligator mississippiensis* live in the wild in the Southeastern United States thanks to dedicated conservation programs and ranching systems, after facing endangerment.
- In 1979, the species was listed in CITES Appendix II, enabling regulated trade. It remains on the list due to similar appearance to other species, not because of population risk.
- 100% of the traded alligators' products are used, providing a range of valuable resources, including leather, meat, pet food ingredients and pharmaceutical materials.
- The 1st natural capital accounting model being developed for a wildlife-based industry, the American alligator program measures both ecological and economic value.

## EGG COLLECTION & RANCHING PROGRAM



- 1 obligation: farmers and ranchers must legally contribute to conservation to keep their permits.
- Unlike most crocodylian species, the American alligator rarely breed successfully in captivity. This is why licensed farms collect wild eggs under strict regulation and hatch them in controlled environments.
- 85% is the average hatching success rate on farms, far higher than in the wild.
- 5% of farm-hatched juveniles are released into the wild at 1.2 meters to support population stability. This strategy compensates for low juvenile survival rates in the natural habitat and helps sustain a healthy wild population.

## CLIMATE



- 1% of the earth's surface is covered by wetlands.
- 20% of the organic carbon in the world's ecosystems is stored in wetlands. Damaged wetlands release carbon.
- More than 80% of Louisiana's wetlands are privately owned. Selling alligator eggs provides income for landowners who conserve wetlands and protect habitat.

## SOCIAL SOUTHEAST UNITED STATES



- 25,000 jobs across farming, manufacturing, egg collection, supply chain, retail and tourism, contributing to economic stability for rural and coastal communities.
- Community-based conservation through regulated harvest and monitoring programs.
- Traditional knowledge passed on through generations of trappers, ranchers, and tanners.
- A cultural heritage symbol of the American South and Louisiana wetlands.

## AQC MEMBER LEATHER BRACELET SUPPLY CHAIN MAPPING 2025



- 97% of the exotic material used is Alligator mississippiensis leather.
- 100% of the farms are known.
- 100% of the farms are ICFA or SRCP certified.

THANK YOU TO THE ORGANISATIONS THAT CONTRIBUTED TO THE KEY FACTS



**Authenticae**  
Responsible Leather Specialists



**Louisiana**  
ALLIGATOR



**LAFRA**  
LOUISIANA ALLIGATOR  
FARMERS & BREEDERS ASSOCIATION



**UNIC**  
ITALIAN TANNERS





## ANNUAL SERVICE PACKAGE - CONTENT



### FULL ACCESS TO ALL EVENTS

- MSM
- Working Groups
- Webinars and PODs
- Participation in Multistakeholders projects



### PARTICIPATION IN REVISION OF AQC DOCUMENTS

- Restricted Substance Lists, **with access to aggregated tests results**
- AQC Tanners Cahier des Charges
- Tanners Rating Criteria
- Leather Bracelet LCA
- Any further industrial innovation



### DISCOUNT ON AQC SERVICES

- Training
- Support for chemical compliance
- Access to AQC partner laboratories and material expertise
- Quick test Chromium (VI)
- Synthetic sweat
- Individual Supply Chain Mapping
- Regulatory monitoring

CHEMICAL COMPLIANCE	EXTERNAL CLIENT - CHF	ANNUAL SERVICE PACKAGE SUBSCRIBERS - CHF
<b>Individual support and monitoring</b> on regulations of substances and biocompatibility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dedicated alert</li> <li>Specific newsletters</li> </ul>	7'985.- Annual subscription	6'790.- Annual subscription
<b>Quick Tests Chrome (VI) – Leather*</b> Kit for 6 tests	240.-	205.-
<b>Training - Quick Tests Chrome (VI)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 hours</li> <li>Illimited participants</li> </ul>	1'295.-	1'105.-
<b>Management of Chemical Compliance</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assistance for RSLs</li> <li>Control plan implementation</li> <li>Management of chemical testing</li> <li>Training, gap analysis, audits</li> <li>Non-compliance management</li> </ul>	On quotation  Basis: 370.- / hour Testing costs in external lab in addition* Administrative costs: 65 CHF/test	On quotation  Basis: 315.- / hour Testing costs in external lab in addition* Administrative costs: 55 CHF/test
SERVICES (ALL TOPICS)		
<b>Consulting outside leather bracelet scope</b> (Packaging, leather goods...)	370.- /hour	315.- /hour
PHYSICAL TESTS		
<b>Support for physical testing</b>	On quotation Basis: 370.- / hour Testing costs in external lab in addition* / Administrative costs: 65 CHF/test	On quotation Basis: 315.- / hour Testing costs in external lab in addition* Administrative costs: 55 CHF/test
<b>Synthetic sweat solutions**</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ISO pH 4.7 (NIHS 96-50)</li> <li>Alkaline pH 8.0</li> <li>Citizen</li> </ul>	<b>Bottles</b> 500 ml : 50.- 250 ml : 30.- 125 ml : 20.-	<b>Bottles</b> 500 ml : 45.- 250 ml : 30.- 125 ml : 20.-
TRACEABILITY		
<b>Individual Supply Chain Mapping - Excel File</b>	1'555.-	1'325.-
<b>Individual Supply Chain Mapping - Report</b>	3'110.-	2'645.-
EVENTS		
<b>Working Groups/ Workshops - online</b>	250.- /company	Included
<b>AQC POD</b>	170.- /company	Included
<b>Session with expert - online</b>	100.- /company	Included
<b>Multi-Stakeholder Meeting</b>	390.- (for 1 or 2 people from the same company)	Included

\* Shipping costs are charged in addition



Independent third-party audits verify AQC members' continued commitment to providing a leather bracelet with the highest level of safety possible and to proactively acting for a responsible global supply chain, in cooperation with all stakeholders.



[www.aqc-asso.ch](http://www.aqc-asso.ch)

**CONTACT US**

William-Mayer 2 | 2000 Neuchâtel | Switzerland  
+41 32 721 04 70 | [info@aqc-asso.ch](mailto:info@aqc-asso.ch)

100% RECYCLED PAPER