

identical effluents. In addition, for each outfall that the permittee believes is representative, an estimate of the size of the drainage area (in square feet) and an estimate of the runoff coefficient of the drainage area [e.g., low (under 40 percent), medium (40 to 65 percent), or high (above 65 percent)] shall be provided in the plan.

(4) When a discharger is unable to collect samples over the course of the visual examination period as a result of adverse climatic conditions, the discharger must document the reason for not performing the visual examination and retain this documentation onsite with the records of the visual examinations. Adverse weather conditions that may prohibit the collection of samples include weather conditions that create dangerous conditions for personnel (such as local flooding, high winds, hurricane, tornadoes, electrical storms, etc.) or otherwise make the collection of a sample impracticable (drought, extended frozen conditions, etc.).

(5) EPA realizes that if a facility is inactive and unstaffed it may be difficult to collect storm water discharge samples when a qualifying event occurs. Today's final permit has been revised so that inactive, unstaffed facilities can exercise a waiver of the requirement to conduct quarterly visual examination.

EPA believes that this quick and simple assessment will help the permittee to determine the effectiveness of his/her plan on a regular basis at very little cost. Although the visual examination cannot assess the chemical properties of the storm water discharged from the site, the examination will provide meaningful results upon which the facility may act quickly. The frequency of this visual examination will also allow for timely adjustments to be made to the plan. If BMPs are performing ineffectively, corrective action must be implemented. A set of tracking or follow-up procedures must be used to ensure that appropriate actions are taken in response to the examinations. The visual examination is intended to be performed by members of the pollution prevention team. This hands-on examination will enhance the staff's understanding of the storm water problems on that site and the effects of the management practices that are included in the plan.

Z. Storm Water Discharges Associated With Industrial Activity From Leather Tanning and Finishing Facilities

1. Discharges Covered Under This Section

Storm water discharges covered by this section include all discharges from leather tanning (commonly identified by Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) code 3111) and facilities which make fertilizer solely from leather scraps and leather dust where precipitation and storm water runoff come into contact with significant materials including, but not limited to, raw materials, waste products, by-products, stored materials, and fuels. This includes storm water discharges from access roads, and rail lines used or traveled by carriers of raw materials, manufactured products, waste materials, or by-products created by the facility. This section does not cover any discharge subject to process wastewater effluent limitation guidelines, including storm water that combines with process wastewater.

When an industrial facility, described by the above coverage provisions of this section, has industrial activities being conducted onsite that meet the description(s) of industrial activities in another section(s), that industrial facility shall comply with any and all applicable monitoring and pollution prevention plan requirements of the other section(s) in addition to all applicable requirements in this section. The monitoring and pollution prevention plan terms and conditions of this multi-sector permit are additive for industrial activities being conducted at the same industrial facility (co-located industrial activities). The operator of the facility shall determine which other monitoring and pollution prevention plan section(s) of this permit (if any) are applicable to the facility.

a. Industry Profile. The storm water permit application regulations define storm water discharge associated with industrial activity at 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 122.26(b)(14). Category (ii) of this definition includes facilities identified by SIC code 3111, establishments primarily engaged in tanning, currying, and finishing hides and skins into leather. Most tanneries are small family operations, although several are divisions of larger corporations. The leather tanning and finishing industry currently includes approximately one hundred fifty facilities. There are effluent limitations guidelines for the leather tanning industry based on 9 subcategories, as described in the "Development Document for Effluent Limitations Guidelines and Standards for Leather

Tanning and Finishing Point Source Category." (The subcategories were based on distinct combinations of raw materials and leather processing operations.)

Leather tanning or finishing is the conversion of animal hides or skins into leather. Leather is made from the inner layer of the animal skin, which consists primarily of the protein collagen. Tanning is the reaction of the collagen fibers with tannins, chromium, alum or other tanning agents. Tanning processes use chromium III, sulfuric acid and detergents and a variety of raw and intermediate materials.

There are three major processes required to make finished leather. These are beamhouse operations, tanyard processes and retanning and finishing processes. In general, most tanneries perform the entire tanning process, from beamhouse to wet finishing operations. A smaller number perform only beamhouse and tanyard operations and sell their unfinished product (wet "blue" stock) to other tanneries. These processes are described below:

Beamhouse Operations—These consist of four activities: side and trim; soak and wash; fleshing and unhairing. Side and trim is the cutting of the hide into two sides and trimming of areas which do not produce good leather. In soak and wash processes, the hides are soaked in water to restore moisture lost during curing. Washing removes dirt, salt, blood, manure, and nonfibrous proteins. Fleshing is a mechanical operation which removes excess flesh. The removed matter is normally recovered and sold for conversion to glue. Unhairing involves using calcium hydroxide, sodium sulfhydrate, and sodium sulfide to destroy the hair (hair pulp process) or remove hair roots. A mechanical unhairing machine can also be used to remove hair loosened by chemicals (hair save process). Beamhouse processes can account for approximately 60 percent of the pollutant load (except trivalent chromium) from a complete tannery. Pollutants that may be produced are proteinaceous organic and inorganic pollutants characterized by a high pH (10–12) and substantial amounts of Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD), Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD), Total Suspended Solids (TSS), Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (TKN), and sulfides.

Tanyard Processes—These consist of bating, pickling, tanning, wringing, splitting, and shaving. Bating involves the addition of salts of ammonium sulfate or ammonium chloride used to convert the residual alkaline chemicals present from the unhairing process into soluble compounds which can be