

1. Material Restrictions

1.1 Animal leather

In our shoes we only accept leather coming from animals where the hides are a residual product from the meat processing industry. Leather or skin must not be obtained from living or aborted animals. Skins from wild-caught animals, exotic animals or cats and dogs¹ must not be used.

In addition, NilsonGroup do NOT accept leathers or skins from:

- Cats
- Dogs
- Karakul lambs
- Animals brought up, caught and killed only for their skin as mink, fox, rabbit etc.
- Endangered species or exotic animals

1.1.1 Certified leather

Starting with production for season 2020-2 (AW-20) and onwards, NilsonGroup will only allow leather from tanneries that are audited by LWG (Leather Working Group) and rated at a minimum of bronze level to be used for our orders, unless a separate agreement has been made in writing.

1.2 Animal fur and hair

NG does not accept angora or any other hair from animals reared in cages for their hair, including but not limited to rabbit, raccoon, marten, fox, squirrel, sable chinchilla or ferret.

In addition, NilsonGroup do NOT accept fur or animal hairs from:

- Cats
- Dogs
- Karakul lambs
- Lambs/sheep subject to mulesing
- Endangered species or exotic animals

1.3 Animal down and feather

NilsonGroup only accept down and feathers coming from the meat processing industry.

NilsonGroup do NOT accept down or feathers from:

- Live plucked birds or farms practicing live-plucking
- Farms practicing force-feeding
- Endangered species or exotic animals

¹ To use skins or hides from cats or dogs is not allowed according to Swedish/EU legislation.

2. Other restrictions

2.1 Horn and bone

NilsonGroup does not accept any animal derived horn or bone to be used in our products.

2.2 PVC

NilsonGroup does not accept PVC being used in any of our products or accessories.

3. Vegan / Non-animal shoes

For a product to be called "vegan", "animal-free" or "non-animal" the following criteria must be met.

There must not be any materials originating from animals in any of the components of the shoe.

The shoes shall be made without the use of animal materials or by-products, such as leather, suede, wool, shearling, silk or fur. This includes upper materials, linings, soles (outsole, midsole, insole) and all details on the product.

All glues or adhesives used in the product must be synthetic and made from ingredients not containing any animal by-products.

This must be possible to verify by the supplier by presenting MSDS confirming the content of the glue(s) used in the production of the shoe.

4. Guidelines

4.1 Animal Welfare

The objective of these guidelines is to encourage, promote and strive to secure good husbandry practices and respectful treatment of animals, from farm to slaughter house (including but not limited to all handling of animals in connection with breeding, transports, harvesting and shearing) regarding products and materials originating from animals.

Suppliers are encouraged to strengthen the control over their respective part of the supply chain and to place the same demands on their sub-contractors.

All parties are encouraged to cooperate to improve the industry dialogue and enhance traceability and transparency, down to farm level.

Breeders and all parties handling the animals should adhere to the Five Freedoms defined by EU Farm Animal Welfare Council/World Organization for Animal Health (OIE).

The five freedoms are:

- Freedom from hunger and thirst
- Freedom from discomfort
- Freedom from pain, injury and disease
- Freedom to express normal behaviour
- Freedom from fear and distress

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Materials must not originate from vulnerable or endangered species. All parties involved, handling the animals and/or the materials, shall follow national and international legislation regarding forbidden materials. They must also respect and follow international agreements, such as the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

All suppliers are encouraged to provide information of origin of the materials as detailed as possible.

4.2 Product Design

NilsonGroup shall not use symbols/patterns/designs that can be perceived as offensive regarding religion, race, political conviction, violence/war or drugs.

If you have any questions regarding our material restrictions or guidelines, please let us know at quality@nilsongroup.com