

# PERFORMANCE RATING

2016



*townsend*<sup>®</sup>  
LEATHER

Order #  
description

EUROCOE  
Embossed & Dipped Rainfall Ptn. ELK



WEAR CYCLES .....  
TEST NO. ....

TEST CONDITION

HRS. COND. .... TEMP. ....  
WHEEL NO. .... LOAD .....  
TECHNICIAN .....  
S-36 SPECIMEN

BEFORE .....  
AFTER .....  
WT. LOSS .....

ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL  
CHAMBER

MODEL 518

TEMPERATURE

70.5

TEMP °C °F SET PT.

COOL

HEAT

ON  
OFF

ON  
OFF

ON  
OFF

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

50.3

HUMIDITY 50% SET PT.

DEHUMIDIFY

HUMIDIFY

ON  
OFF

ON  
OFF

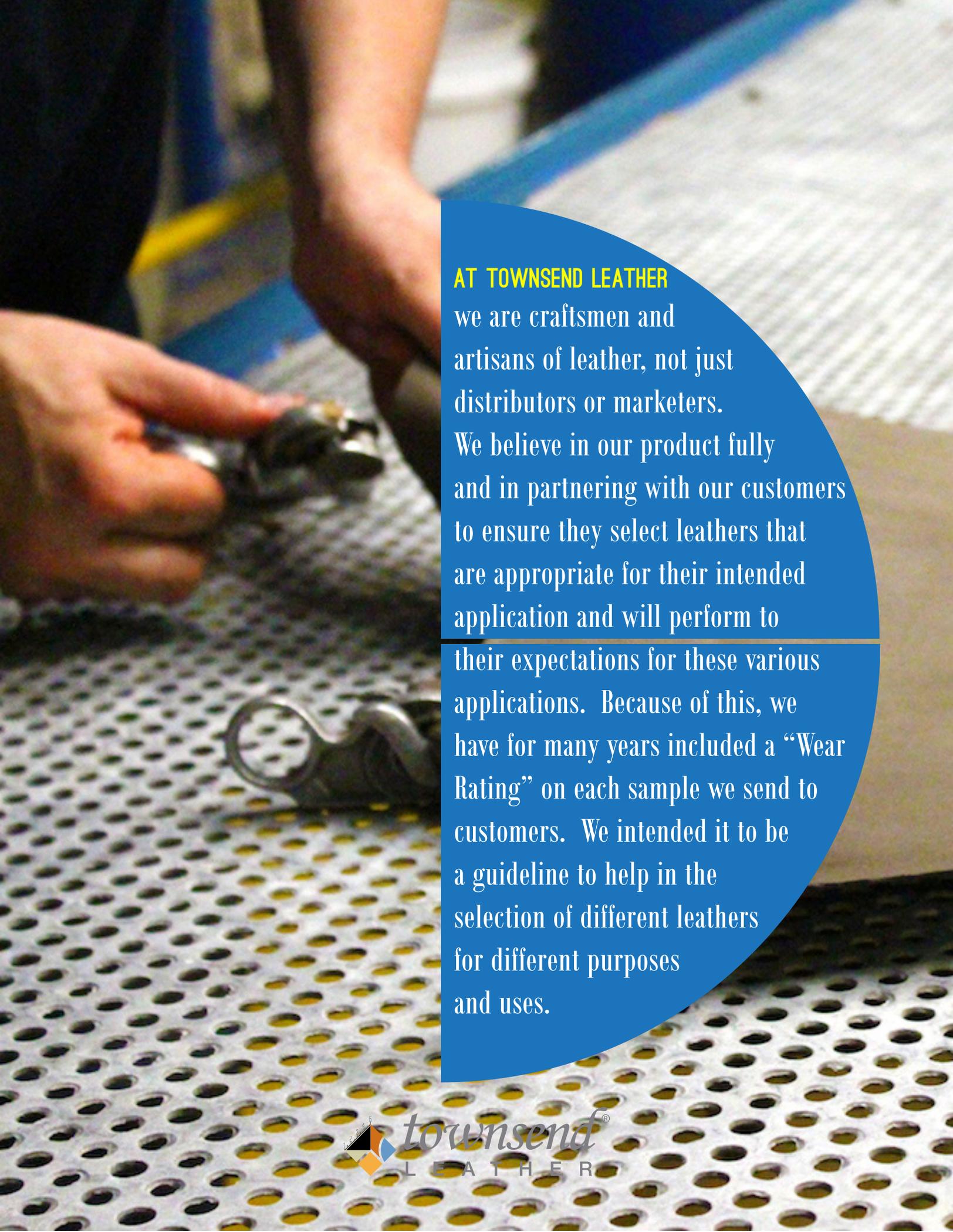
ON  
OFF

POWER

LIGHT

# INTRODUCING

Townsend Leather's  
new & improved  
Product Performance  
Rating System



**AT TOWNSEND LEATHER**

we are craftsmen and artisans of leather, not just distributors or marketers.

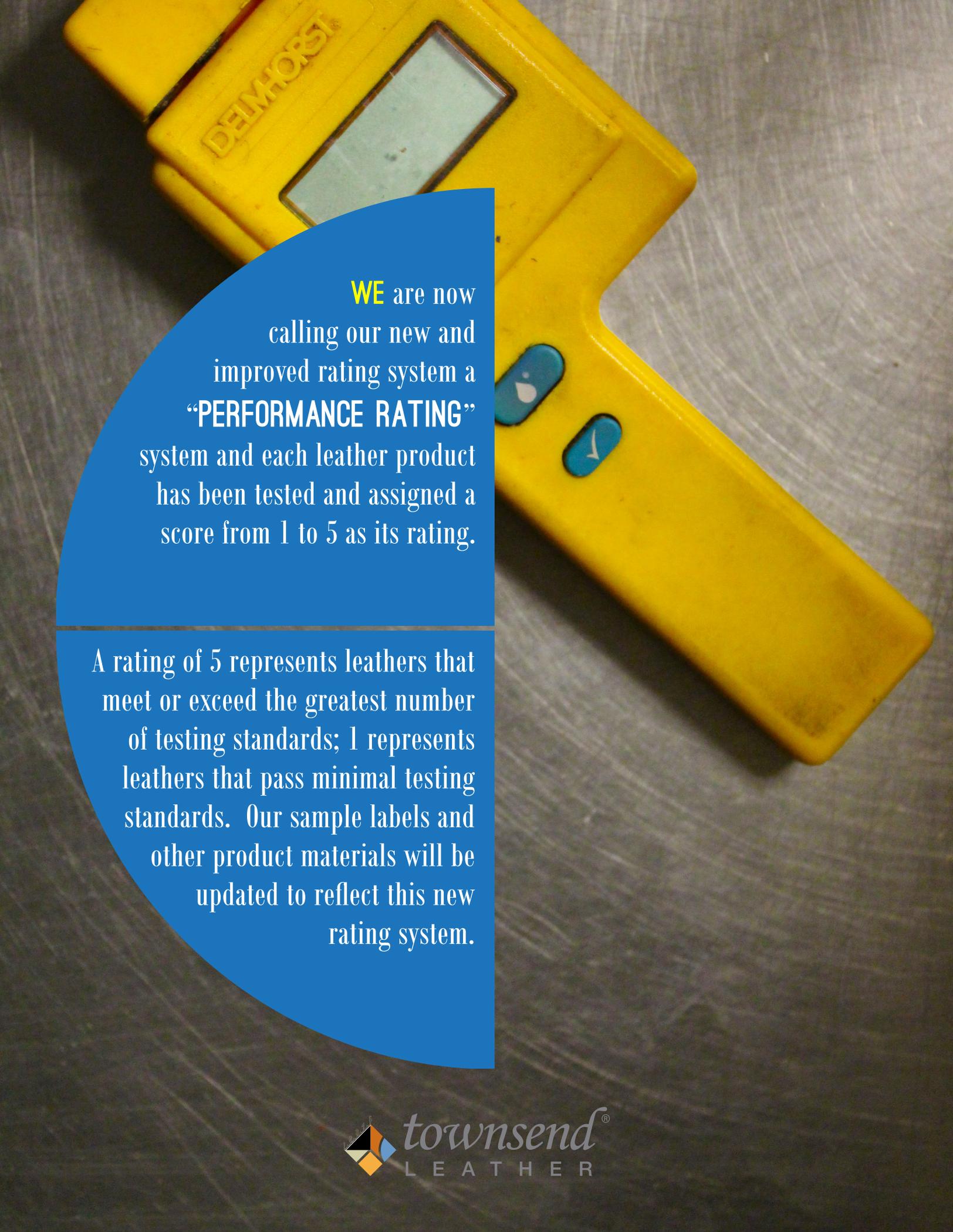
We believe in our product fully and in partnering with our customers to ensure they select leathers that are appropriate for their intended application and will perform to

their expectations for these various applications. Because of this, we have for many years included a “Wear Rating” on each sample we send to customers. We intended it to be a guideline to help in the selection of different leathers for different purposes and uses.



**JUST RECENTLY,** our Quality Team has led an initiative to update our product rating system as we have improved our processing on many of our leathers over the last decade. We wanted to make the ratings even more applicable to our customers and more representative of the many different leathers we are producing these days. We have instituted a battery of quality tests that are even more relevant to the typical usages our customers specify leathers for. We have refined the ratings for each product line we produce based on how they perform on tests of escalating difficulty and intensity.

SAMPLE NO.	- DESCRIPTION -		- WEIGHT -		- HUMIDITY -	
	BEFORE	AFTER	BEFORE	AFTER	TEMP.	TEMP.
	WT. LOSS		SUCTION		LOAD	LOAD
TEST NO.	TEST CONDITIONS		WHEEL NO.		TECHNICAL	
	HRS. COND.	WHEEL NO.	LOAD	TEMP.	HUMIDITY	SUCTION



**WE** are now calling our new and improved rating system a “**PERFORMANCE RATING**” system and each leather product has been tested and assigned a score from 1 to 5 as its rating.

A rating of 5 represents leathers that meet or exceed the greatest number of testing standards; 1 represents leathers that pass minimal testing standards. Our sample labels and other product materials will be updated to reflect this new rating system.

**IN GENERAL,** leathers rated 3 and up are recommended for most applications. Products rated 4 and 5 are most commonly used for aviation or public space seating applications. Products rated lower may still be used in proper settings and may provide the exact look and feel that you are looking for. Your Townsend Leather Sales Rep or Customer Service Rep can always help provide further explanations or guidance to help you select the appropriate leather for each application. We can often add finishes or other processing to re-engineer lower-rated products if applications are expected to be more demanding.

Keep in mind that each and every leather dye lot of Townsend Leather is tested each time it is produced to ensure it adheres to the performance standards published for each product. You can be assured that at Townsend, quality is of supreme importance. We want each leather to perform as well as possible for each end use in each interior design and keep looking beautiful as long as possible.

Use these pages as a reference to understand the breakdown of exactly what tests are passed by leathers to qualify for each rating. It also explains the intent of each test in layman's terms.

## TESTING PERFORMED AND PASSED:

1	Water Spotting And Crock Test
2	Water Spotting, Crock Test And Tape Test
3	Water Spotting, Crock, Arm Rub Welt, Taber Cs10 Without Weight And Accelerated Ageing
3.5	Water Spotting, Crock, Arm Rub Welt Test, Tape Test, Taber Cs10 With Weights, Accelerated Ageing
4	Water Spotting, Crock, Federal Block, Arm Rub Welt Test, Tape Test, Taber Cs10 With Weight, Accelerated Ageing
4.5	Water Spotting, Crock, Federal Block, Arm Rub Welt Test, Wyzenbeek, Tape Test, Taber H18 Without Weight, Accelerated Ageing
5	Water Spotting, Crock, Federal Block, Arm Rub Welt Test, Wyzenbeek, Tape Test, Taber H18 With Weight, Accelerated Ageing

**5** LEATHERS RATED AT A #5 ARE CONSIDERED THE MOST PROTECTED. THESE LEATHERS HAVE PASSED THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF TESTS AND WILL HANDLE THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF WEAR. OUR CLASSIC COWHIDE IS THE BEST EXAMPLE OF A #5 PERFORMANCE RATED LEATHER.

**4.5** LEATHERS RATED AT A #4.5 ARE CONSIDERED HIGHLY PROTECTED. THESE LEATHERS HAVE PASSED ALL THE PERFORMANCE TESTS LISTED FOR A #4 RATED LEATHER PLUS AN ADDITIONAL WYZENBEEK AND MORE AGGRESSIVE TABER TEST. EXCEL AND HERITAGE ARE BEST EXAMPLES OF A #4.5 RATED LEATHER.

**4** LEATHERS RATED AT A #4 ARE CONSIDERED HIGH PERFORMING. THESE LEATHERS HAVE PASSED ALL THE PERFORMANCE TESTS LISTED FOR A #3.5 RATED LEATHER PLUS AN ADDITIONAL FEDERAL BLOCK TEST. MOST OF TOWNSEND'S FINISHED LEATHER PRODUCTS ARE RATED A #4.

**3.5** LEATHERS RATED AT A #3.5 ARE CONSIDERED MID LEVEL PROTECTED. THESE LEATHERS HAVE PASSED ALL THE PERFORMANCE TESTS LISTED FOR A #3 RATED LEATHER PLUS AN ADDITIONAL TAPE TEST.

**3** LEATHERS RATED AT A #3 ARE MID-PERFORMANCE LEATHERS. THESE LEATHERS HAVE PASSED ALL THE PERFORMANCE TESTS LISTED FOR A #2 RATED LEATHER PLUS AN ADDITIONAL ARM RUB WELT, TABER TEST, AND ACCELERATED AGEING TEST. THE POPULAR AND NATURAL LEATHER, SOFTINA IS AN EXAMPLE OF A #3 RATED LEATHER.

**2** (TOWNSEND HAS NO LEATHERS RATED AT 2.5) LEATHERS RATED AT A #2 ARE CONSIDERED NATURALLY PROTECTED. THESE LEATHERS HAVE PASSED ALL THE PERFORMANCE TESTS LISTED BELOW, PLUS AN ADDITIONAL TAPE TEST. NUBUCK AND SUEDE ARE POPULAR EXAMPLES OF A #2 RATED LEATHER.

**1** (TOWNSEND HAS NO LEATHERS RATED AT 1.5) LEATHERS RATED AT A #1 ARE CONSIDERED NO PROTECTION. THIS RATING IS PROVIDED TO NAKED OR PEARL CRUST. #1 RATED LEATHERS CAN PASS A WATER SPOTTING TEST AND A CROCKING TEST.

## LAYMAN'S TERMS FOR QC TESTS

### WATER SPOTTING

Water Spotting will test if there are any negative effects from spilling water on the leather. In order to pass the Water Spotting test, there should not be any permanent swelling or staining seen after water is applied.

### CROCK

Crock test is looking to see if there is any excessive dye on the surface of the leather which rubs or comes off onto other surfaces.

### FEDERAL BLOCK

*Imagine you have leather to leather contact somewhere on your finished product, be it where the arm of the couch meets the seat cushion, or where the headrest meets the rest of the seat on your airplane. This test looks to see if that contact would experience any sticking.*

Federal Block tests leather to leather contact (which commonly is where the arm of a couch meets the seat cushion or headrest meets the aircraft seat). This test looks to see if that contact would experience any sticking and finish peeling.

### ARM RUB WELT TEST

Arm Rub Welt tests abrasion to determine if there is any wear when the leather is stretched and rubbed with a light cotton cloth.

### WYZENBEEK

Wyzenbeek is a more stringent abrasion test. This test simulates rubbing and wear on leather furniture with jeans over a long period of time.

### TAPE TEST

Tape Test is an adhesion test. The leather finish is cut through on the product and tape put on and pulled off to see if the finish will be removed.

### TABER TEST - H18, CS10 WITH AND WITHOUT ADDITIONAL WEIGHT

Taber Test H18, CS10 with and without additional weight is another form of abrasion test. Various test settings and materials make it more and more stringent by increasing the abrasiveness or the pressure on the leather material to see if there shows any break down on the finish.

### ACCELERATED AGEING

Accelerated Ageing puts a piece of the finished leather in a chamber which simulates very high heat and humidity environments to see how the leather sustains.

