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**Raw sheep skins —**

**Part 2:**  
**Designation and presentation**

*Peaux brutes de moutons —*

*Partie 2: Mode de désignation et de présentation*

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## Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 3.

Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

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International Standard ISO 4683-2 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 120, *Leather*, Subcommittee SC 1, *Raw hides and skins, including pickled pelts*.

ISO 4683 consists of the following parts, under general title *Raw sheep skins*:

- *Part 1: Descriptions of defects*
- *Part 2: Designation and presentation*

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# Raw sheep skins —

## Part 2: Designation and presentation

### 1 Scope

This part of ISO 4683 specifies a system for the designation and presentation of fine- and coarse-wooled sheep skins still bearing their wool which are intended for the leather or fur industry.

It applies to fresh, raw-dried, wet-salted, dry-salted or pickled sheep skins.

### 2 Classification and designation

#### 2.1 General

Raw sheep skins (wool-on) are classified as follows:

- a) lamb skins;
- b) sheep skins.

These skins are further divided into following sub-categories:

#### 2.2 Lamb skins

##### 2.2.1 Astrakhan skins

New-born-lamb skins, characterized by the tight curls of the fleece, obtained from lambs of the karakul breed slaughtered before the fifth day of life in order to preserve the curls which would break up rapidly after few more days of life.

NOTE This type of skin, from a healthy-born animal, should not be confused with a Breitschwanz skin (see 2.2.2).

##### 2.2.2 Breitschwanz skins

Obtained from the foetus of an animal of this breed when the ewe is killed for meat 2 to 3 weeks before the birth is due (the curls of the fleece are not fully developed and are in rows, forming patterns of alternate curly areas and smooth, glossy areas of straight wool).

##### 2.2.3 Lessac skins

Skins from a four-month foetus, with completely smooth, straight wool several millimetres long.

#### 2.2.4 Still-born-lamb skins

Skins of still-born lambs or of lambs that have died shortly after birth.

#### 2.2.5 Skins of milk lambs

Skins of lambs which have been fed only on milk and slaughtered at the age of 4 to 5 weeks.

#### 2.2.6 Skins of white lambs (laitons)

Skins of lambs raised in a sheep-fold, fed with milk and then with other food. The lambs are four months old at the most, and unshorn, when slaughtered, and their wool is shorter than that of ordinary lambs of the same breed.

#### 2.2.7 Skins of weaned lambs

Skins of lambs not more than a year old, weaned and usually raised in the open air. The lambs are slaughtered unshorn and have longer, denser wool than that of a white lamb, and slightly wispy. In some countries, such lambs are known as hoggets.

### 2.3 Sheep skins

#### 2.3.1 Shorn wool skins

Skins of shorn sheep. These skins are graded and named according to the length of the wool and according to the requirements of the buyer and the seller. The grading system and the names used vary from country to country.

#### 2.3.2 Woolled sheep skins

Skins of already shorn sheep in which the length of the wool is greater than 60 mm, or the skins of one-year-old sheep (antennais) which have not been shorn.

NOTE The limit of 60 mm given in this definition is valid for breeds in which the average fineness of the fleece is between approximately 22  $\mu\text{m}$  and 31  $\mu\text{m}$ .

## 3 Presentation

The skins shall be grouped together in similar lots and each lot designated by the type of skin of which it is made up.

Presentation (or trim) is the form given to the skin for subsequent use. The presentation of sheep skins shall be as follows:

The skins shall be without the head, possibly with the ears (see the note), but without teats, legs, tail, pissel or udders and with excessive fat removed from the rear gusset. The skins shall be presented flat, with the line of the backbone in the middle. The shanks shall be trimmed.

NOTE As an exception, for skins of certain origins, it is acceptable for the head to be cut off in front of the ears, the latter remaining attached to the skin, as the shape, size and colour of the ears can provide useful information about the origin of the animal.