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## Inspired Rail Interiors



Perrone Performance Leathers and Textiles is a leader worldwide specialising in high-performance, sustainable leathers and textiles for the global rail and aviation transportation industries.

Perrone manufactures a full range of genuine leather, from durable use grade for high-traffic applications to soft, supple, luxurious leather for the most bespoke customer environments. *"We understand the specifications, applications, and performance requirements demanded by the transportation*  industry. The rail market is similar to the aviation market in terms of performance, design, sustainability and customer experience," says Marc Cognetti, Vice President of Marketing.

One of Perrone's main focuses has been on weight reduction and development of sustainable, lightweight leathers and synthetics that comply with the stringent regulatory demands of the transportation market.

"Weight will always be a major consideration for all transportation industries. A reduction of weight equates directly to fuel cost savings as well as reduced environmental *impact*" says Bill Perrone, President.

"Historically, there have been perceived advantages to working with fabric over leather or synthetic products – but the benefits to working with leather far exceed those of fabric. Leather or synthetic leather is much more durable than fabric. Not only is it easier to clean and maintain, but it removes the need for dry cleaning chemicals. Which, in today's green-conscious conversation, is a plus." states Perrone.

Perrone's flagship synthetic product for rail is Ecolite™. Ecolite™ is an antimicrobial polyurethane-coated synthetic developed exclusively



by Perrone for the rail industry. The product features the look and feel of genuine leather - but at a fraction of the weight. Ecolite™ weighs only 330g/sm, featuring a weight savings of 30–60% compared to traditional leather. And versus fabric options, the closed cell surface coating of Ecolite™ makes it inherently stain and graffitiresistant, as well as antimicrobial - an important consideration in today's pandemic-oriented environment. Ecolite™ is easy to maintain with periodic soap and water cleaning, which eliminates the need for environmentally damaging dry-cleaning and treatment chemicals. Rail seats that are dressed in Ecolite™ can be cleaned without any need for removal, which also eliminates the need to send dress covers externally to a cleaning facility. This further reduces costs and carbon emissions impact.

Traditionally, fabric has been the preferred choice for rolling stock upholstery. It is stylish, customisable, soft, and comfortable. "Up until now, customisation options for leather and synthetics have been somewhat limited. Embossing, debossing and stitching are all great options for altering leather, but fabric has been the preferred choice where pattern and colour are concerned. Our new printing capabilities are closing this gap, giving the rail market a completely unique design option for their seating," explains Cognetti.

Another textile innovation offered

by Perrone is Monulite<sup>™</sup>, which is a state-of-the-art, non-wovenbacked polyurethane coated material. Monulite<sup>™</sup> was specifically developed for headliner and side wall surface applications, meeting all certification requirements. Monulite<sup>™</sup> can be produced in any custom colour, a wide variety of custom finishes, or with decorative gaufrage embossing. Monulite™ co-ordinates well with other materials due to its leather-like appearance. This significant and innovative Perrone textile offers travellers superior noise abatement characteristics and further tempts rail interiors, and designers, via the complete range of customisation choices, including custom printing options.

Perrone's innovative rail textile products meet, and often exceed the highest standards for required performance and durability specifications including BS EN 45545-2:2013+A1:2015: Annex C -R21 – HL1, HL2, & HL3, Boeing Test Method BSS 7239 Rev-A, and NFPA 130 Standards for Seat Upholstery. "We are very excited," explains Perrone. "Our new portfolio of options elevates our product offerings to a completely new level not available elsewhere. Our customers are sending us fabric swatches and asking us to match their existing patterns. It is incredible to see the huge development of this truly unique innovation."

Travelling by rail is a popular alternative to air travel, especially

as some airlines are cutting back on conveniences and flight routes. Corporate travellers turn to rail as an alternate method of transportation, citing important elements such as eco-friendliness. convenience and legroom as added perks. "Today's highspeed trains offer a full range of conveniences like a commercial aircraft, and therefore must also match expectations for luxurious and comfortable seating. Today's travellers assume a certain degree of luxury when travelling for business or vacation purposes. Our seating and upholstery options are designed to directly address that expectation," says Perrone. "We are enthusiastic to offer these technological innovations to the rail industry."

Find us at InnoTrans 2022: Hall 1.1, Stand 800

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## **inspired** rail interiors

For over one hundred years, Perrone has been the baseline for creating inspirational interiors with our range of highest quality leathers and textiles.

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