



2 Day Comprehensive Leather Course

DAY 1

WHAT IS LEATHER?

9.00 – 9.20

Arrival and coffee

9.20 – 9.30

Introduction to the course, BLC and other delegates

9.30 – 11.00

What is leather? What do we make leather from and why

What do we understand by the name leather and what are its characteristics and benefits compared to other materials? An introduction to the different types of raw material with particular emphasis on cowhide, sheepskin, pigskin, goat etc in relation to end use.

11.00 – 11.45

Leather types and definitions – what do all the names really mean?

Description and recognition of leather types and characteristics e.g., Aniline, Semi-Aniline, Pigmented, Corrected, Bycast, Splits, Nubuck, Suede, Oiled, Embossed. A brief overview of how they are likely to perform and suitability for end use will be given.

11.45 – 12.30

Common natural defects and what causes them

An overview of the more common defects found on leather and their relevant causes. Examples will be used to illustrate the defects - scars, looseness, growth lines, tick marks, barbed wire, brands, strain etc.

12.30 – 13.00

BUFFET LUNCH

13.00 – 14.00

Global sourcing and pricing of leather

An insight into trends in: global sourcing, associated statistics and raw material availability.

14.00 – 15.15

Specifying and managing leather to avoid problems

It is essential that the leather we buy and use is suitable for its intended end use. This section will help to explain the tests referred to in specifications are discussed in more detail with an explanation as to why different test methods are chosen depending on the product.

Restricted substances and related legislation

Increasingly legislation can impact on substances used in leather production – an update will be given on the current position.

15.15 – 15.30

Coffee Break

15.30 – 16.15

Laboratory demonstration of testing and problem solving

A look at routine physical testing, restricted substances testing and use of microscopes to solve some of those elusive problems.

16.15 – 16.45

Guidance on labelling and aftercare

The tanner can make beautiful leather which ends up in prestigious products only to find the consumer doesn't understand how to care for the item. Effective care labelling is becoming a priority to reduce customer returns.



DAY 2	HOW DO WE MAKE LEATHER?
09.00 – 09.15	Arrival and coffee
09.15 – 12.45	The Beamhouse Processes The importance of the preparation stages of leather making – soaking, liming, unhairing, deliming, bating and pickling. The Tanning Processes Selection of appropriate tannage for end product e.g., vegetable, chromium, wet white. What characteristics and benefits do the different tannages give to our leathers? The Post Tanning Processes 'Tailoring' leather to meet product requirements (handle, softness etc) through selection of appropriate retannages, dyes, and fatliquors. What parameters we can control and what characteristics we have to put up with! The Finishing Processes An overview of finish formulations, finish development and application techniques. How do we meet the demands of ever changing fashions whilst maintaining quality?
12.45 – 13.15	BUFFET LUNCH
13.15 – 15.00	Tour of Model Tannery
15.00 - 15.15	Coffee
15.15 – 16.45	The horror stories – when it all goes horribly wrong! Despite best efforts things still go wrong. Sometimes it's the result of a tanner mistake, maybe a manufacturing fault or inappropriate customer care – examples will be given of 'avoidable' problems and 'designed-in problems'.
16.45	Review and Close