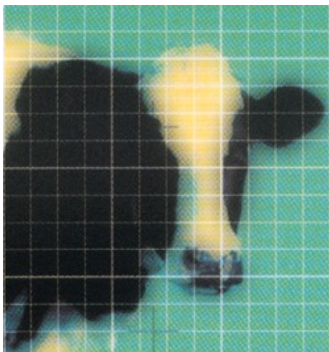


Welcome to Leather Update.....

October 2008

Its October and there is a chill in the air. In this edition of Update we bring you an article on the colourful world of Azo Dyes, the latest on Reach and introduce you to the new nickel testing method. Don't miss this opportunity to register for the Leather in Retail Seminar and Dinner in London on 19 November and also the November training courses including a 5 day intensive leather technology course and an eco leather workshop, plus a new 1 day effective selling of leather furniture. Hurry, places are going fast.



A date for your diary..... **BOOK NOW** to ensure a place

'LEATHER IN RETAIL' SEMINAR AND DINNER 19TH NOV 2008, LONDON

- Risk management in a luxury brand—*Burberry*
- Positive aspects of leather
- Risk management in a luxury brand
- How green is your leather?
- Challenges of sustainable footwear manufacture—*Terra Plana International & United Nude*
- How safe is your leather?
- Global manufacturing trends



[Click here for Programme and Registration form](#)

or contact Melanie Spence on melanie@blcleathertech.com
tel +44 (0) 1604 679941

Leather Glove Testing

BLC offers leather testing for the full spectrum of leather gloves including industrial, military, formal and sports.

Gloving leathers encompass a wide range of materials, including sheepskin leathers and bovine splits, all requiring leather tests such as colour transfer, restricted substances, leather tear strength, stitch tear testing etc.



Our aim is to provide leather testing results within 3-5 days of receipt of samples.

BLC can help with all your leather and product testing needs. For further details please contact info@blcleathertech.com

New Nickel testing Apparatus

From next month BLC will be able to offer a new Nickel Testing method. The standard is **BS EN 12472 - Method for the simulation of wear and corrosion for the detection of nickel release from coated items**. The articles are subjected to a procedure of corrosion and wear, simulating a period of two years' normal use. BS EN 12472 is a practicable imitation of this, the method being designed to gently abrade the surface and edges in order to expose any sub-surface layers.



REQUIREMENT According to EC Directive 94/27/EC, nickel released from products intended to come into prolonged skin contact (eg watch) shall not be greater than $0.5 \mu\text{g}/\text{cm}^2/\text{week}$.

Nickel Release Tests available — BLC offers the highest standard of testing: The method incorporates two major steps, the corrosion step (EN 1811) and wear test (BS EN 12472).

For further information on this testing please contact [Tracey Faulkner](mailto:Tracey.Faulkner@blcleathertech.com) or +44 (0)1604 679967.

BOOK now or contact melanie@blcleathertech.com for 5 Day Intensive Leather Technology Course 3 to 7 Nov

RESTRICTED SUBSTANCE - FACT SHEET

All you need to know about.....

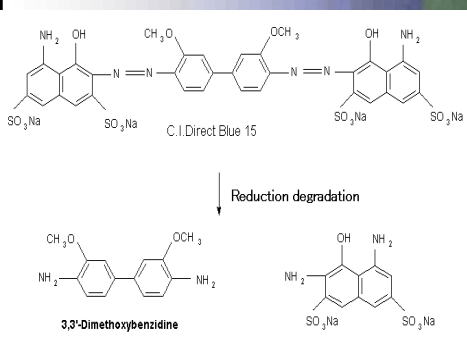
Azo Dyes

What is an Azo dye?

Azo dyes used to be among the leading colouring agents in the textile industry, especially in developing countries. Since the 1990's, when legislation was introduced restricting certain azo dyes, there has been much confusion and misunderstanding concerning azo dyes. This article aims to clear these up.

Regulations for azo dyestuffs are actually for certain azo dyestuffs that produce amines classified as carcinogenic due to reduction decomposition. If absorbed by the human body, the azo dyestuffs may be changed due to the presence of enzymes systems with reduction properties. It is those dyestuffs that produce carcinogenic amines due to this reduction decomposition that are subject to regulations. Non fixed, water-soluble azo dyes can also come into contact with skin through perspiration fluid.

The mechanism for the production of amines through the reduction degradation of dyestuff is shown in the diagram below.



In this example, since it produces 3,3 dimethoxybenzidine, a targeted carcinogenic amine, C.I. Direct Blue 15 is an azo dyestuff subject to regulation.

List of 22 amines included in the EC Directive 2002/61.

Aromatic Amine	CAS number
4-Aminobiphenyl	92-67-1
Benzidine	92-87-5
4-Chloro-o-toluidine	95-69-2
2-Naphthylamine	91-59-8
o-Amino-azotoluene	97-56-3
5-Nitro-o-toluidine	99-55-8
p-Chloroaniline	106-47-8
4-Methoxy-m-phenylenediamine	615-05-4
4,4'-Methylenedianiline	101-77-9
3,3-Dichlorobenzidine	91-94-1
3,3-Dimethoxybenzidine	119-90-4
3,3-Dimethylbenzidine	119-93-7
4,4-Methylenedi-o-toluidine	838-88-0
6-Methoxy-m-toluidine	120-71-8
4,4-Methyl bis -(2-chloro-aniline)	101-14-4
4,4-Oxydianiline	101-80-4
4,4-Thiodianiline	139-65-1
o-Toluidine	95-53-4
4-Methyl-m-phenylenediamine	95-80-7
2,4,5-Trimethylaniline	137-17-7
o-Anisidine	90-04-0
4-Aminoazobenzene	60-09-3

Also listed in Chinese legislation (GB 18401-2003) are the amines 2,4 Xylidine and 2,6 Xylidine. This states a limit for each listed amine in the product of 20ppm. The EU directive states a limit of 30ppm.

Official Methods

- CEN ISO/TS17234:2003: Determination of certain azo colorants in dyed leathers
- EN 14362-1:2003: Textiles — Methods for the determination of certain aromatic amines derived from azo colorants — Part 1: Detection of the use of certain azo colorants accessible without extraction
- EN 14362-2:2003: Textiles — Methods for the determination of certain aromatic amines derived from azo colorants — Part 2: Detection of the use of certain azo colorants accessible by extracting the fibres

To determine the compliance with the EU Directive it is very important to ensure that an official method is used as many of the more aggressive test conditions applied by some contract laboratories tend to produce false positive results.

To ensure best compliance

Whereas the dye or pigment manufacturer is in a position to know which products are affected by these restrictions, it is the retailer or importer who is responsible for compliance. The European Directive does not require any analytical testing. If the retailer can ensure by a certification procedure that banned azo colorants are not present, he can avoid substantial analytical costs.

To show due diligence an importer or retailer should:

- Seek to exclude banned azo colorants from the manufacturing chain by establishing a formal certification procedure with his suppliers.
- Ensure that suppliers of colorants to his manufacturing chain are fully conversant with the current regulatory requirements, and can be relied upon to provide accurate information on their products.
- Establish a formal system for checking compliance by testing an appropriate sample of affected consumer goods. The extent of this testing can be reduced as confidence is established, spot check testing can then be done to ensure compliance.

For further information on Azo Dyes or other Restricted Substance testing please contact:

vikki@blcleathertech.com on + 44 (0) 1604 679953

Outline of the legislation

In order to prevent risks for consumers' health, The European Commission published legislation that prohibits the marketing of textile and leather articles that come into direct contact with the skin which contain one of the hazardous amines. Indirectly this legislation restricts the use of those azo dyes which can release one or more specified hazardous amines. This legislation is laid down in **Directive 76/769/EEC** on the marketing and use of dangerous substances and preparations and its amending **Directives 2002/61/EC** and **2004/21/EC** on azo colourants.

Consumer goods affected

- clothing, bedding, towels, hairpieces, wigs, hats, nappies and other sanitary items, sleeping bags,
- footwear, gloves, wristwatch straps, handbags, purses/wallets, briefcases, chair covers, purses worn round the neck,
- textile or leather toys and toys which include textile or leather garments,
- yarn and fabrics intended for use by the final

BLC Training dates..... an opportunity not to be missed

5 Day Intensive Leather Technology Course Nov 3rd-7th

This course offers an ideal refresher for existing technologists or a comprehensive introduction to leather technology for those who are either new to the industry or who need to rapidly expand their knowledge.

Aimed at all sectors of the supply chain, from tanners to manufacturers and retailers, the course provides a fundamental understanding of the leather making process, working through all the stages of leather production, both theoretical and practical, and using a range of presentations, team working, hands-on problem solving and case studies.

Half Day Eco Leather Workshop Nov 11th

With the growing demand on the high street for eco-friendly products this course gives a simple insight into the leather manufacturing process and the key factors that determine its environmental footprint.

- Understanding the factors that affect eco leathers
- Understanding the main tanning types and how they differ
- Understanding life cycles, biodegradability, carbon footprint
- Environmental auditing

1 Day Understanding Leather Nov 8th

Perfect for those new to the leather industry and also for designers, buyers and retailers of leather products, this course offers the perfect grounding of information and knowledge on leather as a material.

EU's Peter Mandelson proposes further Asian shoe duties

Europe's former trade commissioner Mandelson, has won praise from previous critics in the European footwear industry for deciding to review the anti-dumping measures on leather shoes from China and Vietnam, which means they will stay in place for the time being.

Peter Power, a spokesman said "I can confirm that his proposal is that we should carry out the review, as this is what Community law requires."



Testing over the Christmas Period

Just to inform you that BLC will be open over the Christmas period to perform testing and provide any support you may need over this busy time.

Opening:

- 22-24th December
- 29-31st December
- 2nd January



Please contact: info@blcleathertech.com for any assistance

NEW COURSE 1 Day Effective Selling of Leather Furniture Nov 25th

This new course is ideal for all those selling leather upholstery. From the shop floor to regional sales to customer service, this course will give you an understanding of leather and suitability of products. The day will help arm your team with information and support to rebuild consumer confidence in leather.

For further information contact
Tracey Faulkner on +44 (0)1604 679967 or
Melanie Spence on +44 (0)1604 679941

45 day rule

Companies may at any time be asked by their customers or by Non-Governmental Organisations such as Greenpeace whether any SVHCs are present within an article and require an answer within 45 days.

To ensure that you are fully compliant with REACH, it may be diligent to be aware, prior to being asked whether there are any substances of very high concern (SVHC) within articles and perform any testing necessary to ensure that the levels are not above 0.1% of the weight of the article.

BLC can advise on how to respond.
Please contact paul_p@blcleathertech.com

Coming up next time. . . .

All you need to know about ...Formaldehyde



Disclaimer BLC Leather Technology Centre Ltd has made all reasonable efforts to ensure the accuracy of the information provided. However, the information should not be relied upon as legal advice or regarded as a substitute for legal advice. Due care and attention should be exercised when using this information.

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