

update
keeping you informed



Welcome to the Leather Update

This May we bring you news of an urge to ban BPA, details of seven new substances added to the RoSH Directive, CPSC developments, trends for Autumn/Winter 2010, details of BLC's restricted substance support and training courses in Hong Kong—we look forward to working with you.

Leading scientists urge ban on BPA in baby products

Scientists have rounded on the British Government for refusing to take action on a controversial chemical widely used in baby bottles – even though other countries have begun bringing in their own bans.

Denmark has become the first European country to forbid the use of bisphenol A (BPA) in any food containers for young children, amid growing scientific evidence which suggests the chemical could inhibit brain development and lead to serious health issues.

Canada and three states in the US have already forbidden the chemical in baby products, and the French Senate has backed a temporary ban. America's second largest public health body, the Environmental Protection Agency, also announced this week that it would examine the potential risks of BPA to the environment.

The scientists, who are leading toxicologists and cancer specialists last night called on Britain to follow Denmark's and Canada's lead by bringing in a temporary ban on any baby bottles which contain BPA.

BPA, which is used widely in food packaging to strengthen plastic, is an endocrine disruptor that interrupts hormones. It has been linked to breast cancer, heart disease, obesity, prostate cancer, hyperactivity and behavioural problems.

A growing body of scientific data also suggests that babies are particularly at risk from even very low doses. The plastics industry has rejected such suggestions, pointing to industry-funded studies involving rodents that have shown no harm arising from the use of the chemical.

The Food Standards Agency, which in Britain is in charge of deciding which chemicals are dangerous to our health, has dismissed calls for a ban. It continues to take its lead from the European Food Safety Authority, which decided two years ago that BPA was safe. However, critics have claimed that the scientific data the agency used to reach that conclusion was outdated.

The presence of BPA in plastics/plasticised materials can be tested for at BLC. BLC can provide comprehensive testing for potentially hazardous or restricted chemicals. If you are concerned about the presence of BPA or any other chemical, contact BLC's Technical Director, Dr Vikki Addy on vikki@blcleathertech.com or +44 (0) 1604 679953



BLC involved in Mexico Leather Project

BLC has just completed a project to develop the Mexican leather sector for export opportunities. One ongoing element of the project is to develop business with EU and US brands.

If you are interested in understanding more about the region and what it has to offer, contact Victoria Addy on vikki@blcleathertech.com or call her on +44 (0)1604 679953

++STOP PRESS++STOP PRESS++ STOP PRESS++

Seven new substances added to the RoSH Directive:

Brominated flame retardants
Chlorinated flame retardants
Polyvinylchloride (PVC)
Chlorinated plasticizers
Bis (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP)
Butyl benzyl phthalate (BBP)
Dibutylphthalate (DBP)

Wireless Transmission for Digital Gauges

MSA Engineering can now offer wireless capabilities for their ST300 Digital Softness Tester and SG300 Digital Substance Gauge. Utilising a radio module that fits into the RS 232 connector on the digital dial indicator, and a receiver that connects via a port to your PC (supplied with software), wireless transmission of measurement values from each gauge can be sent directly to the PC, using the latest development in interface technologies. This allows for integration into SPC software for data manipulation and storage.



Communicating with up to 120 gauges, and with a maximum transmission distance of up to 200m, the wireless data transfer module connects via a port on your PC. The PC transmits address numbers to each gauge's radio module where they are stored. The transmission of a measurement value is triggered simply by pressing the data key on the gauge module or on the gauge itself. An audible tone and visible light confirms a successful data transmission. Special data coding between the PC and the gauge radio module guarantees absolute data security.

For MSA's latest product brochures and price information please contact the sales office on +44 (0)116 260 8866, or email sales@msa-engineering.co.uk

Hong Kong Training—an opportunity not to be missed

BLC presents three of its ever popular leather training courses in Hong Kong this May:

- 1 Day Understanding Leather course—27th May
- Half day course: Is Your Leather Safe? - 28th May
- Half day course: Mould in Leather—28th May

To register, contact Tracey Faulkener on tracey@blcleathertech.com or call her on +44 (0)1604 679967

LOOK OUT FOR THE NEW BLC WEBSITE!

BLC has revamped and redeveloped its website, and the new version, with an updated image and improved functionality, will be going live very soon, so keep an eye out for it!



CPSC Developments

On Friday 18th December 2009 The Consumer Product Safety Commission ("CPSC") announced a revision to the terms of the stay of enforcement of the stringent certification and testing requirements under the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act (US)("CPSIA"). For children's products subject to lead testing requirements, the stay has been extended for an additional year. Products must still meet the 300 ppm lead limit now, but as of February 10 2011 certification and third party testing (conducted by a laboratory recognized by CPSC) to show compliance will be required. A children's product is one that is primarily intended for children aged 12 and younger.

The stay applies only to third party testing and certification and does not affect the importer's obligation to ensure that their products meet the applicable safety standard.

The Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008 ("CPSIA") mandates that importers of durable infant or toddler products: (1) provide a postage-paid consumer registration form with each product; (2) keep records of consumers who register their products with the manufacturer; and (3) permanently place the manufacturer's name and contact information, model name and number, and the date of manufacture on each such product.

Due to concern that footwear could be deemed to fall within the scope of this provision, the Footwear Distributors and Retailers of America (FDRA) asked that the CPSC make it clear that footwear was not considered a durable infant product. The Commission has published a final rule on this requirement. *74 Federal Register* 68668 (December 29, 2009). The commentary to the final rule states that footwear is **not** considered a durable infant product.

On 18 December 2009 the CPSC voted to adopt an interim enforcement policy allowing component part lead testing for children's products. This policy allows importers and domestic manufacturers to certify their products by either sending samples of the entire children's product out for third party testing, or having testing performed on the paints for compliance with the 90 ppm lead in paint limit or on a particular accessible component for compliance with the 300 ppm lead limit. Most fasteners, such as buttons, zippers and screws, are not per se considered children's products so as to require lead testing, but when they are used in children's products, lead testing would be required.

The CPSC has received a petition from Intertek Consumer Goods NA and the American Apparel and Footwear Association requesting that it authorise and clarify test procedures for "spray sampling," "multiple stamping" and "finished component testing" under the Consumer Product Safety Act. Section 14(a) of the CPSA, as amended by the CPSIA, requires that samples submitted for testing be "identical in all material respects to the product." The petition asserts that final product testing for lead in paint results in the destruction of many samples (sometimes several hundred) to obtain a sufficient sample size. Furthermore, while composite testing of different paints is now allowed under certain conditions, there are numerous situations where there is only one small-area colour on a product to test, or where even composite testing of up to three unlike paints still requires the destruction of many product samples.

Accordingly, the petition requests the CPSC to authorise the use of alternative test procedures (i.e., spray sampling, multiple stamping, and finished component testing) to ensure that only one or a few samples or components are destroyed without compromising the validity or reliability of the tests themselves.

BLC is a CPSC approved laboratory for lead testing. BLC offers a complete chemical testing service for restricted substances, contact info@blcleathertech.com for more information.

CPSC LABORATORY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER

1049

Leather on trend for A/W 2010 - 11

Leather was the material of choice during the recent Fashion Month, with many designers showing pieces made from leather, suede, shearling and fur.

The trend for leather skirts, shirts and dresses has already begun to filter down to the high street and looks set to continue to be a key trend well into 2011.

With consumers having high expectations of leather, suede and fur – whether in garments or accessories, there is a lot of pressure on retailers to deliver quality products which are safe and labelled appropriately.

Reduce your leather product returns and improve customer satisfaction with clear performance specifications and a structured leather testing programme. BLC members have access to a number of in-house leather specifications. Bespoke leather specifications can be developed for individual customer requirements on request.

BLC can also support with a comprehensive range of specialist leather testing for performance and chemical requirements. Have a problem with leather or a product?, contact us now for details of our problem solving and diagnostic services.



Restricted Substance Support

There is also the added demand of ensuring that consumer safety is adhered to by ensuring restricted substances stay within compliant levels. With legal requirements varying depending on which country a product retails in, managing restricted substances can be a complicated business. With this in mind, BLC offers a range of products and services to support with all areas of restricted substance management. If you would like to know more about regulations and legislation related to leather then we can help and advise. We can help you to navigate your way through the complexities of legislation (especially global regulations) and help you to understand what is relevant to your products and your business.

Restricted substance policies

BLC can advise on and prepare restricted substance policy documents tailored to your business. These will include legislative references, list relevant chemicals to be controlled and advise on test methods and requirements. BLC can also help with supplier conformance letters.

Risk management and Due diligence

BLC can support with risk management of products and offer due diligence programmes to manage risk within your business. We will apply our understanding of high risk materials and knowledge of likely failures to provide a robust and credible due diligence process.

Failure management and supply chain cleansing

Businesses that test for restricted substances will have failures and BLC can help to understand the magnitude of the failure and the likely risk in terms of retail. Failed test reports will be supported with advice on the most likely point of failure within the supply chain. BLC can advise on strategies to avoid restricted substance formation or occurrence and provide information on alternative chemicals.

Testing

BLC is making continuous improvements to its testing facility in particular with advancements in analytical testing. BLC has enhanced its capability for analytical testing particularly in the field of restricted or banned substances and complex organic chemical analysis.

If you are interested in finding out more about any of the above services, contact BLC on info@blcleathertech.com or call +44(0)1604 679999

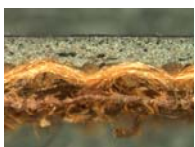
Leather Labelling

There are many different materials available to manufacturers and retailers to produce goods, and some modern synthetic materials so closely resemble real leather that it is difficult to differentiate between the two. It is important to understand what material is being used as this will have an impact on how the material will perform in use.

Many of these synthetic materials have limitations, which if not understood could lead to failure in use and customer return. There is also the issue of labelling: it is vital to know what the material is and how to label it so as not to mislead consumers and to preserve the reputation of leather. BLC can assist with the verification of materials and give advice on the correct labelling terminology.



Leather



Coated textile with leather fibres

Contact info@blcleathertech.com for more information

Eco Trends conference a big success.

An 'Eco Trends in Leather' conference took place on March 30th, during the APLF in Hong Kong. Organised by BLC along with the APLF, the topical conference featured speakers from adidas, Lanxess, the National Wildlife Federation, ISA Tantec, PrimeAsia and BLC Leather Technology Centre. Over 80 delegates enjoyed hearing them speak on subjects ranging from deforestation and traceability through to sustainability and green chemicals. The event was sponsored by Lanxess, Stahl, Adina Machinery and Leather International magazine.

LANXESS
Energizing Chemistry

Stahl

ADINA
ADINA MACHINERY COMPANY LIMITED
艾特拿有限公司

leather
INTERNATIONAL

BLC
Leather Technology Centre

APLF
Serving the Global Industry

2010 leather training courses

january

26th

1 day understanding leather, hong kong

27th(am)

1/2 day mould in leather products,
hong kong

27th(pm)

1/2 leather product safety,
hong kong

february

23rd

1 day understanding leather

24th

1 day leather finishing

25th

1/2 day leather
product safety

march

4th(am)

1/2 day mould in leather
products

22nd-23rd

2 day comprehensive
leather

april

27th

1 day understanding leather

28th

1 day leathergoods
& construction

may

17th-21st

5 day intensive
leather technology

june

1st-2nd

2 day clean technology
in leather making

29th

1 day understanding leather

30th

1 day garment construction

august

24th

1 day understanding leather

25th

1 day leather finishing

26th

1/2 day leather product
safety

september

21st-22nd

2 day comprehensive
leather

july

8th(am)

1/2 day mould in leather products

27th

1 day understanding leather

october

5th-6th

2 day clean technology
in leather making

26th

1 day understanding leather

27th

1 day leathergoods &
construction

november

8th-12th

5 day intensive
leather technology

30th

1 day understanding
leather

december

1st

1 day garment construction

9th(am)

1/2 day mould in leather
products

2010 Prices

	Price Member	Price Non Member
1/2 day	£145	£195
1 day	£199	£299
2 day	£645	£845
5 day	£895	£1,195

Prices correct at time of print. For full terms & conditions visit
www.blcleathertech.com/training-terms

Tel: +44 (0)1604 679999

Email: training@blcleathertech.com

book online at www.blcleathertech.com



BLC Leather Technology Centre Limited,
Leather Trade House,
Kings Park Road, Moulton Park,
Northampton, NN3 6JD, UK,
Fax: +44 (0)1604 679998