

## BLC Chemical Testing Services

Chemical testing is vital to ensure that products entering the market place are safe, fit for purpose and compliant with legislation. Legislation differs throughout the world and managing compliance can prove to be a difficult, challenging task when manufacturing and supplying products around the globe.

A further consideration is that consumers are becoming better educated and aware of their rights with tools such as the internet providing information on consumer law. A thorough understanding of the processes involved coupled with the technical know-how are required to ensure effective chemical compliance within your supply chain.

BLC offer chemical testing and supply chain support at our CPSC/ISO17025 accredited laboratory. We are one of the fastest testing laboratories in Europe and provide results within 3-5 working days. With over 90 year's experience, BLC have a vast knowledge and understanding of chemical testing product legislation and can help interpret what is relevant to your business and supply chain.

Our focus is to support all BLC customers in this challenging business area by sharing our expertise with you. BLC can offer a range of services including risk assessments, restricted substance policies and manuals, materials & product testing, failure analysis and remediation.

This document will briefly discuss some of the key legislation which is current in today's global market place.



### Chemical Testing Specifications

Chemical testing of substances is a specialist task. BLC has considerable experience in chemical testing and we are able to identify the compounds that are likely to be present in products and we can provide solutions and advice when failures do occur.

With many businesses now sourcing from the global market place, it is more difficult to have regular contact with suppliers to ensure that restricted substances are not being used. The operation of an effective due diligence process is important to ensure that products are safe. BLC offers a complete quality and risk management package for retailers and brands that will address all aspects of product sourcing, and sale.

The only way to ensure consistent quality and performance for products is to set realistic specifications that are coupled with a sensible and balanced testing regime. The chemical testing regime must ensure that the critical substances are monitored

without this process being financially onerous for the customer and supplier. BLC can ensure that all chemical testing will be in line with current legislation and industry standards.

### REACH Testing

REACH is the European Community Regulation on chemicals and their safe use (EC 1907/2006). It deals with the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemical substances.

The REACH Regulation calls for the progressive substitution of the most dangerous chemicals when suitable alternatives have been identified.

All products supplied within Europe must be compliant with REACH and specifically the presence of SVHC's (substances of very high concern). BLC can assist with REACH testing and REACH support that may be required. BLC also offers a REACH screening process to ensure that you can meet the immediate requirements of the REACH Regulations.

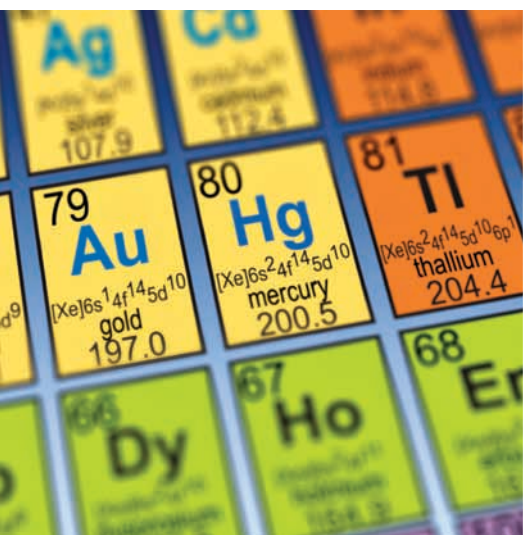
### CPSIA Testing

The consumer product safety improvement act (CPSIA) of 2008 controls the amount of lead and phthalates in consumer products designed or intended primarily for children 12 years of age or younger. These regulations are law and testing of products is mandatory.

This safety standard has been widely adopted voluntarily to control the amount of lead in all products sold within the USA.

BLC is a CPSC accredited laboratory (CPSC 149) for lead testing. BLC also offers a comprehensive range of phthalate testing.





## GB Standards Testing

Any brand supplying leather product into China needs to demonstrate compliance to GB standards testing for formaldehyde and azo dyes.

If you are selling leather products in China, these standards are mandatory and currently can only be conducted by a Chinese government laboratory. BLC, working with a Chinese partner laboratory can provide a GB standards testing service to meet your needs.

It is important to note, brands that are in breach of the GB standards regulation may have their products seized from stores.

Please contact us if you require more information on GB Standards testing.

## Footwear Restricted Chemical Guide

A new guide to managing restricted substances in footwear is now available to BLC members. For further information please contact us.

## Proposition 65 Compliance & Testing

Proposition 65, otherwise known as the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, was enacted as a ballot initiative in November 1986 in the state of California. Proposition 65 has more recently become a product safety directive under which any retailer of a product or service can be challenged legally regarding the chemical content of a product against a list of over 850 potential chemical candidates.

Proposition 65 does not ban the sale of any product; it requires, however, that warnings are issued advising citizens and consumers of potential risk. Proposition 65 only applies in the State of California and covers all products and services distributed within the State.

Brands and retailers selling product into California need to be aware of the limits and ensure that products are fully compliant with legislation.

Failure to comply with Proposition 65 can have significant financial implications and potentially cause damage to brand reputation.

If you are selling product in California and would like further interpretation of Proposition 65, or information on BLC's Proposition 65 testing service, information on settlements or ensuring compliance within your supply chain, please contact us.

## Chemical Testing Tips

- Retailers should be checking suppliers certificates to ensure that products have been chemically tested
- Conduct frequent due diligence testing
- Keep informed on legislation so that you are complying with product safety laws around the world

BLC are able to help with any concerns, questions and advice about manufacturing and supplying product. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require support.

**BLC members receive 30% discount on all testing, training and problem solving support.**

## Contact us

For more information:  
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## Five reasons to use BLC for your leather, footwear and material testing

- Speed of delivery - testing results in 3-5 days
- Specialists in restricted chemical testing
- Technical back up and support from experts if needed
- A focus on customer service and support
- An assured pedigree through 90 years of experience

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