



BLC Footwear Testing Services

BLC is one of the fastest testing laboratories in Europe, we can deliver results within 4 days. Established for over 90 years we have proven expertise in footwear testing, chemical testing and problem solving support, our experience of different materials and chemical testing means that we ensure the appropriate test methods are used at all times.

Many testing laboratories are only able to supply simple pass/fail test reports which can prove a problem when a test has failed, test results can also be difficult to understand. BLC offer easy to understand test reports, we also offer additional support to all customers following a sample failure by providing advice on why the test was negative and solutions on how to avoid sample failures in the future.

BLC offers a comprehensive package of whole shoe and footwear component tests as well as a fit assessment service in addition to the full schedule of leather testing and restricted chemical testing. BLC can advise on which tests are relevant to your product type and help you to write a specification based on your product and its intended end use.

Fit Assessments

BLC offers a comprehensive, technical and commercially focused fit assessment service for both children's and adult footwear. This service, developed in response to market demands and significant interest from customers, is provided by qualified shoe fitters and adds an important dimension to the already extensive range of footwear testing services available from BLC.

BLC works closely with a number of local schools and nurseries. The model ages range from pre-walkers to 16yrs and incorporate all associated shoe sizes. For each pair of shoes fitted, three models will be used, subject to availability.

The standard equipment used to conduct the fitting assessment is the tape and measuring stick, however the Brannock gauge is available where specifically requested.

The standard turnaround time for fits is 3 working days, with an express next day service available for a premium.

Chemical Testing

BLC offer chemical testing to all branches of the footwear industry at our UKAS/CPSC accredited laboratory. We are able to identify the chemicals that are likely to be present in footwear, where they may originate and offer advice on test failures.

To ensure compliance with legal and social requirements, and ultimately brand protection, a comprehensive restricted substance package, including whole shoe testing, is available to the footwear supply chain.

The footwear supply chain is complicated due to the large number of component suppliers involved. The operation of an effective due diligence process is important to ensure that products are safe for consumer use. BLC offers a complete quality and risk management package for retailers and brands that will address all aspects of product sourcing, and sale.

There are many substances whose presence may be restricted/controlled in footwear components (azo-dyes, chromium VI, formaldehyde, nickel, PCP to name just a few). These will vary depending upon the materials of which the component is made and the final intended use of the product.

In addition to typical chemical testing, other examples include:

- Evaluation of nickel release from metal components

- Determination of phthalates in PVC
- Assessment of children's shoes for total and extractable heavy metals content

BLC plays an active role in monitoring the legislative and brand positions on various restricted substances and also has a high profile presence on many of the standards committees (BSI, CEN and ISO), all related to footwear. A benefit of BLC membership is access to this information and advice associated with these issues.

The only way to ensure consistent quality, safety and performance of footwear is to set realistic specifications that are coupled with a sensible and balanced testing regime. The chemical testing process must ensure that critical substances are monitored without this being financially onerous for the customer or supplier. BLC can ensure that all chemical testing will be in line with current legislation and industry standards giving you peace of mind in this critical business area.





Problem Solving



Mould Inspection, Testing & Problem Solving



Chemical Testing

Problem Solving

No matter how well production processes are managed and controlled, problems and faults do occur. Faults need to be identified and resolved rapidly, failure to do so can potentially cause damage to reputation, cost implications for your business and dissatisfied customers.

At BLC we regularly see a range of footwear related problems, common examples are heel fatigue, slip resistance issues, cracking leather, colour transfer and structural performance, our aim is to solve all problems within 5-7 working days.

When things go wrong BLC customers expect swift, targeted solutions to address their problems. BLC has an in-depth knowledge of footwear, coupled with a thorough understanding of footwear specifications and performance so that we are strongly placed to give our customers the service and support they require.

Mould Inspection, Testing and Problem Solving

Mould in leather footwear is another common and challenging problem. It is often seen after shipping where products have been stored for long periods of time. At BLC, our team of experts can analyse mouldy leather to determine how the mould has occurred, what type of mould is affecting the leather and if the mouldy leather can be remediated.

Proposition 65 Compliance and 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. The Proposition was intended by its authors to protect Californian citizens and the State's drinking water sources from chemicals known to cause cancer, birth defects or other reproductive harm, and to inform citizens about exposure to such chemicals.

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 850 potential (and growing) 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, therefore all retailers and manufacturers supplying products into California must comply with these regulations.

BLC offers Proposition 65 compliance testing and technical consultations at our UKAS/CPSC accredited laboratory and we can deliver results within 3-5 working days.

If you are selling product into California and would like further interpretation of Proposition 65, Proposition 65 testing, the settlements or ensuring compliance within your supply chain please contact us.



Contact us

For more information:

+44 (0) 1604 679999

info@blcleathertech.com

www.blcleathertech.com

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

BLC Leather Technology Centre Ltd

Kings Park Road
Moulton Park
Northampton NN3 6JD
United Kingdom

t: +44 (0) 1604 679999

f: +44 (0) 1604 679998

e: info@blcleathertech.com

www.blcleathertech.com

