



BLC Environmental Stewardship Audits

BLC leather experts can provide audits against the Leather Working Group environmental stewardship protocol. Our qualified and approved auditors can provide support beyond the scope of the audit, giving recommendations for improvement where necessary, helping to minimise costs through water and energy reductions and general environmental stewardship efficiencies.

LWG Environmental Audits

The Leather Working Group has developed a standardised environmental auditing process to cover all the essential elements of environmental best practice management for Leather Manufacturers. The environmental protocol includes an auditing checklist, plus scoring and reporting mechanisms and agreed structures for audit visits. The auditing protocol and reporting mechanism has been developed in conjunction with major brands and tanners giving a unified approach to tannery environmental audits. With the rising profile and value of world brands there is an increasing need for environmental due diligence in the product supply chain. On completion of an audit, the leather manufacturer may be awarded a Gold, Silver or Bronze award.

The Need For Audits

The auditing of a tannery for environmental impact is a specialist task due to the complex chemistries and the potential risks involved. For example the volume of solid and liquid waste generated by a tannery producing leather from raw hide can be significant. Approximately 80% by volume of the raw material is disposed of as waste and this, combined with effluent treatment sludge, means that up to 50 tonnes of solid waste can be generated each day by large tanners. Coupled with high water usage, this means that tanners can potentially be heavy polluters if their processes are not properly controlled.

What is the Leather Working Group?

The Leather Working Group is made up of representative parties from different areas of the product supply chain including major footwear brands, tanners, technical experts and other industry representatives. The group seeks to improve the tanning industry by creating alignment on environmental priorities, bringing visibility to best practices and providing suggested guidelines for continual improvement.

The objective of this multi-stakeholder group is to develop and maintain a protocol that assesses the compliance and environmental performance of tanners and promotes sustainable and appropriate environmental business practices within the footwear leather industry.

It is the group's objective to work transparently involving suppliers, brands, retailers, leading technical experts within the leather industry, NGOs, academic institutions and other stakeholder organisations.

BLC leather experts offer audits against the Leather Working Group environmental stewardship program. For further information on LWG Audits, please visit <http://www.blcleathertech.com/lwg-audits.htm> or contact our Consulting team on +44 (0)1604 679999 email: info@blcleathertech.com

Contact us

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Membership

Training

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Technology