



Leather Manufacturer Support Services



BLC are experts in leather with over 90 years experience working with leather manufacturers and in the leather industry. We have the technical pedigree in leather technology to provide fast accurate solutions to technical, management or environmental leather problems.

We understand the challenges associated with making leather and supplying product manufacturers and retailers. Customers are demanding competitive prices, faster delivery times, smaller quantities and consistent quality.

Taking all of these factors into consideration, we have tailored a number of services which will benefit and add value to leather manufacturers around the world; this information sheet discusses the various services we have to offer.

LWG Audits

BLC offers audits against the Leather Working Group environmental stewardship program.

The auditing of a tannery for environmental impact is a specialist task due to the complex chemistries and the potential risks involved. The Leather Working Group, has developed a standardised environmental auditing process to cover all the essential elements of environmental best practice management in a tannery. 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 tannery can be awarded a Gold, Silver or Bronze award. Please contact us for further information on LWG audits.

Chemical Testing

Chemical testing of substances in leather is a specialist task due to the complex nature of the substrate. Only a chemical testing laboratory with a comprehensive understanding of leather and restricted chemical testing can provide this support.

BLC is a specialist chemical testing laboratory with considerable expertise in dealing with the complex nature of leather and related substances. We are one of the fastest testing laboratories in Europe and can provide chemical testing results within 3-5 days working days.

BLC are in a unique position with the relevant experience of leather and related products to identify the compounds that are likely to be present in materials tested, where they may originate and the likelihood of false positive results.

Whilst many testing laboratories are only able to supply simple pass/fail test reports; BLC is able to offer additional support and advice immediately upon report of a sample failure. In addition our experience of different material testing means that we ensure the appropriate test methods are used at all times.

BLC are aware of the compounds that should be avoided, along with the appropriate limits and test methods.

We also offer supply chain advice and support should you require any technical assistance.

Please contact us to find out more information about BLC chemical testing and related services.

Problem Solving/ Troubleshooting:

Do you have difficulty finding the cause of a recurring technical leather problem? In our experience it is rarely one, but more often a combination of factors that cause leather processing problems.

BLC is able to help with all leather problems; we use a logical, scientific approach to leather problem solving to identify minor and major issues which may have been overlooked during initial in-house examination.

Typical leather problems are discussed overleaf:



Looseness in Leather

Looseness in leather can be caused by a number of leather processing factors; bacterial degradation in the raw stock, excessive opening up in the beamhouse, fatliquor penetration, impregnation, mechanical stressing, leather moisture content and drying amongst others. With all these factors it is critical to have tight control over the trials and the subsequent evaluation. BLC's technical team can help leather manufacturing staff, who often have limited time or resources, to tackle these problems in a logical way.

Signs of Excessive Growth

Understanding the background science is important when dealing with this type of leather problem and is where the blend of leather science and leather experience at BLC pays dividends. For example, our research has shown that soaking, over liming, under liming, pH gradients and tannage application all have a considerable effect on growth.

Other Leather Problems

Additional common problems are uneven dyeing, cracking leather, colour variation, grain damage, poor yield, weak leather and finish failure. Whatever your leather processing problem, BLC is likely to have either seen or solved it before.

Leather manufacturers can send leather or product to BLC to identify the cause of leather problems. Once identified, our team of specialists will provide expert leather problem solving advice and support. This can take the form of telephone or e-mail support through to provision of expert on-site assistance anywhere in the world. Please contact our technical team for further information.

5 Day Leather Training Course

BLC offer a 5 day intensive course for those who want to understand the practical aspects and science of leathermaking. The course has a significant practical element where delegates will tan, dye and finish leather in BLC's model tannery. This course will provide delegates with a fundamental understanding of the leathermaking process and will cover essential aspects such as material management, hair removal, tanning, retanning, dyeing and finishing. The knowledge gained will help delegates work towards the elimination of technical problems in production and identify critical control points in the leathermaking process. A perfect course for leather manufacturers.

BLC Membership

The production of leather is a chemical intensive process with complex and often expensive chemistry. BLC membership provides access to experienced leather technologists who can review and refine leather manufacturing processes to optimise quality, we can also advise on cost savings by reducing energy, waste and water costs. One of the many benefits of membership is that all on-site support is available at discounted rates.

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



Contact us

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Membership

Training

Testing

Technology