



## Complying with International Legislation



Manufacturers, brands and retailers are expected to conduct a range of performance and compliance tests to ensure that products entering the market place are safe, fit for purpose and meet global legislation.

Failure to comply with these regulations can potentially cause damage to brand reputation, cost implications for your business, products not fit for sale and dissatisfied customers. BLC offers product testing and supply chain support at our CPSC/UKAS 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 has a vast knowledge and understanding of 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, drafting 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 and how BLC can help you achieve compliance with the varying legal requirements.

### Legislation

Legislation differs throughout the world and managing compliance can prove to be a complex, challenging task when manufacturing and supplying products around the globe.

A further consideration is that consumers are becoming better educated and more aware of their rights with tools such as the internet providing information on consumer law.

A thorough understanding of the processes involved, coupled with technical know-how, is required to ensure product compliance within your supply chain.

### REACH

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

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

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, that brands in breach of the GB standards regulation may have their products seized from stores. Please contact us for more information on GB Standards testing.

### EN71-3

Widely adopted within Europe as a general product safety standard for heavy metals and toxic elements in consumer products.

EN71-3 is a migratory test, evaluating the propensity of metals to leach from products and cause safety hazards, particularly relating to exposure through sucking and mouthing of items.

BLC also offers a wide range of heavy metals testing including total digestion and extraction in perspiration.

### REACH Annex XVII

BLC offers a comprehensive testing service for leather and associated material related regulated chemicals on REACH Annex XVII list, including Azo dyes, PFOS, Nonyl Phenol ethoxylates, Nickel and Phthalates.

### Proposition 65

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.

### Solutions

The only way to ensure consistent quality, safety and performance of products is to set realistic specifications that are coupled with a sensible and balanced testing regime.



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 to address all aspects of product sourcing, and sale.

BLC can offer product testing to ensure that your products meet current legislation and industry standards giving you peace of mind in this critical business area. In addition to product testing, we can provide support and advice on product compliance.

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.

### Product Compliance Tips

- Brands/Retailers should be checking suppliers' certificates to ensure that products have been tested in accordance with legislation
- Conduct frequent due diligence testing
- Keep informed on legislation to comply with product safety laws around the world

## Contact us

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