

BLC
YOU+



Membership

Working together
with leather



Sit down with the experts

*BLC is a business that specialises in leather,
its manufacture and use*

With our experience, expertise and passion for leather, BLC offers a total solution for the leather supply chain – from raw material through leather making to product manufacture and retail.

BLC's unique passion and expertise in leather combined with a focus on customer service and rapid response positions us as a market leader in this specialist field.

Few companies offer such a unique blend of technical and commercial expertise underpinned by a practical understanding of the science of leather making and a long standing pedigree. This knowledge enables us to provide effective solutions to supply chain issues and differentiates BLC from other more general testing and technical providers.

Working with our customers, we have developed a range of specialist services that can be accessed through membership. Our membership services have been tailored to address the needs of different elements of the supply chain from leather makers to product manufacturers, retailers and brands and are detailed in this brochure.

We look forward to working closely with your company.

"Inter City use BLC for accessories testing as they offer a fast, reliable service backed up by positive customer service and technical support when needed."

Ron Yau. Inter City Watch Company Ltd



Membership benefits Brands and retailers

View BLC as a natural extension to your team, where our experts are on hand to provide support and advice on all aspects of leather and its use



At BLC, we understand the challenges associated with sourcing and retailing leather products. Leather is a high value, complex material with inherent risks in terms of quality, performance and aesthetic variances.

Typical performance issues are colour variation and fastness, consistency of material in terms of quality, strength, softness, texture and optical effects. Compatibility of leather with other materials and shipping conditions can create additional problems such as colour migration, tarnishing of metal components, staining and mould.

Leather products can also have inherent chemical risks and meeting legislative and brand requirements in terms of chemical safety can be challenging.

Many of these issues can be readily solved through the use of appropriate specifications, testing regimes, due diligence and sourcing procedures. In the event of product failure, BLC understands that a swift solution is important and BLC can provide quick access to diagnostic services, practical solutions and remediation strategies.

BLC membership offers you access to people with extensive experience and knowledge within the leather sector, making BLC an additional resource for your business. View us as a natural extension to your team, where our experts are on hand to provide support and advice on all aspects of leather and its use.

BLC membership will give you access to a wide range of specialist products and services including testing, training, problem solving and supply chain advice and support at discounted rates. A major benefit of membership is the provision of performance and chemical specifications for all types of finished product including garment, footwear, accessories and upholstery.

Contact us now for an application form and further information on membership benefits.



"Filofax use BLC for their unique expertise in leather and the extensive services they offer in leather and analytical testing, combined with problem solving and technical support. BLC offer a responsive delivery and positive customer service."

G. Traylor, Quality and Standards Manager, Filofax Ltd



Membership benefits Tanners and leather makers

At BLC our passion is leather and we are dedicated to supporting our customers in their quest to make consistent quality leather



At BLC, 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.

To make a profit, tanners must be able to maximise a variable raw material and optimise manufacturing costs by reducing re-works and returns within a framework of responsible trading. In today's market this means appropriate environmental stewardship and compliance to legislative and customer driven restricted substance requirements.


Making leather from what is often a variable raw material can result in production issues such as looseness, colour variation, grain damage and poor yield. BLC understands the science of leather making and can swiftly diagnose occasional or persistent problems. Through membership, BLC experts are on hand to support when problems occur. BLC understand that in these circumstances speed is important and can provide quick access to diagnostic services and practical solutions.

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 and reduce costs.

View BLC as a natural extension to your technical team, where our experts are on hand to provide technical support and advice on all aspects of leather manufacture and problem solving.


BLC membership will give you access to specialist products and services including testing, training, problem solving and on-site support at discounted rates.

Contact us now for an application form and further information on membership benefits.



"The BLC consulting team worked effectively and enabled B Leather to reduce water usage within the leather manufacturing process by more than 30%."

Manuel Mena, B Leather



Membership benefits Manufacturers

Our experts are on hand to provide support and advice on all aspects of leather use in product manufacture



At BLC, we understand the challenges associated with manufacturing leather products and supplying retail. Leather is a high value, complex material with inherent risks in terms of quality, performance and aesthetic variances especially when combined with other materials.

Compatibility of leather with other materials during the manufacturing process can create problems such as colour migration, tarnishing of metal components, staining and mould.

Combine these issues with a material that is often variable in appearance, colour fastness, quality and strength and there is the potential for failures, claims and disappointed customers.

In addition, leather products can also have inherent chemical risks originating from the wide range of raw materials, and meeting legislative or customer safety requirements can be challenging.

Many of these issues can be readily solved through the use of appropriate specifications, testing regimes, due diligence and sourcing procedures. A major benefit of membership is the provision of these specifications for raw materials used in garment, footwear, accessories and upholstery manufacture.

Understanding where problems occur is key to improving quality and BLC membership offers you access to people with extensive experience and knowledge within the leather sector. View BLC as a natural extension to your team, where our experts are on hand to provide support and advice on all aspects of leather and its use in product manufacturing.

In the event of product failure, BLC understands that speed is important and can provide quick access to practical solutions and remediation strategies for both performance and chemical related failures.

BLC membership will give you access to specialist products and services including testing, training, problem solving and on-site support at discounted rates.

Contact us now for an application form and further information on membership benefits.



"Their attention to detail, turn-around times, cost-effectiveness, and common-sense approach has made BLC a routinely integral part of our Quality Assurance process."

Robin Preston, Clarks International Ltd



Services

As a member, you will enjoy discounted rates and priority access to a wide range of specialist services, including:

Problem Solving

BLC offers an independent fault diagnosis service that covers all aspects of the supply chain, including problems that occur on the raw hides and skin, faults during the manufacture of the leather and products, through to consumer complaints and arbitration.

Chemical Testing

Consumer and environmental legislation is constantly increasing the testing requirements for restricted substances. BLC's chemical testing service can ensure that your materials and products comply to local, national and international legislation.

Training

BLC's training courses provide delegates with a better understanding of the unique characteristics of leather, its product performance, quality and testing. Standard courses address issues such as chemical and product safety, cleaner technologies, environmental/eco issues and mould management.

Environmental Audits

With the rising profile and value of world brands there is an increasing need for environmental due diligence in the supply chain. BLC leather experts provide audits against the Leather Working Group environmental stewardship programme.

Information and Support

BLC provides a wide range of practical support services for tanners, manufacturers and retailers. These include technical support, environmental services and commercial support in areas such as manufacturing, trading and marketing. BLC also has an acquired wealth of information covering all aspects of the leather and footwear industry, which is available exclusively for members.

Footwear Testing

BLC offers a comprehensive package of whole shoe and footwear component tests in addition to the full schedule of leather testing. BLC has proven expertise in footwear testing, as well as providing a fast, reliable and competitive service in leather and restricted substances testing.

Research and Innovation

BLC is committed to innovation and industrially focused research and development projects for the benefit of the leather industry. To remain competitive, the industry will need to embrace the latest scientific advances and shape future research and development projects accordingly.

Consulting

BLC offers a range of leather experts and leather consultant services to cover all aspects of the leather supply chain. Working with the leather industry for 85 years we have the pedigree, skills and practical leather knowledge to quickly solve problems, improve leather processing and reduce leather reworks and leather complaints.

Leather Testing

As the only UK testing facility dedicated to leather testing, BLC's UKAS accredited laboratory offers a wide range of leather tests. We are experts in all types of leather testing, from simple fastness tests to advanced analysis for odours and restricted substances in leather.



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