

## Lab Test Report

A Comprehensive BLI Laboratory Evaluation | MARCH 2015

## **Brother HL-L8250CDN**

28 PPM Colour Laser Printer



# EUROPEAN EDITION

Reliability	Excellent
Administrative Utilities	Very Good
Feedback to Workstations	Very Good
Ease of Network Setup	Very Good
Print Drivers	Good
Colour/Black Print Quality	Very Good/Excellent
Colour/Black Print Productivity	Very Good/Good
Ease of Use	Very Good
Feature Set	Good
Security Features	Not Rated
Environmental Features	Not Rated
Toner Yield	Good
Cost per Page	0,1110€ (Ger.), 11.52p (UK)

#### BLI RECOMMENDATION

Offering standard automatic duplexing and wireless printing, the Brother HL-L8250CDN gave a top-notch performance in BLI's tests. This 28-ppm A4-size colour laser printer performed flawlessly throughout its 20,000-impression durability test, with no misfeeds and no service calls required. A robust device suitable for small office and home office environments, the HL-L8250CDN is easy to set up and use. Users with wireless access points that support Wi-Fi Protected Setup or AOSS can automatically configure wireless settings simply by pressing a button on their router. It also supports wireless printing from leading tablets and smartphones via AirPrint, Google Cloud Print, Brother's free iPrint&Scan app, Wi-Fi Direct and Cortado Workplace.

Furthermore, very good feedback is available via BRAdmin Professional and Brother Status Monitor, which has an icon that changes colour to indicate warnings and errors. In addition to producing very good overall output quality in colour and excellent quality in black, the HL-L8250CDN is a productive unit, displaying above average job stream productivity, competitive multi-set running speeds and faster than average first-print times for all test files. This ENERGY-STAR-qualified device has a toner-save mode in the drivers can help to extend the life of the cartridge. BLI highly recommends the Brother HL-L8250CDN for small workgroup environments.

duration: Test Two months. including 20,000-impression durability test.

Maximum monthly duty cycle: 40,000 impressions.

Manufacturer's recommended monthly volume: Up to 3,000 impressions.

More information on the Brother HL-L8250CDN is available through bliQ (www.buyerslab.com/bliQ).



#### Strengths

- · Highly reliable—flawless durability performance
- · Above average boldness and sharpness of text; closely spaced fine lines remain distinct; excellent halftone range
- · Above average job stream productivity in colour from the host-based driver
- Supports wireless printing from leading tablets and smartphones via AirPrint, Google Cloud Print, Brother's free iPrint&Scan app, Wi-Fi Direct and Cortado Workplace
- Standard automatic duplexing helps reduce paper usage and costs
- Standard wireless connectivity
- · Support for direct printing from USB with support for PDF, JPEG, PRN and TIFF files
- · Simple driver installation routine
- Straightforward process for loading paper and removing misfeeds; clean procedure for replacing all-in-one print cartridges
- · Tested yield for all cartridges exceeded the rated yields

#### Weaknesses

- · Below average tested yields for all cartridges
- Below average standard and maximum memory capacities
- · Skin tones are slightly reddish

#### **TEST RESULTS AND OBSERVATIONS**

+, - and  $\bigcirc$  represent positive, negative and neutral attributes, respectively.



#### RELIABILITY

EXCELLENT

+ The Brother HL-L8250CDN is certified highly reliable by BLI, completing a 20,000-impression durability test without experiencing any misfeed and no service required.

PMs/Malfunctions	Service Required	Meter Count (Impressions)
Starting Meter Count		0
Ending Meter Count		20,000
Total Misfeeds/Misfeed Rate	0/Not applicable	
Service Calls	0	

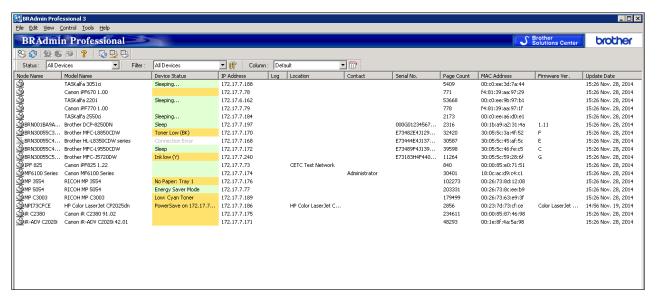


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#### **ADMINISTRATIVE UTILITIES**

**VERY GOOD** 

+ Available as a free download from Brother's website, BRAdmin Professional enables administrators to control the network settings of connected devices and access the embedded web page of monitored devices on the network to check their status. The utility automatically refreshes device status every 60 seconds by default; the interval can be changed from anywhere between 10 seconds to nine hours, in one-second increments. Administrators also have the ability to create printer logs that capture page counts and consumables information from all devices. Offering extensive device and/or print job status information, the utility allows administrators to change the configuration settings of any device on the network.



BRAdmin Professional discovers Brother and third-party devices on the network, providing current status information on each on the main screen.

+ BRAdmin Light is a utility for initial setup of Brother network-connected devices. With this utility users can search for Brother devices on the network, view status and configure basic network settings such as IP address.



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**VERY GOOD** 



Brother Status Monitor provides pop-up messages for error conditions, such as toner low or drum ends soon. Device status and remaining level of the toner cartridges (via colour-coded gauges) is also provided. Users can click the "Troubleshooting" button to obtain detailed instructions on replacing toner.

- + The Brother Status Monitor's icon changes colour on the taskbar to indicate errors; when a user moves the cursor over the icon, a context-sensitive message appears and provides details of the error. Users can also click on the icon and open the window to receive a more detailed explanation of the problem.
- + Email alerts can be sent to the administrator when an error occurs (e.g., cover open, paper jams) or consumables are depleted (e.g., replace toner, change drum).



Brother HL-L8250CDN's embedded web server provides administrators with comprehensive maintenance information including total page count, colour page count and the remaining life of consumables, such as remaining toner (in 10 percent increments) and drum life.



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#### **EASE OF NETWORK SETUP**

**VERY GOOD** 

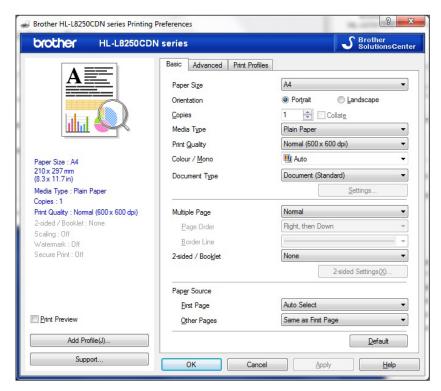
- O The unit has a compact footprint, however, Brother recommends that two people lift the device out of the box and place it in the desired location. The unit ships with starter cartridges rated at 2,500-impressions for black and 1,500 for cyan, magenta and yellow. The cartridges are pre-installed but packing strips must be removed. Users should be be up and running in minutes.
- O The device comes with one CD that contains the host-based driver, BRAdmin Light, BRAdmin Professional, Web BRAdmin and a User Guide. The disc auto-launches upon insertion in the drive. Installation on the network is very easy; the port is automatically created, and 16 clicks are required to install the driver.
- + The driver deployment utility allows for downloading of the drivers to multiple workstations rather than installing them on to each workstation separately.
- + Users with wireless access points that support Wi-Fi Protected Setup or AOSS can automatically configure wireless settings simply by pressing a button on their router.

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#### **PRINT DRIVERS**

GOOD

 The device was tested with the host-based driver, which supports Windows, Linux and Mac operating systems. A PostScript driver is not included on the CD but is available as a free download from Brother's website and installed using the Windows Add a Printer wizard.



All of the features required for a typical print job are found on the Basic tab of the host-based driver and are summarized on the left with a thumbnail preview.



- + The drivers also include a toner-save mode, which helps extend the life of the cartridges.
- O From the host-based driver users can link to Brother's Solutions Center, a website that provides information about the device, including FAQs, user guides, driver updates and tips for using the machine.
- + File size does not increase when printing multiple collated sets.

#### **Print Drivers**

	Host-based	PostScript 3
Auto Feature/Device Detection	Yes	Yes
Booklet Printing	Yes	Yes
Collate	Yes*	Yes*
Max Paper Sources per Job	3	3
Mirror Image	No	No
Negative Image	No	No
N-up Printing	25 on 1	16 on 1
Overlay	No	No
Paper Gauge	No	No
Print and Hold	No	No
Proof Print	No	No
Quantity Selection	999	999
Reduction/Enlargement	Auto, 25 to 400%	Auto, 1 to 1,000%
Resolution Modes	600 x 600 dpi, 2400 x 600, Fine 2400 dpi class	600 x 600 dpi, 2400 x 600, Fine 2400 dpi class
Save Settings	No	No
Secure Print	Yes	Yes
Watermarks/Custom Watermarks	Yes/Yes	No/No
Cover Mode	No	No
Poster Mode	Yes (up to 4 x 4)	Yes (up to 4 x 4)
Separator Pages	No	No
Toner Gauge	No	No
Toner Save	Yes	Yes
Print All Text as Black	No	No

<sup>\*</sup> Though there's a collate selection in the driver, it didn't function properly in testing; collate must be selected from the Windows print screen within the application for output to be collated. This isn't uncommon, as most drivers are written to allow the application settings to carry an override.



#### **COLOUR/BLACK PRINT QUALITY**

#### VERY GOOD/EXCELLENT

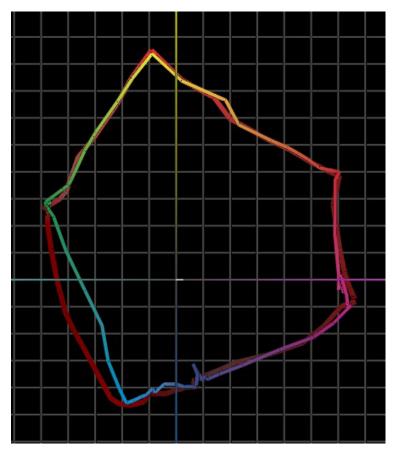
+ Text was fully formed and exhibited above average darkness; sharpness of characters and smoothness of curves and serifs were also above average. Production of closely spaced fine lines was above average, as was the consistency of line thickness; circles were fully formed and diagonal lines showed no evidence of stair-stepping. No toner overspray was visible in text and line art, even when viewed under magnification. Half-



tones were visible across the full range from 10% to 100%, with distinct separation between all levels; halftone coverage was marked by competitive smoothness and no banding. Solids showed above average boldness and displayed competitive consistency of coverage.

- O Colour business graphics showed average consistency of solid colours, above average sharpness of fine detail and competitive pastel shades, but saturation was not bright enough and background reproduction was average.
- + Colour photographic images exhibited a wide range of shades and above average sharpness of detail, halftone range and separation between levels. Images showed no graininess but flesh tones were slightly reddish.

Text	Excellent	
Line Art	Excellent	
Halftone Pattern	Very Good	
Halftone Range	Excellent	
Solids	Very Good	
Colour Business Graphics	Good	
Colour Photographic Images	Very Good	



Brother HL-L8250CDN colour gamut at the beginning (in full colour) and end of testing (in red). CIE colour gamut volume at 217,791 at the beginning of testing grew slightly to 228,141.

#### Colour Density Readings | Competitive Average

Cyan	1.01	1.14
Magenta	1.16	1.19
Yellow	0.80	0.89

Density of a printed image with blocks of all solid colours (based on the average of two readings for each colour).

#### **Print Density**

Brother HL-L8250CDN	1.43 to 1.46
Density for devices in this class tested to date	1.00 to 1.94

Measurements are based on four readings corresponding to four different solid black locations on output. The higher the density reading, the darker the image.

#### Halftone Range

Brother HL-L8250CDN	10 to 100%
Halftone increments on test original	10%, 20%, 30%, 40%, 50%, 60%, 70%, 80%, 90%, 100%

The halftone test target consists of 10 blocks of increasing halftone dot-fill levels.

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#### COLOUR/BLACK PRINT PRODUCTIVITY

#### VERY GOOD/GOOD

- + When using the host-based driver to print BLI's job stream, which simulates typical traffic in a multi-user environment, the HL-L8250CDN's productivity is above average in colour and competitive in black compared with A4-size colour laser/LED printers in this speed range and class tested to date.
- O Productivity when printing multiple sets is competitive in all simplex and duplex modes tested. First-print times are competitive for all file types tested from ready mode. First-print time from sleep mode is also competitive for the group.
- O According to the company, due to changes in the Blue Angel requirement for toner emissions, Brother revised its internal machine processes to carry out a cleaning cycle more frequently than in the past. Users submitting long and complicated job streams may notice a pause in printing while the engine conducts a brief cleaning process. Brother comments that the vast majority of customers will be unaffected by this change and will benefit from Brother's strict adherence to the latest industry environmental standards.

#### First-Page Time from Overnight Sleep | Competitive Average

Brother HL-L8250CDN	25.03
Tested Competitive Average	28.47

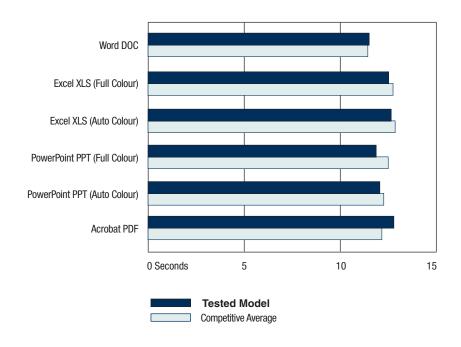
Device sits idle overnight; a single-page black Word document is sent to the device; first-print time in seconds indicates the time it took to warm up, process, image and deliver a single-page test document to the output tray.



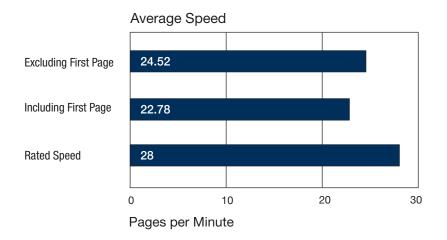
#### First-Print Time by File Type | Competitive Average

Windows XP Time in Seconds			Seconds
Word DOC	Black Text	11.51	11.44
Excel XLS (Full Colour)	Colour Text	12.53	12.75
Excel XLS (Auto Colour)	Colour Text	12.66	12.86
PowerPoint PPT (Full Colour)	Colour Graphic/Text	11,87	12.50
PowerPoint PPT (Auto Colour)	Colour Graphic/Text	12.07	12.27
Acrobat PDF	Black Graphic/Text	12.79	12.17

First-print time in seconds indicates the time it took to process, image and deliver a single-page test document to the output tray. The unit was tested using the PCL driver.



#### **BLI's Tested Print Speeds**



Print speed is tested using BLI's Monochrome Test Original with 6% page coverage and BLI's XLS test document, which consists of color text and graphics. The test page is printed in a quantity equal to double the vendor's rated print speed for the device in each mode tested (e.g., if the vendor's rated print speed is 20 ppm, 40 pages are printed). Speeds were tested using the PCL 6 driver.

#### Average Print Productivity | Competitive Average

	SPEED	IN PPM	PERCENT OF	RATED SPEED
AUTO COLOUR				
1:1	9.6	9.3	34.2	32.3
1:2	6.2	6.1	22.0	21.1
FULL COLOUR				
1:1	18.8	20.2	66.9	74.4
1:2	11.0	13.7	39.1	50.5
BLACK				
1:1	20.8	21.3	74.2	77.3
1:2	11.1	13.9	39.7	50.3

Productivity is tested using a 10-page colour document and a 10-page black document. BLI obtains the overall efficiency for each mode by averaging the efficiency ratings (derived by dividing the tested speed of the device by the rated speed and then multiplying by 100) for each run length (1, 5 and 10 sets). The unit's efficiency was tested using the PCL driver.

#### Job Stream | Competitive Average

	SPEED IN PPM		PERCENT OF	RATED SPEED
AUTO COLOUR	13.6	11.9	48.7	41.1
FULL COLOUR	24.0	17.5	85.6	63.9
BLACK	22.4	21.0	80.0	75.9

BLI's job stream includes Word documents, Outlook email messages, Excel spreadsheets, PowerPoint, HTML and Acrobat PDF files, totalling 19 pages. This test simulates the type of traffic a typical device might experience in a real-world, multi-user environment. All of the files are sent to the device as a group, at which time the stopwatch begins; timing ends when the last page of the last file exits the device. Job stream efficiency is determined by the percentage of the rated speed at which the device operates when producing real-world jobs. The closer the rate is to 100%, or if it exceeds 100%, the more efficient the device.



#### **EASE OF USE**

**VERY GOOD** 



The HL-L8250CDN's control panel features eight hard keys (Go, Cancel and Secure for releasing secure print jobs, back cancel, power and up and down navigation keys) and a two-line, 32-character LCD display. The menu system is logically organized and easy to navigate.

+ Removing misfeeds from both access areas is extremely easy, although the toner/drum assembly may need to be removed during the procedure. Users should ensure that they place the assembly on a clean, flat surface to avoid the risk of damage to the drums.





Misfeed locations are highly accessible. If misfeeds are removed from the rear, as illustrated here, the device may need to be turned around if placed against a wall or partition.



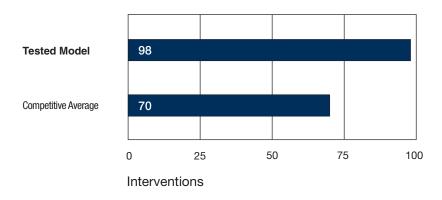
Adjusting the tray for different size media is straightforward, with length and width guides that move in sync.



Replacing toner is a mess-free process. The toner cartridges lock into place on the drum unit. To replace toner, users open the access door, lift the cartridge assembly to eject it, then slide a new one into place. The cartridge positions are colour-coded.

 Compared with competitive devices tested to date, BLI estimates users will have to replace supplies more frequently than with competitive devices.

#### Projected 36-Month User Interventions (Over 90,000 impressions)



User interventions are calculated based on BLI's average tested toner yields (using the ISO 24712 test target, printed in a semi-continuous mode), as well as the manufacturer's rated yields for other consumables (drums, developer units, waste containers, etc.). BLI calculates the total number of supplies and maintenance parts that would be required to output 90,000 pages (assumes 2,500 pages per month, which is an average volume for this class of device, over three years). Each individual cartridge or other consumable is counted as one intervention. Long-life maintenance parts, such as fuser kits and rollers, and paper supply replenishments, aren't included in BLI's calculations. Depicted scenario is for illustrative purposes only. The actual number of interventions over three years will vary based on a number of factors, including (but not limited to) page coverage, run lengths, usage patterns, periods of inactivity and calibrations performed.

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#### **FEATURE SET**

GOOD

- O Automatic duplex printing is standard, as with the great majority of models in this group.
- + In addition to standard high-speed USB 2.0 and Ethernet interfaces, the device provides a standard wireless interface, which is only available as standard or as an option on a few other models in the competitive group.
- Both standard and maximum memory capacities (128 MB and 384 MB, respectively) are below average compared with A4-size colour laser/LED printers in this speed range and class.
- O Standard paper capacity of 300 sheets and the maximum capacity of 800 sheets are competitive.
- O The device features a 50-sheet bypass; while some competitive devices have only a single-sheet bypass, the majority of models have a bypass with a 100- or 150-sheet capacity.
- O The unit accommodates up to 105 gsm from the tray, which is below average paperhandling ability; the bypass accommodates up to 163 gsm, which is competitive for models in this group.
- O The output tray capacity (150 sheets) is competitive.
- + The device supports direct printing from USB in a variety of file formats including PDF, JPEG, PRN and TIFF.



#### **SECURITY FEATURES**

#### **NOT RATED**

Administrator password length (characters)	18 alphanumeric
Authentication	
Network user authentication	Yes
Windows	INA
Novell NetWare NDPS	INA
LDAP authentication	INA
802.1x wireless authentication	Yes
Kerberos protocol support	Yes
Authentication via department or user ID codes that are registered on the machine	Yes
Number of codes	25
Restrict usage of colour	Yes
Restrict usage of other features	Yes
Authenticated printing	Yes
Common Criteria Certification	INA
Control panel lock/disablement	No
Digital user signature	No
Encrypted PDF mode/encrypted scanning	No
Encrypted secure print	No
Hard drive encryption	NA
Hard drive lock	NA
Hard drive overwrite	NA
Max number of overwrites after every job	NA
Overwrite method	NA
IP address filtering	Yes
IPsec	No
Job logs (e.g., activity monitoring, compliance auditing)	Yes
MAC address filtering	Yes
Password-protected mailboxes	No
Password-protected Web page	Yes
Port disablement	No
Removable hard drive	NA
Secure fax	
Encrypted TX/RX	No
Fax forwarding	No
Fax line access prevention	No
Fax memory lock	No
Confidential mailbox	No
Secure print	Yes
Secure Sockets Layer (SSL)	Yes
SNMPv3 support	Yes
Third-party security features	None
Transport layer security	Yes
Unauthorized copy prevention (secure watermark)	No
USB block	Yes
Additional security features	Secure Function Lock

INA: The vendor declined to provide this information

NA: Not applicable



#### **ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES**

#### **NOT RATED**

Specified capable of running 30% post-consumer recycled paper	Yes			
Specified capable of running 50% post-consumer recycled paper	Yes			
Specified capable of running100% post-consumer recycled paper	Yes			
Instant/Quick Fusing	No			
Duplexing	Yes			
Toner-save mode	Yes			
RoHS-compliant	Yes			
Percent of product made from recycled materials (%)	0.09%			
Percent of product made from post-consumer materials (%)	0.09%			
Percent of product made from pre-consumer materials (%)	INA			
Percent of product made from bio-based materials (%)	No			
Product designed for recycling (easily disassembled, no binding agents)	Yes			
Please list types of items that can be recycled.	Plastic parts weighing more than 25g			
Hardware remanufacturing program for this product	INA			
Toner cartridge recycling program for this product	INA			
Pre-paid label for return of toner cartridges/bottles for this unit	No			
Toner recycling system	No			
Ability to program features such as duplexing and auto shut-off, over entire fleet	Yes			
What tool can be used to do this?	BRAdmin			
Green packaging materials for the product	Yes			
Green packaging materials for its consumables	No			
Packaging materials used:	Cardboard carton, polystyrene pad, polyethylene bag			
Typically, who is responsible for getting rid of packaging materials after products are shipped to the customer location (e.g., customers, dealers, shippers)?	Customer or dealer			
Eco-Label Certifications				
ENERGY STAR	Yes			
Other	INA			
Tested energy consumption levels of the device (in watts):				
Ready/Idle	65			
Energy-save	NA			
Sleep mode	0.9			
During Printing	520			
How fast can this product be programmed to go into the following modes				
Ready/Idle	NA			
Energy-Save	NA			
Sleep mode	0			
Can the above settings be programmed by a walk-up user	Yes			
How long does it take for this product to print one page after being in sleep mode	34.0 seconds			
Emissions output from this device for the following substances (in mg/h):				
Ozone	< 1.5 (black), < 3.0 (colour)			
Styrene	< 1.0 (black), < 1.8 (colour)			
Benzene	< 0.05			
TVOC	< 10 (black), < 18 (colour)			
Dust	< 4.0			

INA: Information not available

NA: Not applicable



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#### **TONER YIELD**

GOOD

- Based on an average of two extra-high-yield print cartridges per colour, tested toner yield is below average for all four colours compared with A4-size colour laser/LED printers in this speed range and class tested to date.
- + All four colours comfortably exceeded the manufacturer's rated yield.

#### Tested Toner Yield | Competitive Average

	Black		Cyan		Magenta		Yellow	
Tested Impressions <sup>1</sup>	4,074	6,300	3,877	5,176	3,644	4,852	4,271	5,144
Rated Yield	4,000	5,578	3,500	4,400	3,500	4,400	3,500	4,400
Rated Drum Yield <sup>2</sup>	25,000	41,578	25,000	40,965	25,000	40,965	25,000	40,965

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Based on BLI's testing of two print cartridges using the ISO 24712 toner yield test original.

#### Supplies Cost per Page

	France	Germany	Italy	UK
Toner Cost per Page <sup>1</sup>	0,1023€	0,1036€	0,1242€	10.80p
Supplies Cost per Page <sup>2</sup>	0,1097€	0,1110€	0,1333€	11.52p

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Based on Brother's suggested retail pricing for the print cartridges and BLI's tested yields using the ISO 24712 toner yield test original.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Some devices in the competitive group employ an all-in-one cartridge that includes the toner and drum in a single component. In those cases, rated toner yield is used as the rated drum yield in calculating the average.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The supplies cost per page is based on Brother's suggested retail pricing, BLI's tested toner yields for the extra-high-yield CMYK toner cartridges and Brother's rated yields for the drum unit.

#### SUPPORTING TEST DATA

**Test Environment:** Testing was conducted under ambient conditions of 22°C (+/-2.7°C) and 45% RH (+/-10%); monitored daily by Dickson Seven-Day Temperature/Humidity Chart Recorder, in Buyers Lab's test facility at Unit 1 Station Industrial Estate, Wokingham, Berkshire RG41 2YQ. All products lab tested by BLI are powered by dedicated circuits that are protected by ESP (Electronic Systems Protection, Inc.) surge protectors to prevent transient power and communication disturbances from affecting equipment under test.

**Test Equipment:** BLI's dedicated test network in Europe, consisting of Windows 2008 servers, Windows 7 workstations, 10/100/1000BaseTX network switches and CAT5e/6 cabling. BLI's daily test usage is designed to replicate real-world use over an eight-hour workday, and as such includes a mix of various-size documents, simplex and duplex modes, and a mix of short, moderate and long run lengths, and on/off cycles, throughout the day.

**Test Duration:**Products are tested for two months, three weeks of which consists of a durability test during which the product is run at half of its manufacturer-rated maximum monthly volume. BLI's daily test usage is designed to replicate real-world use over an eight-hour workday, and as such includes a mix of various-size documents, simplex and duplex modes, and a mix of short, moderate and long run lengths, and on/off cycles, throughout the day.

Tested Configuration: Brother HL-L8250CDN base unit.

Test Procedures: The test methods and procedures employed by BLI in its lab testing include BLI's proprietary procedures and industry-standard test procedures, including a BLI-developed variation of ASTM's 1318-90 Test Method for Determination of Productivity using Electrostatic Copy Machines. In addition to a number of proprietary test documents, BLI uses an industry-standard KATUN test original for evaluating black image quality and test suites from Quality Logic to evaluate applications compatibility. In addition to a visual observation, gamut size and stability are tested using a 1,400 colour test target, which is read using an EFI ES-1000 colour spectrophotometer and assessed using Chromix Color Think Pro v3.0 software. In addition, density of black and colour output is measured using an X-Rite 508 Densitometer.

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# CERTIFICATE OF RELIABILITY

AWARDED TO

#### **BROTHER INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION**

for the performance of the

Brother HL-L8250CDN

in BLI's in-house durability test



ANTHONY F. POLIFFONE

Managing Director

**MARCH 2015** 

DATE

This is to certify that when subjected to a 20,000-impression Buyers Lab durability test, the Brother HL-L8250CDN proved to be a highly reliable product.

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