



ISO 14001 CASE STUDY HYDRO POLYMERS LTD

Summary

Needs

- Demonstration to stakeholders of commitment to environmental issues
- To achieve EMAS registration (the Eco-Management and Audit Scheme)
- To increase efficiency by adhering to the most stringent environmental standards

Benefits

- Recognition that the company is operating to the highest environmental standards
- The assurance that the company is applying sound environmental practices in all its operations and activities

Background

Hydro Polymers is a leading PVC manufacturer and the UK represents a substantial market for its products. It has production facilities in Norway and Sweden and in the UK at Newton Aycliffe. The Newton Aycliffe facility operates 24 hours a day, employs approximately 400 people and has a turnover of around £150 million a year.

Green issues are of huge importance to Hydro Polymers because in the past there have been environmental concerns relating to PVC. The company therefore needs to demonstrate that it is environmentally responsible. Hydro Polymers is a subsidiary

of the Norwegian company, Hydro, one of the world's leading offshore producers of oil and gas, and a pioneer in renewable energy and energy efficient solutions. Like many Norwegian companies, Hydro, is passionate about protecting the environment.

The PVC manufactured by Hydro Polymers is produced from derivatives of common salt and oil from the North Sea. The PVC is used for the manufacture of everything from window frames and waste pipes in the building industry, to medical applications such as blood tubing and oxygen masks.



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Customer Needs

More and more people today are concerned about green issues and these include Hydro Polymers' customers. They demand high standards and want to know that the company is doing as much as it possibly can to minimise any impact its business might have on the environment, including minimising waste produced and through recycling and efficient use of resources.

Benefits

Hydro Polymers is committed to the prevention of pollution, to continued improvements in environmental management and performance, and to maintaining acceptance of all its operations and activities by all its trading partners. Implementation of the Environmental Management System helps achieve these aims.

Environmental Management Systems certification in accordance with ISO 14001 has demonstrated to customers that the company is serious about improving environmental performance.

It has also enabled the company to achieve EMAS registration (Eco-Management and Audit Scheme) – a must for any business serious about green issues.

Barry Wilkinson, Quality Assurance and Total Quality Manager for Hydro Polymers at Newton Aycliffe, explained: "The ISO 14001 Environmental Management Systems certification was a prerequisite for joining EMAS. EMAS membership is a voluntary initiative designed to improve a company's environmental performance. The scheme requires members to produce regular independently verified public statements on their environmental performance, but you can't produce an EMAS statement without an ISO 14001 environmental management system."

He added: "The ISO 14001 Management System helps us to ensure we comply with all the very latest regulations and guidelines so that we can move with the times.

It is an important part of the company's comprehensive sustainability programme that guarantees that the company will still be operating successfully in 30 years time.

BSI's Role

The UK facility undergoes a three-day audit by BSI assessors every six months, which covers both the Environmental and Quality Management Systems.

"A benefit of BSI is its renowned global recognition. BSI's name really means something to people. It has been around for a long time and its approach is highly professional. There is also the added benefit of its excellent website with electronic certificates and on-line reports. We found the organisation's Client Managers extremely helpful and its customer service is excellent."

"We like the consistency of service from BSI. They know our history and understand our business and approach."



Mixed Sources
Product group from well-managed forests, controlled sources and recycled wood or fiber

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