ENVIRONMENTAL NEWSLETTER

SMITH & OUZMAN LTD

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the fifth edition of the S&O Environmental Newsletter.

During November 2008 the company's ISO:14001:2004 Environmental Management System was successfully re-assessed by BSI, and also in the same month S&O was awarded the FSC & PEFC material Chain of Custody accreditation.

These accreditations are very important to the company for ethical and environmental reasons, and are also crucial in demonstrating S&O's commitment to the environment and to its customers.

S&O continues to strive to reduce our environmental impact and I would encourage anyone who would like to contribute environmental items or information for the newsletter to please come to see me.

John Edwards
HR/IMS Officer

DREWSEN

Drewsen to supply S&O with CBS1 paper to FSC/PEFC certification

S&O uses over 300 tonnes of CBS1 paper a year alone, and have signed a new 12-month contract with Drewsen to supply all of its CBS1 paper to FSC and PEFC standards. This will enable the company to offer the required 'Chain of Custody' claim to interested customers and clients. Other paper merchants such as Robert Horne, Reel Paper & Southern Paper have also been identified as key suppliers of certified product, increasing and further proving S&O's commitment to the environment.

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The Forestry Stewardship Council (FSC) is an international organisation dedicated to promoting responsible management of the world's forests. The FSC mark and that of the Pan European Forest Certification (PEFC) provide a means of assuring customers that the documents we produce are manufactured from paper that can be traced to wood, from sustainably managed forests. A sustainably managed forest is a forest where trees are grown and replaced, in the same way that crops are farmed.

FSC ©

PEFC

On the 5th November, S&O successfully achieved accreditation to both FSC & PEFC and can make this claim on a variety of products. Well done to all who put in so much work before and during the two audits and made it possible to achieve this important goal.

Why is it important to use sustainably managed wood product?

- Forests cover approximately 30% of the earth's land surface
- Forests are a major carbon reservoir and sink that regulate the global climate
- Forests are home to 80% of the world's remaining terrestrial biodiversity
- Forests have effectively disappeared in 25 countries and another 29 countries have lost an amazing 90% of theirs
- Deforestation continues with the alarming loss of some 13 million hectares (130,000km^2) a year

Growing trees absorb CO_2 from the atmosphere at a rate of 1 tonne for every m^3 of growth and convert it into carbohydrates through photosynthesis, while releasing the oxygen we breathe.

Verifying that timber products are sustainable is no simple matter. There are many stages in the life cycle before the finished document is produced, and each stage must be verified and accredited to ensure the legitimacy of the FSC/PEFC Chain of Custody.

Forest ⇢ Saw mill ⇢ Pulp factory ⇢ Paper mill ⇢ Printing company

At each stage it must be assured that the product is not mixed with wood, pulp or paper from non verified sources. Verifying the complete chain of custody can add significant costs to the end product, but what price can be put on the protection of our environment?

RECYCLING – What goes on?

Ever wondered how S&O's recycled waste is treated and what it is turned into?

Well...

Once the company's shredded paper has been collected it is taken to a recycling plant where it is washed to remove the inks, glues and other non-paper products. The paper is then transferred to a large vat where it is mixed with water to form a 'slurry'. By adding different materials to the slurry, different paper products can be created such as cardboard, newsprint or office paper.

Aluminium cans are taken to a processing site where they are cleaned and melted to remove any coatings and inks that may be present on the aluminium. The melted aluminium is made into ingots, each containing around 1.6 million old drinks cans. These are then ready to be made into new aluminium products such as more drink cans, chocolate bar wrappers and ready meal containers. In as little as six weeks, the recycled aluminium products will be back in the shops ready to be sold, used and recycled again.

Collected plastic bottles are sorted into the three different types – HDPE, PVC and PET – of which PET are the most widely used. Each type is cleaned, and heated at high temperatures and made into new bottles.

Electronic rubbish, and computer equipment in particular, is a rapidly expanding stream of UK waste. Low prices allow consumers to replace 'gadgets' often, and rapid technological change means there are always newer, better, more powerful products on the market. The result is a burgeoning computer waste mountain. Up to 20 million 'obsolete' PCs are discarded annually in the USA alone.

Used computer parts, also known as e-waste, comprises monitors, printers, hard drives and circuit boards. Such items must not be thrown out with household rubbish because they contain toxic substances, and are effectively hazardous waste. E-waste often ends up in the developing world, and the UN's Environment Programme is alarmed by the amount of electronic goods, which are improperly disposed of overseas. There is increasing concern about the pollution caused by hazardous chemicals and heavy metals in Africa, Asia and South America.

What's in my PC?

Material	Proportion
Plastic	*23%*
Ferrous metals	*32%*
Non-ferrous metals	*18%*
Electronic boards	*12%*
Glass	*15%*

A single computer can contain up to 2kg of lead, and the complex mixture of materials make PCs very difficult to recycle.

DID YOU KNOW?

...Each year England generates around 100 million tonnes of controlled waste. Nearly 75% of this ends up in landfill, where biodegradable waste generates methane, a powerful greenhouse gas.

(Source: Defra, Environment Agency 2007)

What else can we do?

Make sure that each material goes into the right bin and, if the bin is outside, make sure that it doesn't get blown out or can fall out.

Keep your site clean and tidy as you go!

Recycling facts

- It would take a nose-to-tail fleet of juggernauts stretching six times round the world to transport a year's worth of UK waste.
- The average family in the UK throws away six trees worth of paper every year.
- The UK uses 12 billion cans a year - enough to stretch to the moon and back.
- Aluminium foil sufficient to wrap the Earth 164 times is thrown out every year.
- Recycling just one glass bottle saves enough energy to light a 15-watt bulb for 24 hours.
- Recycling one tonne of paper uses 70% less energy than manufacturing from trees and 40% less water.

Why Recycle?

Recycling is one way we can all help to ensure an environmentally sustainable future for ourselves and generations to come.

Recycling saves primary material, such as wood, oil and coal. Annually, each individual in Europe uses 50 tonnes of primary material extracted from the earth, not including air and water. In Europe, this equates to the extraction of 20 billion tonnes of material from the Earth each and every year!

Recycle more!

There is growing recognition that there is not sufficient reprocessing capacity in the UK to meet anticipated demand. As this is a problem for mainland Europe as well, SITA UK has established an international trading arm to support the home market.

They are also working with the local ReMade programmes, DEFRA and the DTI to stimulate the domestic market, and certain commodities, such as glass, have already benefited. The recent large scale use of glass in road manufacture has provided tremendous stimulation to collections and SITA UK is actively involved in supplying glass to this market.

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