

PB Group Limited

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

It is the PB Groups' ongoing commitment to reduce our environmental impact in all areas of production undertaken by the group.

We operate an ongoing proactive programme of action that addresses all aspects of this subject in the day to day running of our business.

Our objective is to achieve the following points on an ongoing daily basis using the best practicable means:

- Wherever possible, to use recycled or other materials which make minimum demands on the environment.
- To use processes which make minimum demands on the environment.
- To reduce material waste to a minimum.
- To reduce overall contributions to global warming by optimising energy usage.
- To utilise efficient delivery methods for finished goods.

1) Foundation

The PB Group became aware of the industries' environmental impact over a decade ago and have made significant steps towards minimising our effect, we continually strive towards making ecological improvements.

We will fully comply with the statutory duties placed upon us, whilst at all times complying with, as a matter of best practice, the requirements and duties set out within Approved Guidance as issued by the Environment Agency and other organisations. As part of our commitment to maintaining the highest levels of environmental management, it is our intention that we will work towards environmental management systems compliant with ISO14001.

2) Paper & Board

The PB Group have given considerable time into analysing the pros and cons (i.e. energy, bleaching and emissions to air/water) of both recycled and sustainable forestry. We believe that sustainable forestry poses less of an impact on the environment. If our input is requested, we advise that only material from managed sources is used using ECF (Elemental Chlorine Free) manufacturing techniques.

Alternatively, when dealing with recycled material we provide grades that correspond to a recognised certification (i.e. The ABCD scheme, NAPM scheme, The Blue Angle, The Nordic Swan, ECO Label etc). We are experienced in technological rigors involved in using such materials and ensure that the appropriate allowances (i.e. increased dot gain etc) are made.

We can provide specification sheets for all materials used in the company if required.

3) Inks

All the inks we employ come (where possible) from renewable resources (i.e. soya based rather than a mineral oil based vehicle). However, organic pigments are items that cannot be recycled, and therefore there are no inks on the market that are fully biodegradable. Also, all inks contain some sort of solvent (albeit, they are biodegradable), therefore we use inks with the highest rate of biodegradability (2% DOD5 (%) and 46% DOD28 (%)) on the market at present, despite there being no evidence of bio accumulation.

All ink containers (although not hazardous waste) are returned for cleaning and re-use wherever possible.

4) Chemicals

Although not apparent, chemicals in the pressroom are used to produce the visual result, however, at first glance this is not apparent. The PB Group has replaced the traditional solvent based press washes with low flash point, citrus bases equivalents, that are entirely free of organic solvents and are fully biodegradable.

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We have also undertaken a strategy of alcohol reduction in the fount solution that we use. Isopropyl is a product of the petrochemical industry and we currently operate at a level just below 8% on all the presses within the company using an alcohol substitute programme.

These measures have significantly reduced our VOC (Volatile Organic Compound) emissions to air.

All chemicals are stored in safe conditions, all relevant staff are trained in the appropriate use of them, and all substances are disposed of to COSHH (Control of Substances Hazardous to Health) regulations under the Duty of Care legislation.

5) Adhesives

The adhesives we use in book binding are starch based glues. This newly patented technology comes from a freely available source and offers the best compromise between biodegradable polymers whilst not impacting on its performance as an adhesive.

When purchasing adhesive labels we select an acrylate (polymer) based product because this is entirely solvent free.

6) Waste

We review our programme of waste minimisation at regular intervals, however, although waste is unavoidable in industry, we now recycle 95% of all our dry waste.

All chemical bottles are suitable for recycling.
Cardboard is sent for re/down cycling.
Inkjet cartridges are recycled.
All paper waste is sorted and set for recycling.
All printing plates are recycled.

In terms of fluid waste we conform (and exceed) to all legislation (Consent to Discharge, COSHH, Duty of Care, etc).

Machine oil is sent for filtering and recycling.

Photographic waste has almost been eradicated by the introduction of CTP (Computer To Plate), however when used, all fixer has the silver element harvested (96 – 98%) from it prior to being removed by a chemical collection service.

Positive plate developer usage has been reduced by 30% by the introduction of a reactivating device that elongates the life of the bath, resulting in less waste. It is sent to a licensed waste treatment for disposal.

Blanket and roller wash wastes are also collected and dealt with by a licensed waste disposal company.

7) Energy

The company has reduced gas consumption by 23% and water use by 57% since beginning this undertaking.

We have also recently fitted a power factor correction unit, which is projected to reduce our power take by 20/25%.

8) Noise

All manufacturing at the company complies to The Health and Safety at Work Act (EEC Directive 89/391 and 89/383).

Mr Kim Butler (Director)