

Naturally certified: ISO 14001

SAHM: taking a look at pollution control

Active pollution control has always been a component of SAHM's company guidelines. In focus, are developments towards environmentally friendlier solutions, such as savings in energy, water and materials. The company's quality management has now upgraded to the requirements of the environmental management systems DIN EN ISO 14001:2004

„He who rests, will rust. This rule applies for glass design, its decoration, as well as for environmental issues. Therefore, continual improvements are a central focal point for us in every area of our business“, explains company executive Michael Sahm. Following the certification of the SAHM subsidiary in the Czech Republic to ISO 14001, the environmental certification in Germany was the next logical step.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Environmental Protection, Water Distribution and Trade Control, a detailed inventory control of consumption data regarding raw materials, additives and operating materials was undertaken at the German Sahm headquarters in Höhr-Grenzhausen. As a result of this, a complete inventory control of all environmental aspects of the company were made.

„We work continually and effectively on optimal ecological processes, which of course include the introduction of innovative environmental technology“, Sahm emphasizes.

The company has substituted lead colours with lead free colours, which is currently almost complete. In addition, SAHM has already been using UV technology to decorate its glasses. This particular method is very energy efficient as the finishing process for decoration does not require burning. Instead, the printed surface is simply toughened when exposed to UV light.

Further energy savings are achieved at SAHM using optimal transport routes in logistics. Currently, the company is working on a heat recycling system, where the lost heat of ovens is used.

Michael Sahm thinks positively about the future: „We are surely on the right path. Many of our customers demand the ISO 14001 standard. Moreover, savings in resources is an obvious cost efficiency factor, especially when we consider todays rising energy and raw material prices.“

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