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A quick way to find the answers

&

to your environmental questions

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from Spicers Paper

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INTRODUCTION:

The environment is more important than ever to Spicers Paper and to our customers.

Buyers are increasingly aware of the issues affecting their purchasing decisions and they're looking to suppliers to provide reassurance that product and services are environmentally sound.

This presentation is designed to be a quick introduction to the issues you need to know about and it should help you answer customers questions with confidence.

ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT:

Spicers recognizes that its products and business operations have an influence on the environment and endeavors to take practical steps to minimise any negative impact. We have therefore adopted responsible environmental policies that comply with and where possible go beyond the requirements of environmental standards.

Suppliers to Spicers are required to demonstrate their respect for the environment by following responsible working practices. Suppliers are required to utilise raw materials from well managed sources and to verify their claims on environmental issues when requested. Spicers is committed to making available a choice of recycled products as well as those originating from sources certified to be well-managed or operating accredited environmental management systems. Environmental information is published for our major stocked products in order that the consumer is able to make an informed choice of material.

You can find out more information at www.spicerspaper.co.nz

Common Questions:

Why should I buy recycled paper?

With the growing commitment to responsible forest management, preventing trees being cut down is less of a key incentive for buying recycled paper. However it is still true that continuing demand for recycled fiber products will relieve pressure on the worlds natural forest resources. Today the main reason for buying recycled is to make good use of the waste paper that would otherwise choke landfill sites or be sent for incineration. Therefore it can be argued that buying paper that has a high proportion of post consumer waste is helping the most to ease waste disposal problems.

Which is best TCF or ECF bleaching?

In the past chlorine gas, or elemental chlorine, was used to bleach papers and so increase their whiteness. This caused environmental problems because chlorine is toxic and the effluent from paper mills was detrimental to aquatic life and water quality. To overcome the problem the paper industry invested heavily in alternative methods of bleaching. Elemental Chlorine Free (ECF) bleaching doesn't use chlorine gas but instead utilises chlorine dioxide, which is much safer. Also developed was Totally Chlorine Free (TCF) bleaching which typically uses hydrogen peroxide or ozone instead of chlorine.

Environmental Labels and Schemes at a glance

The sourcing of wood fibre from well-managed forests is referred to as:

- FSC
- PEFC
- SFI

High proportion of recycled fibre is referred to as

- NAPM Recycled Mark
- Blue Angel

Environmental responsible manufacture is referred to as

- ISO 14001
- EMAS
- Nordic Swan
- Blue Angel
- EU Eco-label

Environmental Labels and Schemes

FSC

The Forest Stewardship Council is an international organisation promoting responsible forest management. FSC has developed principles for forest management, which may be used for certifying the management of forest holdings, and a system of tracing, verifying and labeling timber and wood products which originate from FSC certified forests.

Key points

- By buying products with the FSC label you are supporting the growth of responsible forest management worldwide.
- A minimum of 30% of the virgin fibre must be FSC approved for the product to carry the logo.
- The FSC scheme also includes a 'chain of custody' system for tracing products back to the forest of origin.
- There are strict rules for using the logo. Printers who want the logo to appear on a job printed on an FSC paper need to be covered by FSC chain of custody certification.
- The FSC has the support of many environmental groups who view it as the only truly independent scheme that is consistently applied worldwide and covers all pertinent issues.

Environmental Labels and Schemes

EMAS

The Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) is the EU voluntary instrument which acknowledges Organisations that improve their environmental performance on a continuous basis. EMAS registered organisations are legally compliant, run an Environment management system and report on their Environmental performance through the publication of an independently verified environmental statement. They are recognised by the EMAS logo, which guarantees the reliability of the information provided.

PEFC

The PEFC (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification) is a framework for the mutual recognition of national or regional forest certification schemes, rather than being a specific scheme in its own right. National governing bodies apply for membership of the PEFC Council (eg.the Finnish Forest Certification Council is endorsed by the PEFC).

Key points

- A minimum of 70% of the fibre must be PEFC approved for the product to carry the logo.
- As of 2003 a chain of custody scheme and product logo have been introduced.
- There is widespread support amongst those in the forest and paper industry, who view it as more flexible, economic and user friendly.

Environmental Labels and Schemes

Blue Angel

A German environmental label, which covers many products, including paper. It takes a 'cradle to grave' approach, considering manufacture and disposal as well as product use.

Key points

- Claimed to be the world's oldest environmental label, set up by the then West German government in 1978.
- It applies to many different types of products. Paper must be 100% recycled, with no heavy metals or hazardous chemicals.
- Blue Angel is popular in Germany but fairly rare elsewhere

Nordic Swan

An environmental label encouraging production methods that create minimum environmental impact.

Key points

- It applies to many types of products and even services.
- Once popular, it has now been dropped by many paper manufacturers in favour of environmental management systems such as EMAS.

Environmental Labels and Schemes

SFI

Sustainable Forestry Initiative. The American Forest and Paper Association's Sustainable Forestry Initiative aims to ensure ongoing renewable resources across the country.

EU Eco Label

Established in 1992, the EU Eco-label "Flower" is a unique certification scheme aimed to help European consumers distinguish greener, more environmentally friendly, products and services (not including food and medicine.)

Over the past ten years, the "Flower" has become a European-wide symbol for products, providing simple and accurate guidance to consumers.

All products bearing the "Flower" have been checked by independent bodies for complying with strict ecological and performance criteria.

Environmental Glossary

AOX

Absorbable Organic Halogens. Collective term for the Halogen compounds (chlorine, fluorine, bromine and iodine) bound to organic substances, for example in waste water from the mill. The compounds arise when bleaching with chlorine-containing chemicals although they can also occur naturally and are potentially detrimental to water quality. The lower the AOX level the better.

Blue Angel

A German environmental label, which covers many products, including paper. It takes a 'cradle to grave' approach, considering manufacture and disposal as well as product use.

Chain of Custody

The means of tracking a product along the supply chain. For instance, being able to trace paper from the forest of origin, through pulp and paper mill, paper merchant and printer to the end user. Often a third party audits the Chain of Custody system, as with the FSC and PEFC schemes.

CHP

Combined Heat and Power. A power-generating unit that provides heat and electricity on site rather than drawing energy from the grid. CHP units can have the benefit of proportionally lower emissions to air than power stations. Many paper mills use CHP.

CSR

Corporate Social Responsibility. The continuing commitment by Business to behave ethically and contribute to economic development while improving the quality of life of the workforce and their families as well as of the local community and society at large including the environment.

Dioxins

Dioxins are organ chlorines, unwanted and toxic by-products Formed in paper making when chlorine from bleaching combines with molecules in wood. They are also formed during the Manufacture of PVC. Dioxins have been linked with hormone disruption and an increased risk of cancer. Both the paper and plastics industries have made major reductions to the release of dioxins in recent years.

DIP

De-Inked Pulp. Pulp consisting of fibre from paper previously printed, which has had the ink removed.

ECF

Elemental Chlorine Free. Paper pulp bleached without the use of elemental chlorine but instead using some chlorine dioxide, along with non-chlorine agents such as oxygen. Pulps using ECF Methods contains up to 0.5kg of AOX per tonne of air-dried pulp.

EMAS

Eco-Management and Audit Scheme. The European Union's Regulated environmental management system. Similar to ISO 14001 but also requires public reporting.

EMS

Environmental Management System. A business process that Ensures that environmental matters are addressed through a Documented system.

Energy Source

Fuels such as coal, gas, oil, peat, biofuels (such as bark) or Electricity generated by a combined heat and power unit or bought in from the grid. The source of energy can influence the air emissions i.e. coal produces higher emissions than gas.

EU Eco-label

European Union scheme to promote 'green' products, including paper. It uses a stringent life cycle analysis to identify where a product might harm the environment (manufacture, distribution, disposal etc.) taking into account various factors such as energy usage and emissions. Rarely used for paper products.

Eugropa Recycled Mark

Similar to the NAPM scheme but only requires 50% of fibre to be recycled. For use Europe-wide but now defunct.

FFCS

Finnish Forest Certification System. A scheme for auditing forestry operations in Finland, taking into account the effects on the environment. Now part of the PEFC scheme.

FSC

Forest Stewardship Council. An international organisation Promoting responsible forest management. FSC has developed principles for forest management which may be used for certifying the management of forest holdings, and a system of tracing, verifying and labeling timber and wood products which originate from FSC-certified forests.

ISO 14001

The standard published by the international Standards Organisation specifying the requirements of an environmental management system.

Life Cycle Assessment / Analysis (LCA)

A method of evaluating the environmental impact of a product 'from cradle to grave', including how it's made, how it's used and how it's disposed of.

Mill Broke

Offcuts and rejected material that has not left the paper mill. Broke is routinely re-pulped and the fibre used in the production of new Paper. Mill broke is not normally considered to be true recycled fibre.

NAPM Recycled Mark

The National Association of Paper Merchants (UK) scheme for designating a paper as recycled.

NGO

Non-Governmental Organisation. Term applied to organisations such as charities and pressure groups. Environmental NGOs (sometimes referred to as ENGOs) include Friends of the Earth (FoE), the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) and Greenpeace.

Nordic Swan

An environmental label encouraging production methods that create minimum environmental impact. Evaluation for paper is based upon strict limits for emissions and effluent from pulp and paper mills.

Old Growth Forest (OGF)

Term sometimes applied to old, relatively untouched forest rich in biodiversity. May also be called High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF), pristine or natural forest.

Paper Profile

'Product declarations' produced by some paper manufacturers, Which list environmental information for their grades.

PEFC

Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification. A scheme for auditing forestry operations, taking into account the effects on the environment.

Post-consumer Waste

Waste that has reached the end user, typically homes and offices.

Pre-consumer Waste

Waste that has left the mill but has not reached the end user. Typically trimmings and rejected material from printers, envelope converters etc.

Recycled Fibre Classification

Mill Broke – Waste that has not left the mill.

Pre-consumer fibre – Waste that has left the mill but not reached the consumer, typically from the printer or converter.

Post-consumer fibre – Post-consumer waste, collected from homes, offices etc.

Post-consumer mechanical fibre – Post consumer waste, typically newspapers.

To be classified as recycled the grade should contain no less than 50% of the total fibre from any combination of the above sources with the percentages given for each.

SFI

Sustainable Forestry Initiative. The American Forest and Paper Association's Sustainable Forestry Initiative aims to ensure Ongoing renewable resources across the country.

Sustainable Development

A way of living and working which meets the needs of the present Without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Recycled

To obtain the Recycled label, a paper must contain recovered materials. The amount may vary considerably, from small percentages of pre-consumer to 100% post-consumer materials, and any combination of the two. Most recycled papers will have a recovered content of at least 20%.

TCF

Totally Chlorine Free. Paper pulp that is bleached without using chlorine in any form, thus giving an AOX level of zero. The Alternative bleaching agents used might be liquid oxygen, hydrogen peroxide or sodium hydroxide.

Woodfree





Woodfree is a description of pulp and paper meaning that they contain little or no mechanically ground fibres. Implies that fibres are chemically treated, thereby eliminating lignin (the substance That binds wood fibres together in the tree) and making the product purer, whiter and stronger. Woodfree is an historical paper-making term shortened from 'ground wood-free' and does not denote a paper or pulp made from materials other than wood.

WWF Forest and Trade Network (formerly 95+ group)

A voluntary collection of companies committed to the improvement of forest management standards. The group is administered by The World Wide Fund for Nature.

SPICERS PRODUCTS WITH ENVIRONMENTAL CREDENTIALS



				
	Wood from sustainable forests	Bleaching process	Recycled	Management System
9 Lives Coated	FSC Recycled	ECF	55%	ISO14001
9 Lives Uncoated	FSC Recycled	ECF/PCF	100%	ISO14001
Ambassador	FSC/PEFC/SFI	ECF		ISO14001 / IPPC
Black Velvet		TCF		ISO14001
Cabaret		ECF		ISO14001
Classic Laid	FSC	TCF		ISO14001
Classic Rib	FSC	ECF		ISO14001
Classic Super Smooth	FSC	TCF		ISO14001
Conqueror		ECF		ISO14001
Conservation Chlorine Free	FSC	TCF		ISO14001
Conservation Laid/Wove			100%	ISO14001
Conservation Metaphor			100%	ISO14001
Euro Art		TCF		EMAS /ISO14001
Expression		ECF		ISO14001
Freelife Felt	FSC Recycled	ECF	80%	ISO14001
Freelife Vellum	FSC Recycled	ECF	80%	ISO14001
G Print Matt	PEFC	ECF		EMAS /ISO14001
Kaskad	FSC	TCF		ISO14001
Media	PEFC	ECF		EMAS /ISO14001
Neocart	PEFC / FSC	ECF		ISO14001
Ozone Offset	FSC Mixed	ECF		ISO14001
Rapier		ECF		ISO14001
Sapphire Cast Coated		ECF		ISO14001
Sapphire Offset	FSC	ECF		ISO14001
Saxton		ECF		ISO14001
Scotia		TCF		ISO14001
Splendorgel		ECF		ISO14001
Superfine Hi Bulk				ISO14001
Works Laser		PCF	100%	ISO14001
Works Smooth		PCF	100%	ISO14001