



the future is safer with altro



To whom it may concern:

14/10/09

Ref: Altro's Innovative in House Safety Flooring Recycling System

In January 2008, Altro launched its 6 Steps to Sustainability programme – a holistic approach to managing sustainability issues. One of the six steps in Altro's sustainability programme is recycling which primarily focuses on reducing the amount of waste PVC safety flooring that goes to landfill via innovative recycling techniques.

In the past it was thought impossible to be able to recycle safety flooring. This was because safety flooring contains abrasive aggregates that give the product its signature slip resistance and durability. These aggregates are some of the hardest materials next to diamond. Any parts of the recycling equipment which mechanically breaks down the flooring would quickly become worn and have to be regularly replaced rendering any recycling too expensive. This is why up until now, it has always been cheaper to throw waste safety flooring into landfill.

However, in 2007, thanks to an innovative breakthrough in blade technology, Altro installed the world's first in house safety flooring recycling system which is capable of recycling safety flooring waste to produce a PVC chip which can be incorporated into new Altro safety flooring products as recycled content. In this way 500 tonnes of factory waste PVC is being diverted from landfill every year. In February 2009, Walkway, VM20 and Impressionist II, IP20 became the first safety flooring products in the world to actually contain safety flooring recycle bringing the total amount of recycled content for these products up to 20% By the end of 2009 we hope to have up to 20% recycled PVC chip in most Altro safety flooring products.

Collection of Post Installation Waste

In 2007 we were invited to take part in a Waste Resources Action Programme, WRAP trial to look at the feasibility of setting a UK nationwide collection scheme for post use vinyl. In March

2009 the WRAP funding was withdrawn and the industry was invited to take the scheme forward and jointly fund it. On September 1st 2009 Recofloor – the industry’s vinyl take back scheme was launched to the marketplace with Altro as a founder member. As the only manufacturer capable of recycling safety flooring, Altro collects and recycles all the safety flooring for Recofloor irrespective of who manufactured it. We anticipate collecting and recycling over 100 tonnes of post installation waste safety flooring for Recofloor in its first year.



As we all know landfill tax is escalating every year and there are several government and marketplace initiatives that have been put in place with the aim of driving down waste to landfill in the UK construction industry. These include Site Waste Management Plans, (SWMP's) - compulsory in England for projects over 300K. Also, a joint government and industry commitment was recently launched with a target of reducing waste to landfill in the UK construction industry by 50% by 2012. These initiatives and many more like them all point to increased pressure on contractors and specifiers to reduce the amount of waste they send to landfill in a project.





How is Safety Flooring Recycled?

Safety flooring edge trimmings, factory scrap and collected installation waste are put through a shredder. This shredded material is then granulated into 3 different fractions.



Factory scrap and Edge trimmings & installation waste off cuts



Material is mechanically shredded



Shredded material is then granulated into 3 different fractions



PVC Chip



Aggregate Mix



Mixed Fraction

In order to claim that our safety flooring products are 100% recyclable we need to find a use for all 3 fractions.

The 2mm PVC chip recycled into new Altro safety flooring products and accounts for around 87% by weight. The aggregate fraction, (10% by weight) is reused in new safety flooring in the place of virgin aggregate. The mixed fraction can be vacuum packed and used as packaging, accounting for the final 3%

In this way we are now diverting from landfill the 500 tonnes of factory waste PVC safety flooring we produce every year along with any collected post use waste safety flooring from the Recofloor scheme.

Phase 3 of our recycling programme will look at the issue of post consumer waste – uplifted flooring.

Recycled Content in Altro Safety Flooring Products

The following products contain recycled content:

Altro Walkway, VM20	20%
Altro Impressionist II, IP20	20%
Altro Designer, D25	10%
Altro Classic, X25	10%
Altro Atlas, X40	10%
Altro Maxis 25	10%
Altro Contrax, CX20	10%
Altro Marine, T20	10%
Altro Stronghold, K30	10%
Altro Suprema, SU20	5%

Recycled content in Altro safety flooring products is a mixture of recycled PVC chip and recycled glass from the UK glass bottle industry.

BEST GREEN COMPANIES

In May 2009, we were delighted to be listed in 36th place in the Sunday Times Best Green Companies Award, Altro were described as the fourth greenest manufacturer in Britain.

THE SUNDAY TIMES



BEST GREEN COMPANIES

2009

If you require any further information on our Sustainability programme, please do not hesitate to contact us here at Letchworth.

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tracy Perry'.

Tracy Perry

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