

AFRISAM INTRODUCES INDUSTRY FIRST - CO₂ RATED CEMENT

AfriSam has announced the introduction of a carbon footprint (CO₂) rating stamp which will appear on every bag of cement that it sells.

In yet another pioneering step for this organisation, AfriSam has developed a relative CO₂ footprint system which calculates the CO₂ associated with the production of every kg of cement of each main AfriSam cement type from its various production facilities. This initiative is based on the Cement CO₂ Protocol which is closely aligned to the overarching Greenhouse Gas Protocol developed under a joint venture of the World Resources Institute and World Business Council for Sustainable Development. Currently, the world average emission of CO₂ per kg of cement is 890g as per Cembureau.

The model, developed by AfriSam, not only takes specific types of direct and indirect emissions into account, but also weighs up the effects of interplant transportation. Emission calculations and summations are based on a "cradle to gate" approach, where the "gate" is the factory gate.

In the cement manufacturing process, roughly 60% of the emitted CO₂ is from the process (the de-carbonation of limestone) and 40% from fuels. Interplant transportation emissions come into play where cement is processed at more than one facility.

"Although cement remains one of the top three commodities consumed in the world, we are well aware of the impact cement production has on the environment. We have made the reduction of carbon emissions a priority for AfriSam for more than a decade and will continue to strive to improve our efficiencies and lower our emissions by 2% every year," says Stephan Olivier, Chief Operating Officer; AfriSam Cement Operations.

The actual value of CO₂ associated with manufacturing and transporting each individual product will soon be printed on all AfriSam cement bags, and this will be clearly visible to the end user. The bag will carry a CO₂ barometer insignia indicating emissions in comparison to the world average of 890g/kg. Characteristics of low CO₂ cement could include low fuel consumption, high mineral component extension (fly ash and GGBS or a combination thereof within SABS standard requirements) and low clinker content.

Commenting on the way forward, AfriSam's Marketing Manager, Victor Bouguenon says, "We see the reduction of CO₂ as an urgent responsibility for industry in general. We believe that this initiative is a first in the world for the cement industry and encourage other producers to follow suit."

CAPTION FOR AFRISAM: Examples of the CO₂ rating stamps which will appear on every bag of cement sold by AfriSam.

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