

Another environmental first for AfriSam

AfriSam has extended its CO₂ measurement to all its aggregate and ready-mix concrete and aggregate operations. This follows on the industry-first CO₂ rating system implemented by the company, which indicates the carbon footprint of each of its cement products relative to the world average.



AfriSam was the first cement manufacturer in South Africa to measure its carbon footprint and it has now become arguably the first in the world to provide this measurement across all its activities: cement, aggregate and readymix.

“We believe that as the leading construction materials supplier in southern Africa, it was not only a natural progression from measuring CO₂ in cement, but it is a moral obligation too,” says Alan Cluett, AfriSam’s environmental manager. “We do not consider ourselves exclusive owners of the methodology, and are presenting the model to aggregate and sand producers and various other bodies in the industry, such as the institute

of Quarrying and the Southern African Ready Mix Association, encouraging others to come on board. Our consultants are currently developing a simple and cost-effective programme suitable for smaller competitors.

Nor is the company sitting on its laurels. “We are constantly improving and refining the system, including other aspects such as the amount of CO₂ absorption in different biomes in areas which are disturbed by our operations and subsequently rehabilitated. These, and other considerations, will enable us to remain at the forefront of the industry in ensuring the lowest CO₂ footprint possible.”

Consultants were commissioned to develop a methodology to calculate

the CO₂ emissions and reports are now being returned from all AfriSam’s aggregate and readymix operations. “Not only is diesel considered, but all greenhouse gas equivalents,” Cluett points out. “This includes gases generated from explosives, emissions from sewage, those associated with water pumping as well as from electricity – even welding gases and gases used for cooking purposes on site. All costs associated with transport of products are also factored in.”

“AfriSam has had an ‘environmental conscience’ since well before the 1990s,” Cluett confirms. “We started measuring our CO₂ emissions in 1990 and that led to the development of our blended Green Cement products to reduce our carbon footprint. It was quite a risk, because as a rule, customers used Portland cement, but they bought into the vision and supported us.”

The company’s Green Cement programme hinged on using by-products



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