

AFRISAM FOCUSES ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

AfriSam has committed itself to not only producing products that allow customers to build with confidence, but also very importantly, to protecting the environment through conscientious and responsible manufacturing processes.

These responsibilities entail the reduction of emissions and pollution; the reduction of energy consumption; research into the use of alternative energy/fuel sources; reduction of the mining footprint and rehabilitation of mined areas; ensuring the safety of both its own employees and other people on site; and reinvesting in the communities affected by its operations.

The AfriSam environmental policy was formulated around the adoption of the 16 principles for sustainable development as set out in the International Chamber of Commerce's Business Charter for Sustainable Development.

The current worldwide focus on reducing carbon emissions in the form of CO₂ has been an environmental target for AfriSam for more than a decade. In 1994, the company was the first South African cement and aggregate producer to publish an environmental policy.

EMISSION CONTROL

AfriSam was also the first southern African cement producer to install continuous emission measuring equipment in all its kiln stacks including the kiln stack at its Tanzanian plant in Tanga.

Through the installation of OPSIS[®] emission equipment in its stacks, AfriSam is currently the only southern African cement producer to continuously measure up to 13 gas streams in units as small as milligrams per Normal cubic metre (mg/Nm³).

AfriSam has conducted annual discontinuous emission measurements for up to 13 metals as well as dioxins, furans and PCBs. These are being measured in micrograms for metals and nanograms for dioxins, furans and PCBs respectively.

REDUCING DUST

With investments in bag filter technology, AfriSam's Dudfield Kiln 2 and Kiln 3 became the first cement kilns in Africa to consistently achieve dust emissions below 30 milligrams per Normal cubic metre. The Dudfield kilns currently comply with world best practice with dust emission levels at consistently below 20 milligrams per Normal cubic metre.

CARBON REDUCTION

Another environmental first was achieved by AfriSam in 2001 by officially implementing its carbon emission reduction programme through the introduction of its 'green' cement product range.

By accelerating the use of extenders such as AfriSam slagment, Silica Fume, fly ash and limestone in its cement product range, AfriSam was able by 2006 to reduce the specific CO₂ emission per ton of cement by more than 34% from its 1990 levels, marginally dropping total CO₂ emissions despite increasing actual cement production over the same period by 53.9%.

With the approval by the authorities of the use of selected Alternative Fuels in cement kilns, AfriSam will be able to drive its CO₂ emissions down even further.

ALTERNATIVE FUELS

AfriSam complies with the European Community emission standard – 2000/76/EC for cement kilns co-processing waste as an alternative fuel to coal.

The company promotes eco-efficiency, conservation of non-renewable resources and recycling of secondary materials through the pursuit of optimal utilisation of resources, reduction of waste and use of fossil fuels.

REHABILITATION

Rehabilitation of its mining sites to a self-sustainable or positively usable landform on final closure of operations, and in the near future, forms a large part of its programme to provide sustainability for future generations.

Rehabilitation has many aspects, including the removal and total eradication of alien invader plants and trees; replanting with indigenous plants and trees; face-wrecking of rock faces (a process pioneered by AfriSam); and diversion of water features (such as rivers) in order to ensure minimal disruption to their ecosystem. A classic example of how a quarry can be rehabilitated to a state better than its original one is AfriSam's Coedmore Quarry near Durban.

The company is committed to environmental management systems that comply with the requirements of ISO 14001. Continuous improvement is achieved through the process of risk management, the execution of performance assessments, benchmarking and the implementation of improvement programmes.

ENDS ... SEPTEMBER 2009

FROM : CORALYNNE & ASSOCIATES
P O BOX 16336 ATLASVILLE 1465
TEL : +27 011 422 1949
FAX : +27 086 634 6991
EMAIL : coralyn@onwe.co.za

FOR : VICTOR BOUGUENON
AFRISAM
P O BOX 6367 WELTEVREDENPARK 1715
TEL : +27 011 670 5520
www.afrisam.com