

Case Study: Glendale Plastics Limited

– interview with David Galloway, Director



Glendale Plastics

Another area of concern is the presence of loose waste pellets in skips. Staff education is required to make sure pellets are put into sealed bags before being binned. Although we recycle internally (edge-trim cut-offs etc.), we are unable to recycle pellets swept off the floor, as they are mixed in with other waste and hard to separate, and we definitely can't re-use them because we are producing food packaging. We are currently in discussion with our waste management provider to see if improvements can be made to the skips, or if they could recycle pellets.

We have also invested in a portable vacuum cleaner for pellet clean-up, as sweeping isn't the best way to contain lightweight pellets. The cleaner is battery powered and completely portable, allowing access to all external areas; and produces a level of suction capable of lifting pellets with ease.

Have you done anything to raise staff awareness of the issue?

Training of staff will be an important aspect of incorporating OCS in our facility. We plan to raise awareness to staff by incorporate it into existing housekeeping and hygiene training and introducing a specific training module highlighting the means of containing pellet loss effectively.

Any other initiatives that you have implemented during uptake of OCS?

A brain-storming session was scheduled to work out how best to incorporate OCS into existing auditing/environmental management scheme; and detail how to incorporate pellet loss prevention into staff training.

Did you find the resources provided in the manual / checklists useful?

Yes. We initially read through the manual and found the check-lists to be useful tools. Some sections are of course more relevant than others, as they have to cover a wide range of facilities.

Did you encounter any hurdles/costs while implementing OCS so far?

We don't anticipate that costs or staff interest will be an issue. One area for us to concentrate on is to communicate with external service providers, e.g. the waste management provider – so that they are aware of our specific requirements.

Have there been any noticeable benefits? / expecting any in the future?

Because of our food hygiene requirements (BRC), the factory is already in good shape before the start of the procedure, but the OCS audit has been good for focusing on the specific issue of pellet loss and has reinforced existing good housekeeping standards. A discussion with the waste management provider has already led to cost savings.

Have you put in place any procedure to monitor the success of the scheme?

We will monitor improvement by conducting regular audits – probably once a quarter. This will help us keep a record of how things have changed.

Would you recommend the scheme to other companies? Do you have any suggestions for their uptake?

Yes, definitely – the process makes you focus on how you handle your pellet - the transfer points; the equipment needed; whose responsibility it is; and, staff education. The knowledge conveyed to staff is also passed on to friends and relatives and general awareness of the issue is improved.

Did you conduct an internal audit? If so, when did you do so? How long did it take?

We conducted a specific OCS site audit in August. This took around 1.5 hours and was carried out by a Director alongside the Group Quality Manager. We used the OCS check-list available online to focus the audit.

Did the audit highlight any areas of concern? What improvements have you been able to make?

The factory floor itself is kept to a high standard of cleanliness anyway, as we produce food packaging material. The yard & loading bay areas were highlighted as areas of greatest concern – we have had some issues in the past with pellets being spilled on transfer when pellets in 25kg bags have been damaged in transit.

Pellets come in bulk bags supported on a pallet, or 25kg bags wrapped on a pallet. Loading and unloading is much easier if 4-way pallets are used by the supplier as they allow unloading from the end of the vehicle using our loading bays straight into the factory. Suppliers have in the past used 2-way pallets only, which forces us to off-load in the yard from the side of the vehicle, increasing the risk of spillages in the yard. Specifying 4-way pallets to our suppliers is standard, however, not always adhered to. Feedback to suppliers is essential.