

Case Study: THREDGARDS Injection Moulding

– interview with David Haswell, General Manager



THREDGARDS
INJECTION MOULDINGS
KNOWLEDGE DESIGN QUALITY PERFORMANCE

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

One benefit is that it raises the bar on housekeeping – there is always room to improve, and OCS has been another way to emphasise good practice.

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

It is monitored through our ISO audits - the internal auditor comes in once a month but checks different sectors of the facility each month. Pellet loss will be mentioned within a few of these themes including housekeeping, waste management – it is therefore examined 3-4 times each year.

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

Yes, definitely, it's good to know you're doing something for the environment in a small way, and you're not responsible for what you see out there.

Do you have plans to make further improvements in the future?

We currently use bags to manually load our hoppers in most machines, but we want to put in automated hopper loaders with vacuums. This should reduce spillage onto the factory floor. One section of our factory is used for food grade plastic production, which requires much higher standards of cleanliness / reduced spillage – our long term goal is to get the whole of the facility up to those standards as general best practice.

When did you sign up to OCS?

We signed up 6 months ago, on 2nd March 2016.

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

Pellet loss procedure was included under our ISO 14001 and ISO 9001 audits – The amendments were actually made back in August 2015, and have been included in audits since then. The amendment defines that pellets must be disposed of to landfill, not down the drains. There is reference to this in various places within the manual, including staff training, floor sweepings, general housekeeping. The audits progressed as usual and did not take up any more time.

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

Both internal and external auditors did not pick up on anything specific. Pushed housekeeping more strongly – spill kits were in place already, but have emphasised the housekeeping procedure with staff e.g. Cleaning on top of machines, as pellets are often found on top of machines as well as in floor sweepings.

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

Pellet loss was raised in a briefing session on 28th June with staff. This raised consciousness and less pellets were observed in the area afterwards. We will also put Fidra's poster up for staff.

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

A cleaning schedule was already in place, but is more strictly enforced with detailed paperwork to be signed. There is a daily requirement to sweep, wipe up machines and clear up loose granules, which is monitored by management.

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

We haven't actually used the manual yet, but plan to read through to see if there are further improvements to make.

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

None at all. Incorporating it into our ISO process means it has not taken any longer than our usual auditing. We do not have any drains on site or immediately outside the grounds, therefore no need to install any filters.