

How Graphocolor has used ISO 14001 Certification to drive Environmental efficiency and reduce their Environmental footprint

At a Glance

Graphocolor is one of Ireland's leading printing ink suppliers and part of the Hubergroup, an international holding group comprising of 40 companies, spread across the Globe. The organisation blend and supply a range of printing inks and sundry components for the printing industry.

The group is acknowledged as one of the leading printing ink manufacturers and is also equipped with the know how to manufacture and market printing varnishes, coatings, dampening solutions, additives and printing auxiliaries.

Graphocolor offer a complete range of inks, blankets and pressroom consumables to all sectors of the Irish printing industry. Graphocolors core products have been developed and manufactured by our parent company. This includes inks and additives for all applications, oil based varnish, water based coatings and fount solutions.

Why did Graphocolor choose to implement the [ISO 14001](#) EMS.

The organisations sustainability credentials and leadership position within the printing industry are dependent on Graphocolor demonstrating environmental best practice. Declan Mc Grath, Joint Managing Director of Graphocolor stated that: 'Some customers simply won't do business with you if you can't show that you operate to ISO environmental and quality standards – you're just not in the game'

Implementation Steps

One of the aspects that appealed to the organisation was the focus on life cycle thinking and the reduction of its environmental footprint.

The organisation focused on each of its processes and determined the inputs and outputs associated with each activity within the business. The management and staff then identified the process outputs that had a negative environmental impact. The results centred around solvent use and ink blending waste. The organisation were then able to implement mitigating measures and processes that have resulted in:

- A 50% reduction in the solvents used in the blending processes.
- A move towards using more water-based products within the business.
- The implementation of recycling program for waste outputs including ink tins, solvent barrels, pallets and packaging.

Outcome

The EMS is now integrated into the global strategy of the organisation. All staff contribute to the day-to-day management of the ISO 14001 environmental program. Core environmental monitoring and measurement programs are now managed by the staff that carry out the blending and laboratory processes. Consultation and participation with staff regarding these issues has resulted in a tighter more efficient working environment.

Benefits

Commenting on the key positives to the business, Dave Heary- Joint Managing Director, stated that:

- Certification to ISO 14001 has given Graphocolor a robust environmental management framework, for developing, implementing and monitoring our environmental objectives.
- The organisation can now demonstrate compliance with current statutory and regulatory requirements through its legislation register.
- By developing a continuous improvement culture, through the reduction, recycling and reuse of used materials, the organisation has gained a competitive and financial advantage through improved efficiencies and reduced waste costs.
- Staff are now empowered to have greater environmental awareness and knowledge. Employees are now trained to respond promptly and effectively to potential significant environmental impacts resulting from the organisations operations.

Declan from Graphocolor stated that “ISO 14001 helped us to take a step back and focus on the environmental aspects and impacts of our business. This was a very positive exercise. It helped us make sure that things get done properly and is now part of our day-to-day environmental philosophy of reducing our environmental footprint and supply chain sustainability”

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If you are interested in learning more about the benefits an ISO 14001 environmental management system can bring to your business, why not contact us for a free consultation.