

Environmental & Sustainable Information

Rev. 3 - Last revised - March 30, 2005

Objective

Fluidconcepts' environmental policy objective is to adhere to Federal, Provincial and local laws, codes and regulations as applicable to control environmental risks, prevent harm to the public health and welfare, and to preserve our natural resources. Fluidconcepts' acknowledges the necessity of commitment and hereby commits its' resources of all levels of its' management and all employees of the company to accomplish this objective.

Policy Statement

1. Develop environmental policies which implement regulatory compliance requirements and provide management guidance and support with applicable environmental laws.
2. Train and motivate personnel to work in an environmentally acceptable manner and to understand and comply with government regulations within the scope of fluidconcepts' operations.
3. Communicate the importance of personal responsibility protection to all employees through training. Each employee will be aware of the environmental regulations applicable to their job functions, including the limitations and functional restrictions of permits, spill control, emergency response actions, proper waste handling procedures, etc.
4. Communicate and continually assess relevant environmental developments on operations of the facilities and personnel.
5. Require sub-contractors to follow Fluidconcepts' environmental procedures while working within their facilities.
6. Implement appropriate control technologies and process guidelines for preventive and corrective maintenance systems to minimize actual and potential environmental harm and exposures.
7. Minimize the generation, emission or discharge of waste, and harmful or regulated substances and pollutants from operations to the extent most practical with laws and regulations. Ensure proper disposal of all waste.
8. Substitute materials or processes to allow the use of less hazardous substances where feasible.
9. Evaluate the causes behind any serious environmental incidents and establish procedures to avoid recurrence.

At Fluidconcepts, we believe it is our responsibility as a manufacturer to produce products in a manner that promotes a safe and healthy environment for everyone.

1) **Company Practices**

1. Fluidconcepts does practice and encourage environmental education through design research when developing and engineering products and constantly reviews design and best practice standards in our industry through major organizations (i.e. Leeds, Bifma).
2. Fluidconcepts has received a Bronze award at the 2003 Neocon II dex exposition in systems furniture. The award considers many factors including design for the environment, environmental impact, life cycle impact, use of renewable and recyclable materials, and emissions.
3. Fluidconcepts does not currently belong to any environmental agencies, but plans to become more active in this area in the near future.

2) **Factory**

1. Fluidconcepts monitors and tests its' finishing processes on a quarterly basis to ensure the machinery is within specifications with respect to emissions and efficiency.
2. Fluidconcepts does monitor waste consumption and ensures that all recyclable material is recycled in the office and plant.
3. Within fluidconcepts' finishing process there are no VOC emissions. For our wood working operations a dust-filter collection system is used to collect cut by-product for recycling.
4. Fluidconcepts does have collection areas for all recyclable material for reprocessing

3) **Packaging**

Fluidconcepts uses as minimal amount of packaging as possible in order minimize the onsite collection and waste during furniture installation. Commonly used packaging materials used are wooden skids, cardboard, shrinkwrap, foam, tape.

4) **Printed Matter**

All of fluidconcepts printed material are collected in recycling blue boxes and recycled weekly.

5) Materials

Recycled Material

Our products contain a high level of recycled material content, including: steel, which averages between 60-70% recycled content, particleboard (between 70-100% recycled content), and fabric upholsteries (between 48-100% recycled content).

Metal

All metal painting operations utilize powder-coat processes rather than solvent-based paints, thereby eliminating the risk of indoor air quality contamination from the off-gassing of finishing materials, while greatly reducing contaminant emissions to the atmosphere. A further benefit is the elimination of hazardous waste normally associated with solvent-based finishing processes.

Fabrics

Natural Fibres - fluidconcepts standard fabrics currently are made from polyester and recycled polyester based. We also encourage using C.O.M. fabrics including fabrics which are fabricated from Natural Sources.

Recycled Materials – Our standard fabrics can be 100% recycled for use in other textiles.

We use water-based and hot-melt adhesives in the high-volume processes to reduce VOC emissions in our manufacturing facilities and in clients' workplace environments.

Waste Scraps are reused as sales samples and if unusable then sent discarded. (Very little is discarded as we buy fabric rolls and have designed fabric panels to use maximum yield fabric)

Current fabric offering is not biodegradable however, many are available through our C.O.M. program for client selection.

Manufactured to waste – Every panel is designed to maximize yield and reduce scrap.

Plastic Laminates

Fluidconcepts uses laminates from a number of world class suppliers (i.e. Nevamar, Wilson Art, Pionite). All manufacturers exceed the requirements for emissions for their laminates. We use water-based and hot-melt adhesives in the high-volume processes to reduce VOC emissions in our manufacturing facilities and in clients' workplace environments.

PVC edging

PVC edging is lead free.

Recycled waste – All excess PVC is reused or ground up to be recycled

Powder Coated Worksurfaces

Our fiberboard panels for worksurfaces and furniture fronts, cases that feature soft, rounded edges are powder-coated MDF. The benefits are elimination of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), the virtual elimination of formaldehyde emissions and a mar-resistant seamless finish.

Particle Board –

A large majority of particle board is recycled as the board is primarily spruce and fir, with some hemlock and pine, and comes in the form of sawdust and planer shavings.

Aluminum

We use a high degree of Aluminum in our product which contains a small degree of recycled aluminum. However, aluminum is 100% recyclable. All of our scrap and off-cuts are recycled.

Steel –

Steel, which averages between 60-70% recycled content, with the scrap being recycled

Plastics –

Recycled Content – Approximately, about 2% of Fluidconcepts product are made of plastics. It is undetermined what % is recycled.

Paint –

All metal painting operations utilize powder-coat processes rather than solvent-based paints, thereby eliminating the risk of indoor air quality contamination from the off-gassing of finishing materials, while greatly reducing contaminant emissions to the atmosphere. A further benefit is the elimination of hazardous waste normally associated with solvent-based finishing processes.

Adhesives –

All adhesives used are water based.

Hardwood and Lumber Veneers

Fluidconcepts does not currently use veneered materials

6) Replacement Parts

All parts are easily and quickly replaced/changed in the field. Our products are designed to minimize components and be broken down to their simplest level to enable easily replacement and ease in the recycling process.

7) Design Process

Our designers and production engineers are constantly striving to minimize the consumption of materials, while maintaining or exceeding industry standards for product durability and performance.

8) End of Life Cycle

All information is available on how to dismantle products for installation, disassembly and dismantling. Currently this information is not located on the product and the product is not conducive to applying such information (component based). Installation/Disassembly would be kept on site to be referred to when necessary.