

Ibstock Environmental Report 1999

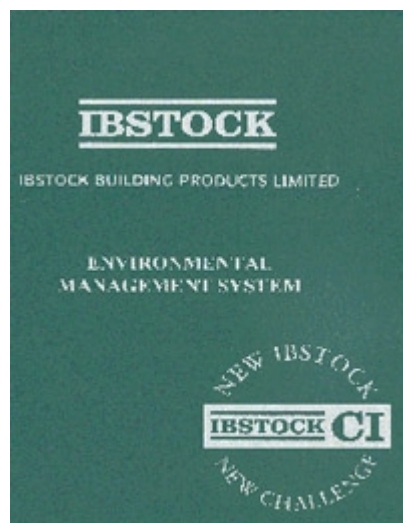
(Produced in accordance with the BiE 10 parameters of environmental engagement - a model for environmental reporting along Government guidelines for FTSE 350 businesses and is strongly supported by Michael Meacher)



(a recent photograph showing our Leicester Factory, taken from a restored area)

Environmental Management Systems

Issue 2 of the Ibstock Group Manual has been introduced to every site, this will be used for the formal assessment to ISO 14001 by BSI. Leicester site is underway with certification completion is expected in early February 2000.



Development of the system remains a priority. Progress in Northern and Eastern Divisions is excellent, 4 sites other than Leicester will be ready for ISO 14001 assessment by mid 2000 at the latest. Elsewhere development of the EMS is in competition with other company initiatives (Total Productive Manufacture etc) and progress may prove to be slower.

Board Member with responsibility

The Technical Director heads the Company Environmental Targets and Objectives Working Group (ETOWG) and has executive responsibility for environmental matters.

Corporate Environmental Policy

This has been issued within Issue 2 of the Ibstock Group Manual.

- It has also been posted around factories used as Divisional "lead development sites". This is to be expanded to include all Ibstock sites as soon as possible, however, for maximum effectiveness posting is seen as an activity best conducted alongside awareness training.
- The policy is freely available for downloading on Company Internet site. [www.ibstock.co.uk]
- It will also be contained within new environmental publications.

Our Environmental Policy is replicated below.

Ibstock Building Products is a UK based manufacturer of clay bricks and associated walling components for supply to the construction market. The principle focus for the business is in housing and commercial buildings together with the industrial and architectural sectors.*

In the conduct of its operations Ibstock Building Products is committed to continuous improvement in environmental performance. It will seek to prevent pollution of the environment by the adoption of processes, practices, materials and control mechanisms which maximise the efficient use of resources. It will seek to reduce emissions to the lowest level consistent with the Industry best practice.

Ibstock Building Products will:*

As a minimum comply with the requirements of all relevant legislation.

Regularly review and, where necessary, update its management policies and activities in the light of new information concerning the impact of its business on the environment, employees or neighbours.

Manage efficiently the consumption of energy and materials and the generation of waste in all its operations.

Keep the local public informed of any major new projects which we intend undertaking.

Provide relevant training for employees to assist them in better understanding how they and our company can achieve the goal of improving our environmental performance.

*** (note since publication the Company name has changed to Ibstock Brick Ltd).**

Corporate Environmental Objectives

- Energy consumption targets are to be set for 2000/2001, as well as improving efficiency these will be used to help to prepare our business for the Climate Change Levy.
- Landfill gas will come on stream at Dorket Head in year 2000 and will reduce purchased energy for this site. This use of a renewable energy source is a model for future schemes.
- Research and development amounting to £1m continues at a

selected Ibstock site into energy efficient technology reducing kiln firing times and emissions.

Emissions abatement at our Leicester site using a novel process modification route was conducted during 1999 and will be concluded in 2000. This can achieve the same environmental standards as "end of pipe" technology with exceptionally low running costs without high capital costs. An award was made under the Environmental Technology Best Practice Programme for this **sustainable** process technology which is being replicated at a number of brick manufacturing sites both within and outside of Ibstock.



Ibstock sites where this type of technology is being fitted include: Aldridge; Ashdown; Pinhoe and Stourbridge.

- Waste segregation is encouraged at all sites to enable recycling or sale as secondary raw materials to take place where partnerships can be obtained.
- Recycling of clay and sand is a part of the objectives and targets for each site entering the ISO 14001 scheme.
- Recycling of paper is to be encouraged at all administration sites in the year 2000. This will also reduce waste disposal costs.

Environmental Targets

The Environmental Targets and Objectives Group met 3 times in 1999 to monitor progress with Company environmental objectives and individual site targets.

A total of almost £4 million has been allocated during 1999 for environmental improvement projects. Whilst the majority of this capital has been allocated in the area of flue gas scrubbing to comply with PG3/2(95) requirements on Fluoride reduction, other projects include additional oil interceptors fitted to water discharges and the up-grading of materials storage.

Factories where flue gas scrubbing has been installed are (in alphabetical order) Birtley; Cattybrook; Chesterton; Dorket Head; Nostell; Parkhouse; Ravenhead; Roughdales; South Holmwood; Tannochside and Throckley.

Internal Environmental Audit

- An internal Environmental Audit has been conducted at every manufacturing lbstock site. 7 of these were risk assessment audits conducted with external consultants.

The 1999 audit results are divided into 4 key areas (each of which is compiled from several sub-divisions) these key areas are:

- Environmental Management System
- Emissions & Discharges
- Waste Management
- Storage.

Scoring of each of the 4 key areas was from 1-5.

1 represents a totally unacceptable performance which requires immediate priority attention.

3 represents an acceptable level of performance.

5 represents a new standard of industry best practice.

An averaged minimum score of 11 over the 4 areas is considered to be a satisfactory level of performance. Of the 24 units subjected to audit only 4 failed to score greater than 11, with two sites scoring in excess of 13.5 using the same scoring system. The reasons for the shortfalls are all related to fuel and chemical storage and these are now being urgently addressed, all should be completed by the end of May 2000.

From 1998 to 1999 there has been a major improvement in all storage related issues at almost all sites since this was identified as the priority for action in 1998.

Environment focused supplier scheme

Major suppliers have been approached in 1999 on the basis of the value of the supplied materials or services rather than quantity supplied. All have submitted Environmental Policies or "Environmental Statements". All were asked to submit five key environmental performance indicators which they themselves would use to monitor the progress of their business with regard to the environment - all agreed to do so yet none have replied as of December 1999.

Employee Environment Programme

- A session has been conducted in each brick Division for managers. These have been conducted by an external resource with support from Technical Department. Over 70 lbstock managers and deputies have attended awareness training in 1999.
- A package for operators has been developed "in house" using material from internal audits and training is now being expanded on a site by site basis. These are currently conducted jointly between

Technical Department and Divisional Health and Safety/Environment Advisors.

Training awareness sessions are being used to reinforce environmental concerns as integral to Health and Safety, Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH), the Ibstock CI Continuous Improvement Programme and Total Productive Manufacture (TPM).

Environmental Stewardship

- Ibstock seeks to maintain a high standard of restoration in closed quarries, whilst offering a public amenity where local geology is suitable. From December 1998 to December 1999 Ibstock planted over 13,000 trees on company sites. Currently the majority of the restoration schemes are part of a landfill programme which is jointly managed between Ibstock and Cory Environmental Ltd. The one exception to this is Dorket Head where Waste Recycling Group (WRG) are the other party involved.
- Ibstock has a policy of active public consultation about any new planning proposals. In the last 5 years or so there have been at least 5 public consultations in support of Planning Applications for quarry working and related matters at Leicester; West Hoathly; Himley; Aldridge and Dorket Head.

During 1999 there were public exhibitions:

In respect of Wheatly Head in support of an application for the extraction of shales and coal to be followed by landfill.

In respect of Shortwood Quarry in support of an application for the extraction of clay.

There is an on-going display of computer simulated working of a clay quarry at Knight and Sons Solicitors, Newcastle under Lyme in support of company initiatives on the requirement for Fireclays and the company perspective on the need for landbanks for extraction of clays. Included in the display is a reasoned argument for the exclusion of brick clays from the proposed Minerals Tax for the extractive industries.

Stakeholder Communication

- An 8-page publication covering all aspects of Ibstock and the environment is scheduled for release in early 2000.
- Ibstock has actively participated with Trade Associations to offer comment in the consultation of many papers issued by the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions. The most prominent of these in 1999 include the implementation of the European Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Directive and proposals for the Climate Change Levy.

Ibstock has also offered substantial comment to the British Geological Survey for the Brick Clay: Resources, Supply and Environmental Issues for Planning project.

- The Internet site is subject to constant update. New information to

be included on this site in the future will cover precise details of site licences, details of progress with our ISO 14001 Environmental Management System and aerial photographs of sites.

- Neighbourhood liaison is active at several factories with committees at Himley, Lodge Lane (for Redhurst Quarry), Ravenhead and Cattybrook.
- Any complaint received concerning environmental matters will generate a written reply from the factory manager within 21 days of receipt.

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