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CONTINUING OVER A CENTURY OF INNOVATION IN HIGH PRESSURE CYLINDERS

Doing our bit for the environment

Achievement of a new standard benefits the natural world, our customers, our staff, our neighbours ... and our consciences.

Chesterfield Special Cylinders Ltd is now the proud holder of accreditation to ISO 14001: 2004, the international standard for Environmental Management Systems (EMS).

ISO 14001 demands that a company limits, controls and monitors the effect of its operations on both the natural world environment, and also on its locality. The principal aims and requirements are set out in the panel below.

Quality and Technical Director, Alan Harding, and Health, Safety & Environment Manager, Steve Adcock, and their colleagues have been working towards achievement of this Standard for a period of over a year. The auditing and accrediting authority is BVQI.

National legislation is usually the main driver of change in industry's approach to the environment. But this initiative has been high on our agenda without any specific new legislative requirement for our industry to do so, beyond continuing to comply with existing, general health and safety regulations.

One essential for achieving the Standard is that a company establishes and communicates an 'Environmental Policy Statement'. As part of the

engagement process, all staff have received internal training in the precepts, requirements and implications of adherence to the standard. A number of suppliers have also been contacted to seek their input and co-operation. It is important that all concerned 'buy in' to the process, understanding the mission and values involved.

You can read our full Environmental Policy Statement on our web site at www.chesterfieldcylinders.com, or get in touch and we will e-mail or post you a copy.

Chesterfield's continued compliance with the EMS standard will be re-checked every 3 years. In the meantime, in addition to staff auditors, two members of the workforce - Patrick Harvey and Matt Levers have been trained to carry out internal monitoring between the 6 monthly periodic external audits.

Alan Harding says: "The Chesterfield Board consider that, in this day and age, achieving such an environmental standard is the responsibility of a well-managed company. It is quite possible that, before too long, like-minded customers may require their suppliers to operate to such a standard. We will be well prepared for when that happens."



Alan Harding, Quality & Technical Director, has had overall responsibility for achieving ISO 14001. Here he is using a paint thickness monitor on a cylinder freshly painted with the new water-based paint system.



For Health, Safety & Environment Manager, Steve Adcock, acquiring ISO 14001 has been a big task, not only in implementing the changes on the factory floor, but in setting up the documentation and monitoring systems.



ISO 14001 and Chesterfield

- in a green nutshell

- reduce waste and recycle more
- use less gas
- use less electricity
- use less water

• reduce effects on the locality from pollution

- source more supplies locally to reduce carbon footprint

- and specifically, for example

- re-cycle wooden crates in which tubes arrive
- efficient forge heaters installed
- auto on/off luminaires now light the factory
- trialling recovery of water used in processes such as well testing
- solvent-based paints being replaced and noisy factory equipment enclosed
- using the Sheffield region to source more goods and services

ISO 14001 -there are customer benefits too. For example...

'Going green' and 'corporate social responsibility' are much-used tags about which there is some public scepticism. This can be due to their liberal use without any supporting evidence. But ISO 14001 provides benchmarks and disciplines which ensure that on-going attention is paid to the very practical achievements involved in meeting this standard.

Keen readers of our Newsletters will know that the move to our present site has enabled Chesterfield to achieve many production efficiencies since 2005, both through investment in new plant and through improved factory layout. Consequently, much of the infrastructure we had put in place helped us achieve the demanding 14001 Standard. One such example is the fume extraction towers on the cylinder spray-painting plant.



In future, ultra-large cylinders will need to spend less time in these drying cabinets, due to the new paint system being introduced.

Industrial emissions are a key concern of the standard. Chesterfield has been working for some time on trials of water-based paints that will achieve the same standards of finish and durability that their in-service use requires. Results have been very positive, particularly because the successive coats can be applied in quick succession. This has great benefits in throughput time and also avoids the need for long periods in drying cabinets between coats. Paint use, energy requirements and handling time are all improved. The new system is NORSOK approved and is backed by our own independent tests.

And talking of energy...

Soaring costs have been front-page news for many months now. Chesterfield has been heavily committed to keeping the lid on these to control our overheads. These efforts continue. One in particular is having a major effect in controlling our energy use.

Since the beginning of 2008, we have now started heating our ultra-large cylinders in new, more efficient furnaces. These are used to pre-heat the tubes from which the seamless necks and ends are formed. The furnaces account for much the greater part of our consumption of gas.

One of our key targets for the coming year is to halve gas use. The new heating ovens heat up and cool down more quickly, literally at the flick of a switch. The tubes are also brought up much faster to the correct forging temperature. The efficiency of the new equipment has enabled us to reduce the number of units from four to two with no loss of cylinder throughput.



Two new, efficient furnaces have been installed to more rapidly heat tubes ready for forging the necks of ultra-large cylinders.

Other initiatives are looking at re-use of water needed for cleaning, cooling and testing processes; at shielding our employees and neighbours from noise created by a minority of our equipment; at selling and recycling the wood used in crates and packaging, particularly those which protect large diameter tubes; and at utilising the excellent Sheffield regional supplier base when purchasing materials and components so that delivery distances are minimised; and in purchasing those materials, we seek to buy more re-cycled or sustainable products - a policy, according to a recent survey, adopted so far by less than 15% of UK companies.

While we are proud to have achieved the ISO 14001 Standard, it is a developing, on-going commitment and perhaps, after all said and done, no more than we should be doing for our planet.



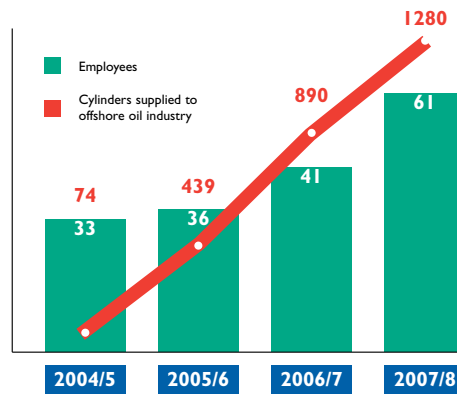
Noisy equipment in the factory has been enclosed, including the power pack for the ultra-large cylinders forge (above) and the forge for forming small cylinder



Gearing up to meet demand - more new faces at Chesterfield

We continue to recruit staff in all parts of the company to meet the worldwide demand for our cylinders and ancillary services. In fact, manning levels have been increased by more than 50% in past half year to allow 2-shift operation throughout the ultra-large cylinder manufacturing area, with consequent improvement in output.

The rapid growth of ultra-large cylinder production for the offshore industry - and the staff needed to produce them.



It is definitely better to have a backlog in introducing all the new arrivals in this Newsletter, than it is to have insufficient staff employed to achieve our production needs. So, our apologies to those who have yet to appear here, but this time we welcome:-



Mark Creamer, Inspector - Ultra-large Cylinders



Scott McManus, Cold Drawer - Aircraft Cylinders



Andrew Mould, Hydro Tester - Ultra-large Cylinders



Malc Strutt, Materials Handler



Kevin Vickers, Machining - Ultra-large Cylinders



Jonathon Harper, Machining Apprentice

If you would like to read past issues of the Chesterfield Newsletter, you can access them via our web site at www.chesterfieldcylinders.com/news

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