

Going for Gold: Alto Plastics Ltd, Christchurch

best practice programme environmental management systems

Alto Plastics is a New Zealand owned company. Formerly part of the PDL group, Alto was formed when there was a management buy-out in Oct 2000. The company has sites in Auckland and Christchurch, with the head office in Auckland. There are 150 staff in Christchurch, with three shifts, operating five days a week. In the past 6 months Alto, Christchurch has experienced significant growth, taking over the moulding business of Schneider Electric, along with 24 of their staff. This has added an additional 1000+ products and impacted on all aspects of our business, from raw materials through to distribution.

Our Objective: To achieve Enviro-Mark®NZ Gold accreditation within 18 months.

Cost: The cost to deliver the Enviro-Mark®NZ programme is estimated to be \$5,000.00 per company but is heavily subsidised by Christchurch City Council.

How we implemented the project: Alto has a small focus team working on the project and involves additional resources as necessary. The project team includes:

- Roseanne McLaughlan - QSE Manager
- Marty Scherp - Assistant Purchasing Officer
- Natasha Hammer - Process Engineer
- Steve McIntyre - Production Manager
- Bruce McKenzie - Technical Manager and other staff as required.

We have worked through the Bronze stage. Bronze level means that we meet all the requirements to comply with environmental legislation. We are now working towards our Silver Level. Silver involves mapping our processes and assessing the aspects of the process that may have an environmental impact and identifying what these impacts are. We then need to assess their significance and assign priorities. Control measures and monitoring measures are then put in place and the significance reassessed.

Results: We have been audited for our Bronze Level and are currently working our way through the outstanding corrective actions. Our audit for Silver Level is scheduled for 12th July 2005.

Key Challenge: Time has been a major challenge with all the changes and pressures of expanding so quickly. A lesson for starters in the programmes is to allow a little time each day.

The Solution: The team had to learn from scratch and have found it valuable to have direct contact with people from the regional and city councils as support for the company achieving the Bronze Standard and knowing what was required.

The Future: The Company is committed to improvement in the future and moving towards Enviro-Mark®NZ Gold certification.

Contact Details:

Roseanne McLaughlan, QSE Manager
roseanne.mclaughlan@altoplastics.co.nz

Links:

www.altoplastics.co.nz
www.enviro-mark.com



What is Enviro-Mark®NZ?

Enviro-Mark®NZ is an on-line environmental accreditation system that is independently administered and audited by Landcare Research. It is perfect for small to medium sized business or for those larger companies who want to phase in an Environmental Management System. The on-line web tool provides step by step instructions to follow from Bronze to Platinum level, in addition to one on one help and regional support groups. Platinum Level is equivalent to ISO 14001. For more information go to: www.enviro-mark.com or www.plastics.org.nz

Best Practice Hints:

Keep people informed with the changes that happen. Communication throughout the process is needed to ensure all staff know what is happening and how they can be involved.