

Harrison Group is a diverse and thriving organisation, but we recognise our responsibility to operate to the strictest standards in an ethical and environmentally friendly manner. A measure of our commitment to the continuous reduction of our environmental impact and the increasing sustainability of our diverse business operations is our active programme to achieve accreditation to the ISO 14001:2015 standard



Manufacturing

At the core of our business we manufacture fibreglass flagpoles. Fully accredited to ISO 9001:2015 we have developed a comprehensive Quality Management System to continuously control, monitor, and improve our production processes.

Cutting Templates allow materials to be cut to fine tolerances to minimise waste, and our state of the art Resin Application System enables the operator to spray resin accurately and efficiently to minimise consumption. An annually serviced and certified Local Exhaust Ventilation system safely and responsibly removes toxic emissions from the atmosphere to meet the standards of the Pollution Prevention and Control Act 1999. Finely tuned planning and scheduling models help to maximise output efficiency and reduce energy use to an absolute minimum, and the majority of our product range is made to order to reduce unnecessary output as far as is possible.

Every product in our fibreglass range is finished with a high integrity coating which allows us to guarantee a flagpole for a minimum of ten years, and we offer regular maintenance and recoating services to help our customers extend the service life of their product even further.

“We recycle over 70% of our general office waste”

We are proud of our design and manufacturing heritage, but we have engaged with material science specialists from Teesside University to explore cutting edge composite manufacturing techniques to make our poles lighter, stronger, and crucially, with less material. We are also undergoing a fibreglass recycling feasibility project to further reduce our already low waste and to offer a reclaim and recycle service.



Fabrication & Coating

Always keen to utilise a highly skilled local workforce and to reduce our ‘product mileage’, we fabricate steel in-house using HS&E assessed MIG and TIG welding methods to optimise the safe and efficient use of chemicals and consumables. We also operate a spray booth and a powder coating facility, both of which are regularly assessed to ensure the equipment and consumables being used meet the highest environmental and safety standards.

For example, we have taken steps to reduce our use of spray paint containing isocyanates, and we now source powder coating pigment without TGIC (triglycidyl isocyanurate) as this has been classified as a category II mutagen.

“Our UK manufacturing glassfibre flagpoles have a warranty of 10 years”

‘Please Consider the Environment Before Printing’



Purchasing

Purchasing for a business offering such a diverse spectrum of products and services is a considerable challenge, but we endeavour to procure materials, consumables, components, and products as efficiently and responsibly as possible.

“We offer a recycled PET based flag material”

We have also reduced our product mileage by developing close relationships with a number of key suppliers in the North of England, and we use sophisticated forecasting models to minimise our shipping requirements when sourcing from overseas. Whenever possible we will also ship directly to our customer from our supplier.

Chemical consumables are sourced from world leading developers of resin and coating systems to ensure they meet the most stringent international environmental law requirements, and to guarantee the service life of our products

“Ask us about our ‘green’ alternatives to correx & foamex”



Printing Operations

The diverse nature of our business does not mean we compromise on quality or our efforts to minimise the environmental impact of our operations. Our dye sublimation printing capability has been established with these considerations utmost in our thoughts.

We use inks produced to meet the exacting standards of the ECO PASSPORT certification program. This means they are free from heavy metal, mutagenic, carcinogenic, and other toxic ingredients. Our fabric, sourced from Europe's leading producer of knitted polyester, is manufactured to meet the requirements of the Oeko-Tex 100 Standard, and like our inks they are also free from heavy metal, mutagenic, carcinogenic, and other toxic elements.

Our fully IT integrated printing press can be easily programmed to maximise output and minimise waste, and a fully integrated Local Exhaust Ventilation system safely removes any emissions produced during the printing process. Regular scheduled maintenance using toxic free solvents is performed to preserve optimum performance and extend the service life of the machine as far as is possible. Contaminated solvents are collected and disposed of using fully accredited disposal / recycling contractors.

“Our flag fabric meets the stringent Oeko-Tex 100 Standard”

We launder our knitted polyester print to prevent ink running in fine rain conditions. We use a cold wash on a short cycle to reduce energy use. When purchasing print, we look to do so from suppliers who take a similar approach to ourselves. Our key print suppliers segregate and recycle all their different waste streams, with each waste material having its own recycling code. This permits Textiles, PVC and ink waste to be separated and sold to external companies with relevant legal recycling permissions. Through this route, waste textile materials are being recycled for floor cloths or mops; PVC materials are being recycled into materials for garden hoses or synthetic surfaces of playgrounds.

“Our printing inks do not contain any heavy metals, mutagenic, carcinogenic or toxic elements”

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Inhouse Print Upcycling

We offer a retrieve, upcycle and distribution service to our customers who use knitted polyester roll out branding (also known as scrim or aero banner). We essentially turn our customer's scrim into tote bags with <2% waste.

These tote bags are then either sent back to our customers to distribute or we use several charity partners who issue them free of charge around the country to promote the benefits of not using single use plastic bags.

“Did you know that we can turn your roll out branding into tote bags?”



Alternative Print Products

To complement our already extensive print portfolio we also offer “green” alternatives to a number of standard products. Examples of which are: -

Green Alternative	Standard Product
PET Based knitted polyester and mesh	Knitted polyester and mesh
Bubble board 25% recycled 100% recycled	Correx
Polypropylene foam sheet Includes up to 25% offcut and waste sheets Very lightweight reducing carbon footprint 100% recyclable 75% more grid 50% harder 25% stronger - 3mm is as hard and strong as a 5mm standard foamex board 30% less brittle	Foamex
Geomesh Uses water based inks rather than solvents used in PVC Lighter than PVC reducing carbon footprint Resistant to scratches and smears Can be folded for transporting	PVC Mesh
Eco-Ties Made from at least 85% recycled nylon 100% recyclable	Cable Ties

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Logistics & Recycling

Our commitment to ethical and environmentally friendly working practises does not end with our Operations functions. Our logistical and support functions also adhere to these principles.

To reduce our energy consumption, we have invested in a smart energy management system which monitors, controls, and optimises our heating system output. By defaulting all printer/copier machines to double sided and greyscale options we minimise our paper and colour ink use. Also, our Quality Management System is transitioning from a hardcopy format to an electronic format to save on paper and ink, but using paper is unavoidable so recycling bins have been provided in all clerical areas.

“40% of the Harrison vehicle fleet are either fully electric or hybrid vehicles”

Our efforts to recycle as much material as possible extends to the rest of the business. Cardboard is shredded and used as packing material in our distribution centre, excess cardboard and plastics are compacted and collected by a dedicated recycling contractor, periodically waste metals are scrapped and sold to recycling centres, and electronic items are disposed of in accordance with the Waste Electrical and Electronic directive.

Disposing of materials via a general waste outlet is unavoidable, but by adopting the good practices outlined above we have been able to significantly reduce our general waste and we will continue to strive to reduce it further.

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