

ENVIRONMENTAL & SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

At Harrison Group our mission is to build on our heritage as skilled manufacturers to continually challenge ourselves to deliver quality innovative solutions and ensure brands get noticed. We care about our planet and as we look to the future, and the impact that manufacturing can have on the planet, the need to operate as ethically and environmentally friendly as possible is becoming more and more important. 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 the Harrison Group business we manufacture glassfibre flagpoles. Fully accredited to ISO 9001:2015, we have developed a comprehensive quality management system to continuously control, monitor, and improve our production and manufacturing processes to ensure waste output is kept to a minimum:

- Cutting templates allow materials to be cut to fine tolerances to minimise waste.
- Our state-of-the-art resin application system enables the operator to spray resin accurately and efficiently to minimise product 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.
- Planning and scheduling models are in place to help to maximise operating efficiency and reduce energy use.
- Most of our product range is made to order and only minimum stock is held in our warehouse so that energy consumption and manufacturing expenditure is reduced as much as possible.

Our products are built to last. Every product in our fibreglass range is finished with a high integrity coating which allows us to guarantee a flagpole for a minimum of 10 years. We also offer regular maintenance and re-coating services to help our customers extend the service life of their product even further.

We are proud of our design and manufacturing heritage, and we're continually looking to develop our knowledge and expertise. 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 glassfibre recycling feasibility project to further reduce our waste and to offer a 'reclaim and recycle' service in the future.



We utilise over 50 years of experience to fine tune our manufacturing processes.

FABRICATION & COATING

At Harrison Group, we are always keen to utilise a highly skilled local workforce where possible, helping reduce our product mileage and support our local economy. We fabricate steel in-house and use 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 which is 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 that contains isocyanates and we ensure our suppliers use powder coating pigments without TGIC (triglycidyl isocyanurate) as this has been classified as a category II mutagen.



We are the only independent UK manufacturer of flagpoles, helping to reduce our carbon footprint.

PURCHASING

For a business that offers such a diverse spectrum of products as we do at Harrison Group, purchasing can be a considerable challenge, but we endeavour to procure materials, consumables, components and products as efficiently and responsibly as possible.

We have reduced our product mileage and carbon footprint by developing close working relationships with several key suppliers in the North of England. We also use sophisticated forecasting models to minimise our shipping requirements when sourcing from overseas. Whenever possible we will also ship directly to the end user from our customer, avoiding any additional and unnecessary product miles.

Chemical consumables are sourced from world leading developers of resin and coating systems to ensure they meet the most stringent international environmental law requirements. By sourcing the best quality chemical consumables we are able to extend the life of our products and reduce the need to replace them as often.



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

PRINTING

Despite the diverse nature of our business, this does not mean we compromise on product quality or in our efforts to minimise the environmental impact of our operations. We aim to deliver a high-quality product whilst still maintaining our commitment to becoming a more environmentally-friendly business. Our dye sublimation printing capability has been established with these considerations utmost in our thoughts.

We only use inks that meet the specific standards of the ECO PASSPORT certification program. ECO PASSPORT by OEKO-TEX® is an independent testing and certification system that analyses whether the chemical products and ingredients used to manufacture textiles meet specific requirements with regards to sustainability, safety and compliance with statutory regulations. This means that all of the inks used in our printing processes are free from heavy metal, mutagenic, carcinogenic and other toxic elements. 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 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 our machines as far as is possible. Any contaminated solvents are collected and disposed of using fully accredited disposal / recycling contractors.

We launder our knitted polyester print to prevent ink running in wet weather conditions using a cold wash on a short cycle to reduce energy use.

When purchasing print, we consider their environmental impact and look to work with 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 textile, 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 and PVC materials are being recycled into materials for garden hoses or synthetic surfaces that are used in playgrounds.

 **Our printing inks do not contain any heavy metals, mutagenic, carcinogenic or toxic elements.**


IN-HOUSE PRINT AND UPCYCLING

We are the first supplier in the UK to offer a re-purposing scheme for our flags, scrim and other fabric products to help reduce the 850,000 tonnes of textile waste that enters landfill each year in the UK. We breathe new life into used and waste fabric by transforming them into new products.

We essentially turn our customers used flags and used scrim/roll-out branding from major UK events, along with fabric waste from production, into re-purposed foldaway bags, tote bags, sports bags and dog chew toys. As a result of our pioneering re-purposing scheme, we have reduced our waste fabric output to less than 2%.

Our re-purposed products are then either sent back to our customers to distribute at their next event or issued through our charity partners as 'bags for life' to further reduce the use of single-use plastic bags by consumers.

Our dog toys can be purchased online at www.flagpoles.co.uk by customers or gifted to our local dogs re-homing centre for a small donation.

 **Proud to be the UK's first to offer a fabric upcycling scheme.**

OUR ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY PRINT RANGE

To complement our already extensive print portfolio we also offer environmentally-friendly alternatives to a number of our standard products. Examples are:

EnviroFlag™ - This OEKO-TEX® 100 standard material with the same strength, durability and versatility as its knitted polyester equivalent, can be used for flags and feather flags.

Bubble Board - An alternative to correx, this printed board contains up to 25% recycled content and can be completely recycled after use.

Foamline™ - This 100% recyclable material is thinner and stronger than the foamex alternative.

Geomesh™ - Used for fence scrim as an alternative to PVC mesh, this product uses water-based inks rather than solvents and is lighter than PVC which reduces its carbon footprint.

Eco-ties - Made from 85% recycled nylon these replacements for cable ties can be recycled at the end of their life.

 **Our environmentally friendly range is constantly expanding, ask for more details.**

LOGISTICS AND RECYCLING


Our commitment to ethical and environmentally friendly working practices 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 grayscale options, we minimise our paper and colour ink use. We are transitioning our Quality Management System from a hard copy format to an electronic format to save on paper and ink. Sometimes using paper is unavoidable and when printing is essential, we ensure the recycling bins provided are used.

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.
- Any excess cardboard that cannot be used for packing material is compacted and collected by a recycling contractor.
- Plastic waste is compacted and collected by a recycling contractor.
- Any waste metal is scrapped and sold to recycling centres.
- Electrical items are collected and disposed of in accordance with the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive.

Disposing of some 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 implement measures to reduce it further.

 **We recycle over 70% of our office waste.**



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