



Our Environmental Responsibility

DANZERGROUP



Environmental protection at Danzer Group

Danzer Group, the world's largest manufacturer of hardwood veneers, is well aware of its special responsibility toward the environment.

As long ago as the mid-1990s we established extensive environmental protection targets at our companies on the basis of an internationally certified environmental management system. In this respect Danzer Group has developed and introduced a series of its own measures.

Among these are our endeavors to continually reduce the environmental impact of production processes, the guidelines for timber procurement, and the sustainable forest management plans. In all areas of environmental protection, we work together with independent experts.

In the publication "Our Environmental Responsibility," Danzer Group extensively documents its diverse commitment in this area. It can be accessed by e-mailing info@danzergroup.com or downloaded from www.danzergroup.com.



Environmental management system and ISO

Environmental and Safety Management System

Danzer Group introduced an Environmental and Safety Management System (ESMS) in 1994. It is based on the international standard ISO14001:2004 and helps us to effectively implement environmental protection measures in all companies and at all hierarchy levels. Thus, we have ensured that environmental protection and safety have become permanent, systematic management functions with the goal of continual improvement. This applies to the entire value-added chain from forest management, through processing, to the sale of our products.

Independent auditing

Our ESMS contains guidelines for comprehensive reporting and monitoring obligations. And as we implement the guidelines, external auditors verify the results leading to ISO certification. All Danzer Group subsidiaries worldwide are planned to be third-party verified according ISO 14001:2004 by the end of 2007 (SIFORCO in the Democratic Republic of Congo scheduled for December 2009).

Timber sourcing

Preserving high-quality timber resources in order to maintain economic capability is Danzer Group's most important task. This is why promoting and supporting sustainable forest management form a core part of our ESMS.

We will progressively increase the volume of timber from our own sustainably managed forests and reduce the proportion purchased from third parties. We are acquiring more forest land to create a new, sustainable source of logs.

We must ensure that all timber originates from verified legal sources. Danzer Group companies are thus required to buy only from suppliers who can provide such confirmation. In this respect, we actively support suppliers in the introduction of measures and standards that guarantee credible certification of legality and the region of origin. Suppliers who cannot meet these standards will no longer do business with us.



Environmental protection in manufacturing

Danzer Group operates worldwide, with a total of six veneer factories and five sawmills in North America, Europe and Africa. Danzer Group teams constantly review the operations' impact on the environment with the intention to continually improve.

The environmental protection activities in production focus mainly on wastewater treatment, air emission control, solid waste management and safe storage of lubricants. Chemicals only play a minor role in lumber and veneer production. Our primary "ingredients" are natural products: logs and water.

With one exception, all plants in North America and Europe are equipped with air pollution control systems, which often achieve better results than required by regulations. All the manufacturing processes of Danzer Group are continually improved to maximize the utilization of raw materials and avoid timber waste.

Environmental protection in North America, Europe and Africa

North America Danzer Group's timberland in North America, which totals 20,000 hectares, is managed according to sustainable forest management plans. In addition to the production flows, in North America timber sourcing is also audited to ISO 14001:2004. This certification process has been completed.

Europe We require that all our European suppliers gradually improve their environmental protection measures. In 2004, Danzer Group introduced a system to document the origin and legality of all logs purchased in Western and Eastern Europe.

Africa In 2004 we introduced our "Procurement Rules for African Timber." These guidelines ensure that all African timber procured from Danzer Group originates from sustainable and legally managed sources. The procurement rules are being verified by independent auditors according to the ISO 14001:2004 standard.

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