

From Bronze to Gold in a Year: Aotea Plastics Industries Ltd

best practice programme environmental management systems

Aotea Plastics was established in 1981 by the current managing director Iain Davis who has over 30 years specialized experience in the plastics industry. Manufacturing processes include blow moulding, injection moulding and decoration. They process a diverse range of plastic materials including HDPE, LDPE, PP, PVC, PETG, PC, TPR, Styrene's, Nylon and many engineering plastics. Stock moulded products include containers from 20ml to 5 Litres, caps and closures and lip balm tubes. We also produce and print promotional products such as Sports Drink Bottles with sipper caps.

Production of a diverse range of custom moulded products and componentry used in the personal care, cosmetics, food/beverage, healthcare, chemical, transport, engineering and electronics industries are among our specialties. They offer a total design, development and manufacturing service, which includes 3D modeling in Solid Works, CAD, Rapid Prototyping, Tool design and Toolmaking to develop customer specific solutions.

Our Objective: (i) Bronze - February 2005
(ii) Silver - June 2005
(iii) Gold - Sept 2005

Project Description: We participated in a Pilot Programme with Landcare research and Target Zero (Christchurch City Council) to help get Enviro-Mark@NZ Certification. This evolved from our preliminary research into other possible projects. We concluded that there seemed to be limited opportunity for significant improvements in resource utilization, waste minimization etc, and we would benefit from the Enviro-Mark@NZ program, by initially establishing a compliance environment within the organization and then developing tools for resource management.

How we implemented the project: Attended workshops facilitated by Landcare Research (Rainer Kant, Veronica McLeod, Jeska McNicol-Auditor), with Target Zero personnel and other companies participating in the programme and independent consultant/auditor, Paul Barrett. Workshops are held progressively for each of the Enviro-Mark@NZ standards, along with extensive support literature and direct support from Paul Barrett.

Project Team:

Jason Waller - Plastic Technician
Myke Dowson - Plastic Technician
Angela Davis - Consultant
Iain Davis - Director

Results:

Bronze

Audited by Jeska McNicol on 1st March 2005 and certificate issued 28 April 2005.

Silver

Continuing - Workshop attended and consultation session with Paul Barrett 26th April 2005.

Gold

Continuing - Workshop scheduled for 11th May 2005.



Jason Waller, Iain Davis and Myke Dowson with their Bronze Certificate

Best Practice Hints:

- Determine objectives.
- Understand what you "need" to do to achieve objectives and comply with standards.
- Avoid excessive detail and cost.
- Continuously review.
- "Keep it simple" and relevant to the size and risks within your business and make sure you only document what you need.
- If you don't have the resources to complete the programme then look for them elsewhere. They may be closer than you think.



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Cost:

Indirect Costs:

Management and staff costs associated with meetings and compliance mainly with "Health and Safety".

Direct Costs:

1st Year to Bronze standard - Salary of Uni Student \$1,800
Subsidised Enviromark programme \$600
2nd Year to Silver standard, ongoing, Student – est. cost \$900
and Gold standard, ongoing, Student – est. cost \$600
Subsidised Enviromark programme \$600
3rd and subsequent years. Enviromark license \$600pa,
Audit \$600pa.

Key Challenge: Getting started! And finding resources. One of the issues for the site is the size of the business and as we only have three staff finding time to develop any documentation required was difficult.

The Solution: Enviro-Mark@NZ and employing a part time University Student to research and implement compliance and documentation.

Benefits: The benefits of the Enviro-Mark programme are that it offers a process to formalise what is already happening and to ensure that the business meets a standard. "To put a badge on it". During the path to bronze certification a number of gaps and areas of risk were identified and these have been dealt with. Initially not realising how compliance linked into environmental management the bronze process offered a valuable mechanism to review this.

The Future: We are keen to progress to Enviro-Mark@NZ gold standard and continue to evaluate and minimise process costs and environmental impacts.
This will mean we need to:

Silver standard:

- Establish Environmental Policy
- Identify and Document businesses main activities, products and services.
- Identify Environmental aspects and significance of business operations.
- Collect data on resource utilization and waste.

Gold standard.

- Develop Environmental Objectives
- Establish mechanism for measurement and review.
- Establish systems to maintain environmental objectives.

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Links:

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