



Press Release

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FILTRONA FILTERS' GROUND BREAKING HEALTH AND SAFETY SYSTEM

Filtrona Filters has found a way of making their Safety, Health and Environment (SHE) measures even more effective. Filtrona recognises that the ability to log and view all relevant safety and environmental data across their entire operation is key to continuing the company's successful SHE record. Having explored the various options available, the best solution was to develop their own bespoke package. The new system - the 'Filtrona Group System' (FGS) - is now being implemented across the group and provides Filtrona with exactly the global, company-wide visibility of its SHE performance they required.

To achieve this company-wide view, each Filtrona site contributes data relevant to their particular environmental health and safety issues through their own data collection personnel and site administrator. This information includes considerations such as how the local area and energy supplies are affected by their activities. FGS also provides each site with a tool for accident reporting and investigation so that operating regions can monitor their performance and Filtrona can set targets for global accident reduction.

John Harbron, Group HS&E Manager advises that this is all possible due to FGS being: "A global system that meets local requirements". This is done through a series of risk assessment modules that cover the main types of risk within the business.

FGS also enables Filtrona to collect information on every aspect of its business that could potentially affect the environment. This will subsequently allow the company to easily satisfy current concerns surrounding Corporate Social Responsibility by proactively identifying and rectifying possible environmental risks.

Additionally, FGS measures legal and policy compliance and helps to promote best practice and healthy competition within the group. This is because the audits are structured in such a way that sites in different parts of the world can be compared equally against each other. As John Harbron says: "We want sites to compete against each other for the title of the safest and most environmentally friendly facility." John continues: "It is possible to compare performance regionally or even to compare sites within regions."

The result of this is that reports can be generated to show the overall Safety, Health and Environment performance statistics of the whole Filtrona Group and also enables users to 'drill down' into each individual site.

Most Filtrona facilities are also audited against the environmental standard ISO 14001 which is complemented on the health and safety side by OHSAS 18001. Through the use of its modules, FGS will additionally enable the sites that have not, as yet, achieved this mark to do so very quickly.

John's view is that: "We [Filtrona] are certainly improving our standards and involving more people in the SHE process and getting management and employee commitment. To implement the system will be hard work, but in the end it will be worth it."

The Filtrona Group System was developed in-house within the Bunzl group with the software being developed at ITC. All sites within Filtrona will be audited against the FGS by the end of 2006.

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Editor's note:

Filtrona Filters is the world's leading independent supplier of innovative special filters for the tobacco industry. The company has been developing filters since filtered cigarettes first became popular in the 1950s and is highly focused on staying one step ahead of the market. As legislation becomes more stringent, and the industry demands filters that are able to ensure a precise level of tar and nicotine yield, so Filtrona Filters is ideally placed to provide the optimum solution.

With more than a dozen strategically-located manufacturing facilities around the globe, Filtrona Filters' unparalleled expertise, resources and breadth of vision enables it to deliver high quality, cost effective filter solutions to any customer, anywhere in the world.

To find out more about Filtrona Filters, its services and its highly innovative product line-up, visit the company's website at www.filtrona.com

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