

# Environment



Every time you see a piece of Precision furniture you can breathe a little easier.

Our environmental policies and practices are some of the most rigorous in the industry.

Precision is a partner in the Enviro-Mark® programme and supports other industry initiatives relating to quality assurance, safety, environmental sustainability, traceability, recycling and waste minimisation.

Phew, that's a lot of work but then we live on a precious planet



**Design:** Our engineering and design team constantly pursue product designs that will lower environmental impact. This is achieved through material choice, volume and optimisation, coupled with reduction of energy consumption during manufacture. Our designers are also focused on the core Precision brand value of quality to ensure that it continues to deliver the customer with durable and modular products.

**Operations:** The Enviro-Mark® certifications that the business currently maintains provide us with a certified Environmental Management System (EMS). We hold Bronze, Silver and Gold level certification of Enviro-Mark®, achieved in February 2010. This ensures best practices are implemented in the manufacturing processes across all areas.

Bronze - Compliance with relevant health, safety and environmental legislation

Silver - Production of an appropriate environmental policy based on the identification of environmental aspects and impacts

Gold - Implementation and monitoring of continuous-improvement targets and objectives.

To ensure compliance with any EMS and product accreditations (such as Environmental Choice NZ) traceability and data on all materials is compulsory; hence we have, and collect, accurate data on all raw materials and materials of purchased parts.

**Delivery:** Freight volume is kept to a minimum as most of our products are despatched in CKD (Complete Knock Down) form, reducing cost and increasing ease of access to site. All deliveries are managed to ensure the most efficient delivery schedule is undertaken.

**Installation:** For all product installations, Precision ensures that staff and contractors are well trained in the assembly of the product and in the proper disposal of the packaging materials. Where feasible, we return packaging materials for re-use in the packing process.

**Recycling:** We have a comprehensive recycling scheme for all materials where there are systems in place. We recycle aluminium, steel, plastic and cardboard that pass through our manufacturing plant and reuse desk frame packaging from sites where there is capacity to return the cardboard. We also recycle paper in our offices and encourage our staff to recycle in the canteen through large labelled bins.

**Product Stewardship:** We have a product stewardship program that offers our customers the ability to safely and responsibly dispose of our products at the end of their life cycle. It is centred around products being recycled through capable operators and provides incentive to our customers to encourage appropriate recycling.

**Environmental Choice New Zealand:** We have a range of products that are ECNZ accredited. Please refer specifically to our product range for further details.

## Sustainability and the Environment

Our commitment to sustainability is driven by a genuine recognition of local and global sustainability issues, particularly those relating to the environment. We realise that these issues are also a major concern for many of our customers, staff and other key stakeholders. We believe the main issues for us include, but are not limited to:

- Air and atmospheric pollution
- Climate change
- Decline of biodiversity; terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, habitats and species
- Freshwater pollution and scarcity
- Ozone depletion
- Depletion of the ocean's resources and ocean pollution
- Persistent and bio accumulative toxic and organic contamination
- Soil contamination

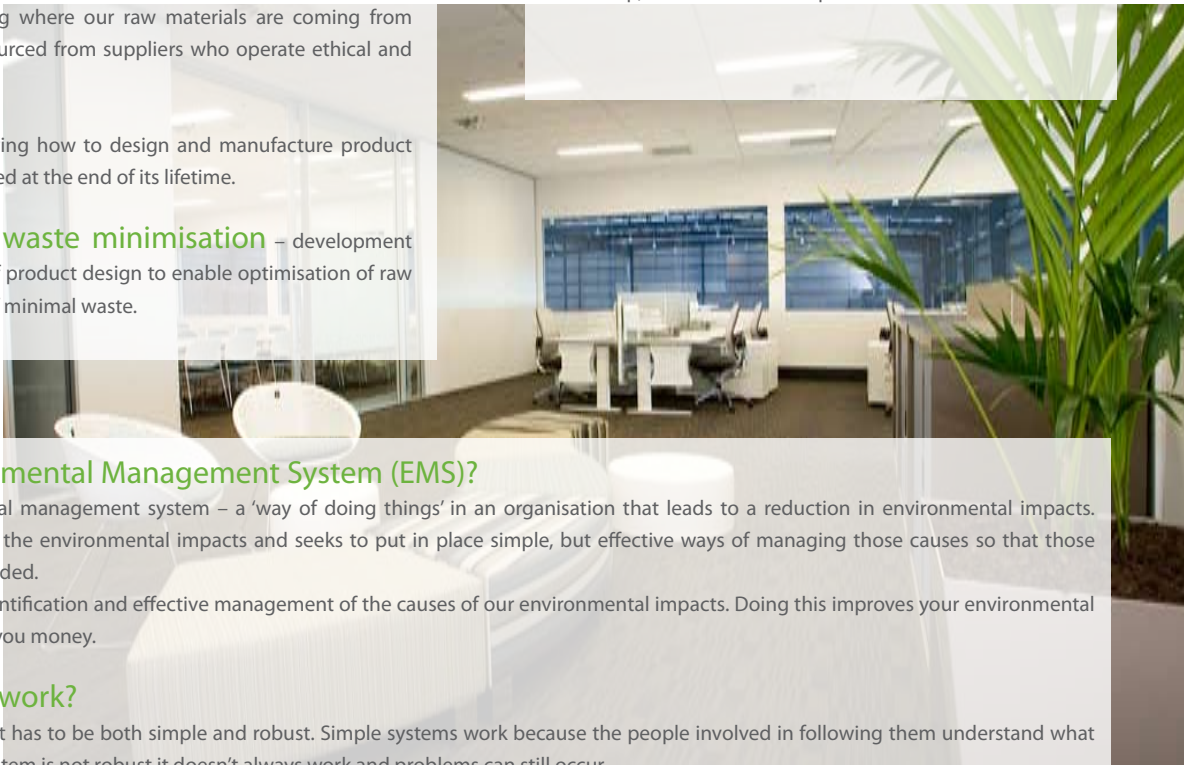
We understand that the consumption of energy, water and materials and the generation of waste (solid, liquid and gaseous) are amongst some of the primary causes of these problems. We acknowledge that the building and furniture industries play a part in causing many of these problems.

In light of this, we believe that it is in our interests and the interests of our clients, staff, and other key stakeholders, to continue to maintain and improve our high standards. We are constantly reviewing our business practices to ensure that we are making every effort to operate in a sustainable way. Some commonplace practices already in place are:

**Traceability** - knowing where our raw materials are coming from and that they are being sourced from suppliers who operate ethical and sustainable practices.

**Recyclability** – knowing how to design and manufacture product so that it can be fully recycled at the end of its lifetime.

**Optimisation and waste minimisation** – development and continual evaluation of product design to enable optimisation of raw materials and generation of minimal waste.



## What is an Environmental Management System (EMS)?

An EMS is an environmental management system – a 'way of doing things' in an organisation that leads to a reduction in environmental impacts. It focuses on the causes of the environmental impacts and seeks to put in place simple, but effective ways of managing those causes so that those impacts are reduced or avoided.

Our EMS focuses on the identification and effective management of the causes of our environmental impacts. Doing this improves your environmental performance and can save you money.

## How does an EMS work?

For an EMS to be effective it has to be both simple and robust. Simple systems work because the people involved in following them understand what is required. However, if a system is not robust it doesn't always work and problems can still occur.

A robust EMS has to have the following four components:

1. Plan: Identify your environmental problems, work out your legislative compliance, gain commitment for the EMS, get people involved and set out your intentions in a policy statement.
2. Do: Manage the problems through procedures, training, signage, changing equipment, and modifying processes.
3. Check: Check to see if the ways that you managed your problems are working out. Do audits, monitor activities and check for complaints.
4. Change: Understand how your EMS could be improved and take the time to make those changes.

## Quality Assurance & Risk Management

Precision has achieved primary level of ACC Workplace Safety Management Practices and has achieved Gold level of Enviro-Mark®. Precision is also proud to hold AFRDI blue tick certification (Australasian Furnishing Research and Development Institute) for its range of Classic and KURVE vertical filing cabinets. Quality has always been a priority for Precision's products and installations. Quality is managed through each stage of the development and manufacturing process including using key design principles; rigorous testing of products in accordance with industry standards; using jigs and tooling as guides for production for consistent manufacture; pre-production testing for consistency in quality, function, reliability and costs; powder coating in sets for continuous flow and consistency; use of jigs and checking systems during assembly; customised packaging to ensure correct parts are included; and immediate labeling of product.

Through our continuous improvement initiatives we have identified opportunities to improve our work area organisation in our factory. An example of such is the implementation of 'cell' manufacturing, which achieves reduced number of equipment set up, reduced set up times, less component movement through the plant, elimination of 'lost time activity'. Other benefits include less administration, increased staff ownership, and reduced floor space.



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