

Cooper Environment

Environmental Management Systems

ISO 14001 Certification

Cooper's Texarkana, Ark., Tupelo, Miss., and Rongcheng, China tire plants, as well as the Findlay, Ohio, Mold Operations facility have been certified to the ISO 14001 standard. The standard provides a structured approach to managing how the company affects the environment through policy, planning, monitoring and measuring, checking and correcting, and reviewing.

Compliance Record/Audit Program

Cooper is proud of its environmental regulatory compliance record.

As part of its environmental management system, Cooper has established a regulatory compliance audit program. This involves conducting regular reviews of Cooper manufacturing facilities to monitor compliance to requirements and taking corrective action as necessary. In addition to these outside audits, our facilities conduct regular internal audits of their operations.

Texarkana, Ark., Plant Wins Diamond Award



Cooper's Texarkana, Ark., plant won the 2009 Arkansas Environmental Federation "Diamond Award for Excellence in Environmental Leadership." This is a coveted award that is presented annually to the most deserving manufacturing/industrial entity demonstrating initiative and innovative leadership in environmental affairs. The Texarkana Plant's Diamond Award recognizes the plant's reduced manufacturing scrap generation, reduced landfill usage, energy and water conservation, and internal recycling. The Diamond Award compliments the Arkansas Environmental Federation's "Overall Award for Waste Minimization/Pollution Prevention" that the plant won in 1994. These awards reflect Cooper's continuing focus on environmental protection.

World Business Council on Sustainable Development

Cooper is a member of the World Business Council on Sustainable Development and is participating in the Tire Industry Project to identify and address the potential health and environmental impacts of materials associated with tire making and use. Presently, the project is focusing on the properties, fate and impacts of tire particles generated by the interaction between tires and pavements during tire use. Project research is a work in progress.

Cooper Environment (continued)

Scrap Tire Management

Scrap Tire Management in the United States

Approximately 300 million scrap tires are generated in the U.S. each year. Proper management of these tires is an important environmental concern. Cooper works with other tire manufacturers through the Rubber Manufacturers Association (RMA) to advocate for effective scrap tire management legislation and regulations and to promote sustainable end-use markets.

Scrap tires generated by Cooper's U.S. manufacturing, distribution and retail operations are managed according to local requirements and directed into regional, end-use markets. In the recent past, these markets have included tire derived fuel, ground rubber, civil engineering applications and land reclamation.

Consumers can help minimize scrap tire generation by "Being Tire Smart – Playing Your PART (Pressure, Alignment, Rotation and Tread)." Maintaining the "right" air pressure, keeping the vehicle aligned, rotating the tires, and regularly checking the tires for uneven wear all help to prolong tire life.

Energy Management and Usage

Energy is a key resource in the production of Cooper tires. In most cases, it is generated from fossil fuels, a natural resource, and results in atmospheric emissions, including greenhouse gas emissions. Consequently, Cooper recognizes our responsibility to manage energy and its usage wisely.

Formal energy management systems have been established in Cooper's U.S. tire plants. The systems allow Cooper to use energy more efficiently by using key metrics to examine daily performance, analyze trends that highlight opportunities for improvement and implement energy-saving projects. Cross-functional energy teams were formed to identify opportunities and implement suggestions in each plant. A number of projects have been identified and implemented, resulting in significant energy, greenhouse gas emission and cost savings.

Energy Star Program



Cooper has been designated as an "Energy Star Partner" by the U.S. Department of Energy and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Cooper is the only tire manufacturer to be designated an Energy Star Partner. In applying for the designation, Cooper made a fundamental commitment to protect the environment through the continuous improvement of its energy performance. Specifically, Cooper agreed to measure and track the energy performance of its facilities, develop and implement a plan to achieve energy savings, communicate the importance of energy efficiency to employees and the public, and support the ENERGY STAR Challenge, a national call-to-action to help improve the energy efficiency of America's commercial and industrial buildings by 10 percent or more. Improved energy efficiency not only saves money and conserves natural resources, it also reduces greenhouse gas emissions. The partnership is another indication of Cooper's commitment to environmental protection.

Cooper Environment (continued)

Indiana Distribution Center - Gold LEED Certification



Cooper's new 804,000-square-foot warehouse and distribution center in Franklin, Ind., has earned Gold certification status under the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System administered by the U.S. Green Building Council. The system is a voluntary, consensus-based standard to support and certify successful green building design, construction and operations. LEED certification is attained by incorporating "green" features into the design and construction of the building.

Unique attributes of the Franklin facility include a white thermoplastic polyolefin roof, which offers a longer warranty, requires less maintenance and reflects heat; heavily insulated walls, which provide a 42-percent improvement in energy efficiency compared with standard walls; high efficiency lighting with occupancy sensors, which reduces electrical usage up to 50 percent; low-flow water fixtures, which should provide a 30-percent reduction in potable water usage; a unique lawn and landscape design, which reduces storm-water runoff and uses no irrigation; and an all-concrete parking lot, which reduces ongoing maintenance costs.

Cooper is one of only two tire companies to boast possession of a LEED-certified building. Moreover, the Franklin facility is the largest gold-LEED-certified distribution center in the U.S., and one of the largest LEED-certified buildings in the world.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Greenhouse gas emissions have become an environmental concern due to the perceived potential to cause global warming. Greenhouse gases are directly emitted from fossil fuel combustion. During the life-cycle of a tire, greenhouse gases are emitted during the raw material production and deliver phase, the manufacturing phase, the tire delivery phase, the tire use phase, as well as the scrap tire management phase. The predominant phase for greenhouse gas emissions is the tire use phase due to the fuel consumed by the vehicle.

Cooper is concerned about the greenhouse gas emissions from our operations. Greenhouse gases are directly emitted from fossil fuels consumed at Cooper's plants and indirectly from electricity usage. With the recent implementation of formal energy management systems at its U.S. tire plants, Cooper is now able to monitor and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from its operations.

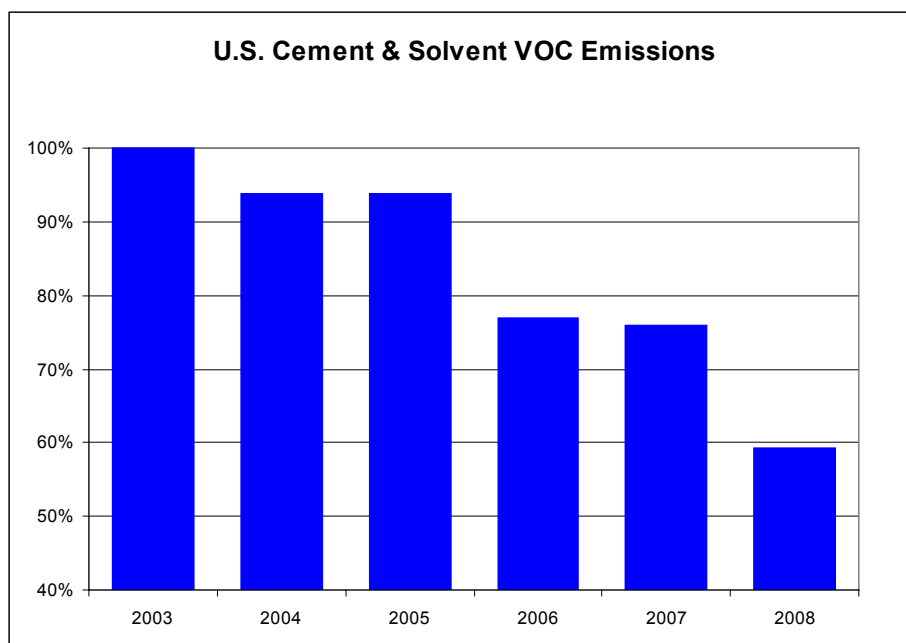
Cooper Environment (continued)

Manufacturing Emission Management

During the manufacture of tires, some portion of the raw materials become “waste” and must be managed properly. For example, volatile materials in cements and solvents are emitted into the atmosphere, and solid wastes are recycled or disposed. Traditionally in the tire industry, disposal often involved landfill disposal. Cooper works to minimize emissions into the atmosphere and to recycle solid waste where feasible.

Cement and Solvent Emissions

Cooper uses cements and solvents in tire manufacturing to promote adhesion between tire components prior to tire curing when chemical reactions bind the components together. The cements and solvents contain volatile organic compounds (VOC) which evaporate into the atmosphere during usage. Cooper has been working to reduce cement and solvent usage for many years by reformulating rubber compounds and improving material management. This is good for the environment since reduced cement and solvent usage means reduced VOC emissions. The graphic below illustrates reductions in VOC emissions related to cement and solvent usage at U.S. tire plants since 2003.



Texarkana, Ark., Plant Reduces Landfill Usage

Cooper’s Texarkana, Ark., plant initiated a program in 2007 to reduce landfill disposal of waste through increased awareness, waste minimization and recycling. A cross-functional team worked to remove recyclable materials from the routine landfill waste and process and market those materials. This program improved management of cardboard and wood waste and resulted in the recycling or the use of some production scrap as fuel.

Ground rubber waste, which was formerly landfilled, is now being used as a supplemental fuel by a local paper mill. Other Cooper plants are engaged in programs to reduce landfill usage.

Cooper Environment (continued)

Solid Waste Disposal

At Cooper's manufacturing plants, raw material packaging, manufacturing scrap, broken and obsolete maintenance parts, and construction debris becomes solid waste. A significant portion of the manufacturing scrap is recycled within the plants, but some ultimately becomes waste. The remaining scrap, along with the raw material packaging, and maintenance and construction debris, must be managed outside the plants. Cooper has been successful in directing as much of this material to recyclers as feasible.

