



DIBOND® FOREX® KAPA® FOAM-X® GATORFOAM®

3A Composites relies on sustainability and environmental protection

Sustainability and environmental protection represent an increasingly important topic in advertising and visual communication. The increased environmental awareness and the demand for more sustainability are becoming essential criteria for buying decisions. Furthermore, in addition to the need for environmental compatibility, the demand for the company's social and also overall economic involvement is increasing.

Environmental protection as an integrative component of sustainability management at 3A Composites

Sustainable involvement and the appurtenant sub-area environmental protection have long since been amongst the essential corporate objectives at 3A Composites. The minimisation of risks for man and environment as well as the reduction of environmental pollution through careful and efficient utilisation of resources is part of the corporate philosophy. 3A Composites is aware of its responsibility as a globally active enterprise, and has been an active campaigner in matters of sustainability for quite some time. Sustainability management at 3A Composites deals in depth with all three levels of sustainable action: the ecological, social and economic levels. In addition to concrete activities, 3A Composites endeavours towards transparent communication and seeks dialogue with all interest groups.

Our responsibility for the environment: in the following fields of action we endeavour to implement the claim into practical reality!

Environmental management systems

For quite some time our three display production sites in Germany and Switzerland have been certified in accordance with ISO 14001, which establishes globally recognised requirements for environmental management. Through this it is ensured that the environmental aspects will be taken into consideration with all daily tasks and corporate policy decisions.

On the basis of uniform processes and structures we have hereby been able to anchor an environmentally appropriate behaviour in the company. We continually endeavour to improve our behaviour through regular external audits. ISO certification is also an important criterion in our selection of suppliers.

Furthermore, a strong linkage of management systems for quality (ISO 9001), environmental protection (ISO 14001) and occupational safety (OHAS 18001) is an important objective for us. The environmental protection tasks will be more strongly integrated in the operative sequences in this manner.

These industry standards are incorporated corporate-wide in a management system in the realm of safety-health-environmental protection. The programme called into being in 2003 as a self-obligation comprises much more than compliance with standards and is particularly focussed on promoting responsible action of all employees in the realm of safety, health and environmental protection.

Substances

In the past few years, the discussion surrounding hazardous substances has increasingly gained in intensity and developed into a decision criterion not to be ignored amongst the customers.

A comprehensive restructuring of European chemical policy is being undertaken with the current gradual entry into force of the REACH regulation. The main objective of the new regulation is the protection of human health and the environment. Substances shall be uniformly evaluated with regard to their endangering potential for man and environment with this regulation.

The abstention from hazardous processes and substances is our highest priority. Our substrates will be manufactured from raw materials which are harmless for man and environment. This is confirmed within the REACH regulation.

DIBOND® – chromium-free lacquers

All lacquer recipes employed for DIBOND®, also the special colours, do not contain any heavy metals. These have been tested by an independent institute, and an appropriate certificate is available for our DIBOND® programme. Furthermore, extensive tests with competitive materials have revealed that quite a few products from competition contain heavy metals such as lead and chromium.

FOREX® – free from heavy metals

The sheet materials of the FOREX® product family meet the requirements of the EU regarding the restriction of hazardous substances. FOREX® does not contain any of the following substances, which will be partially brought into connection with our products: lead, mercury, cadmium, chromium (VI), PBB (polybrominated biphenyl) and PBDE (polybrominated diphenyl ethers). Furthermore, our rigid foam sheets do not contain any formaldehyde, FCKW, silicon or plasticiser.



DIBOND® FOREX® KAPA® FOAM-X® GATORFOAM®

KAPA® – certified coatings

For our KAPA® product range we exclusively utilise papers with SFI, PEFC as well as FSC certification, which comprises the preservation and improvement of the ecological, social and economic functions of forestry operations. All of the pulp papers we utilise are low-chlorine and oxygen bleached. Furthermore, even additives are entirely abstained from with a majority of papers.

FOAM-X® – coating made of recycled paper

The paper coatings of our new FOAM-X® consist of 100 % recycled paper, which combined with a light foam core ensures high resource efficiency.

Waste reduction and recycling

The most possible environmentally compatible arrangement of the production phase represents another field of action. In this connection our focus lies on resource efficiency and the persistent avoidance of waste. The recycling of raw materials in the production process as well as the material utilisation of production waste has already been a common practice at our locations for years. The recycling rate for our most important raw materials (in terms of volume) in the production process lies at virtually 100 % here.

FOREX®: All cutting and trimming wastes must be collected according to variety for comprehensive recycling of raw materials in the production cycle. Wastes will be re-granulated for treatment, and can be fed back into the production process again without quality losses.

DIBOND®: For recycling the valuable raw materials aluminium and polyethylene in the production cycle, the aluminium sheets will be separated according to variety in a technical process and processed for complete reuse.

In addition to the comprehensive recycling on the production level, 3A Composites Singen is the only manufacturer which also offers a self-contained recycling concept for DIBOND® composite sheets for the end market (post-consumer wastes). In addition to the existing concept in Germany, in the beginning of this year we were also able to introduce a take-back concept for the UK with the help of our distributors. An expansion of this recycling concept to other countries is currently being examined.

KAPA®: The accumulated production wastes will be fed as the best alternative to an recycling process with the objective of energy generation.

Innovation

Innovation also plays a key role in our efforts for reduction of environmental pollution. We see the consideration of environmental aspects and the associated endeavour for resource efficiency as a fundamental part of our innovation strategy.

3A Composites can look back on a successful history as innovation leader in the increase of resource efficiency. For the most part, the success story of DIBOND®, FOREX® and KAPA® products is founded on efficient utilisation as well as the intelligent combination of materials (foamed materials and composite materials). This leads to optimised product attributes with reduced resource utilisation.

In the years to come we will endeavour to increase our innovative performance even more on the basis of a newly introduced innovation management system. In the future, we intend to meet the environmental requirements even stronger, especially in the realm of resource efficiency.

FOREX® smart – the new generation of display substrates

The development of FOREX®smart represents a resolute step in the direction of resource efficiency. FOREX®smart combines excellent display qualities (good printability, high colour rendition and flatness) with good mechanical properties as well as high sheet stiffness with extremely low weight. For instance, with regard to dimensional stability a 10 mm FOREX®smart sheet is comparable to a solid extruded sheet with a thickness of 6.7 mm — but with 70 % less weight!

Grow with responsibility!

The fields of action explained here show one significant extract from the areas in which we endeavour to meet the demand for sustainability and environmental compatibility. Ethically correct behaviour vis-à-vis man and environment is becoming a basic prerequisite for business enterprises.

We are aware of this responsibility!

**You will find more on this topic at:
www.display.3AComposites.com**