PPC Cement

Standards sustaining company reputation through quality

Pretoria Portland Cement Company (PPC) was established in 1892 when the first cement plant was developed in South Africa to counter the high cost of cement imported from Europe. Today, PPC is the leading supplier of cement in Southern Africa. In its eight cement manufacturing facilities and three milling depots in South Africa, Botswana and Zimbabwe, the company can produce around eight million tons of cement products each year. PPC also produces aggregates, metallurgical-grade lime, burnt dolomite and limestone through the controlled companies PPC-Aggregate Quarries Pty and PPC-Lime.

Company name: Pretoria Portland Cement Company Limited (PPC Cement)

Country: South Africa

Industry: Construction and construction materials

No. of employees: Around 3 200

Revenues/profits: ZAR 5.9 billion/N.A. (USD 795 million/N.A.) (in 2009)*

Main products/services: Different types of cement for general-purpose and specialist use

Main use of standards: The assessment focused on the business functions that make the most use of standards:

- Research and development (R&D)
- Procurement
- Production
- Marketing and sales

Most important standards used:

- SANS 50197, *Composition and specification of cement*
- SANS 50196, *Methods of testing cement*
- SANS 9001:2008, *Quality management systems*
- SANS 14001:2004, *Environmental management systems*
- SANS 18001:2007, *Occupational health and safety management systems*
- SANS 17025, *Requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories*
- SANS 1841, *Requirement for the content of packages*

Economic benefits generated by standards: ZAR 147.5 million (USD 19.8 million) annually, which amounts to 2.5 % of the company's sales revenue.

Key qualitative benefits: A dynamic quality culture was embedded throughout the company.

What were the major benefits for PPC Cement of using standards?

Using standards allowed PPC Cement to:

- Increase workforce competence
- Reduce waste, energy consumption, emissions and product defects
- Streamline production processes and lower production costs
- Reduce the number of incidents causing health and safety issues
- Improve risk management in its operations
- Win contracts and expand markets by meeting product requirements, having previously obtained certifications

How did standards lead to these benefits?

Standards are used by the R&D unit to ensure that manufacturing processes are compatible with, and regularly upgraded to, new technology, driving a more efficient manufacturing process.

Standards had a positive impact on staff development, reducing the time allocated to training and encouraging staff to use standards throughout their operations as a common tool. They also helped reduce the time needed to finalize agreements and contracts with customers and suppliers.

Ultimately, standards afforded a boost to sales as standardized products of consistently reliable quality increase customer confidence.

* ZAR 1 = USD 0.13482 (2009-12-31)