

ENVIRONMENTAL
REPORT 2012



nora[®]

All About Flooring. **All About You.**

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I FOREWORD FROM THE BOARD

Dear readers,

In December 1996, Freudenberg Bausysteme KG (today nora systems GmbH) was for the first time audited under the rules of Directive No. 1836/93 (EEC), usually known as the EC's Eco-Management and Audit Scheme or EMAS.

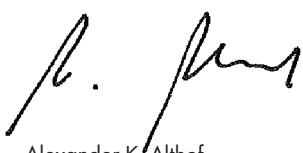
Freudenberg Bausysteme KG operates now under the name nora systems GmbH and is registered among the audited facilities through the Rhine Neckar Chamber of Industry and Commerce under Register Number D-153-00016.

In addition to EMAS, we arranged for our eco-management systems to be certified since 1999 under the international DIN EN ISO 14001 standard.

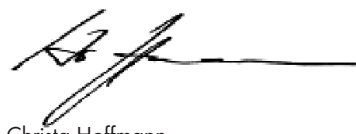
This year we shall be letting our EMAS III validation expire. Instead of the validated Environmental Declaration, we shall be submitting in future an environmental report with updated data. This environmental report reports on the continuous and progressing development of our eco-management system, our corporate environmental protection programme, the recording and analysis of our environmental impacts, and the implementation of our environmental goals.

If you have any further questions, please get in touch with us directly (see also 21).

Weinheim, May 02, 2012



Alexander K. Althof
CEO (Chief Executive Officer)
and Speaker of the Management Board



Christa Hoffmann
CFO (Chief Financial Officer)



II COMPANY PORTRAIT

nora systems GmbH was founded in October 2007. The company is successor in title of the Freudenberg Bausysteme KG business group, an autonomous enterprise since 1995, arisen from a division of the company Carl Freudenberg. The sales companies in some countries work independently. They form together with the production site, administration and development department the new nora system GmbH. The corporate structure involved is depicted below.

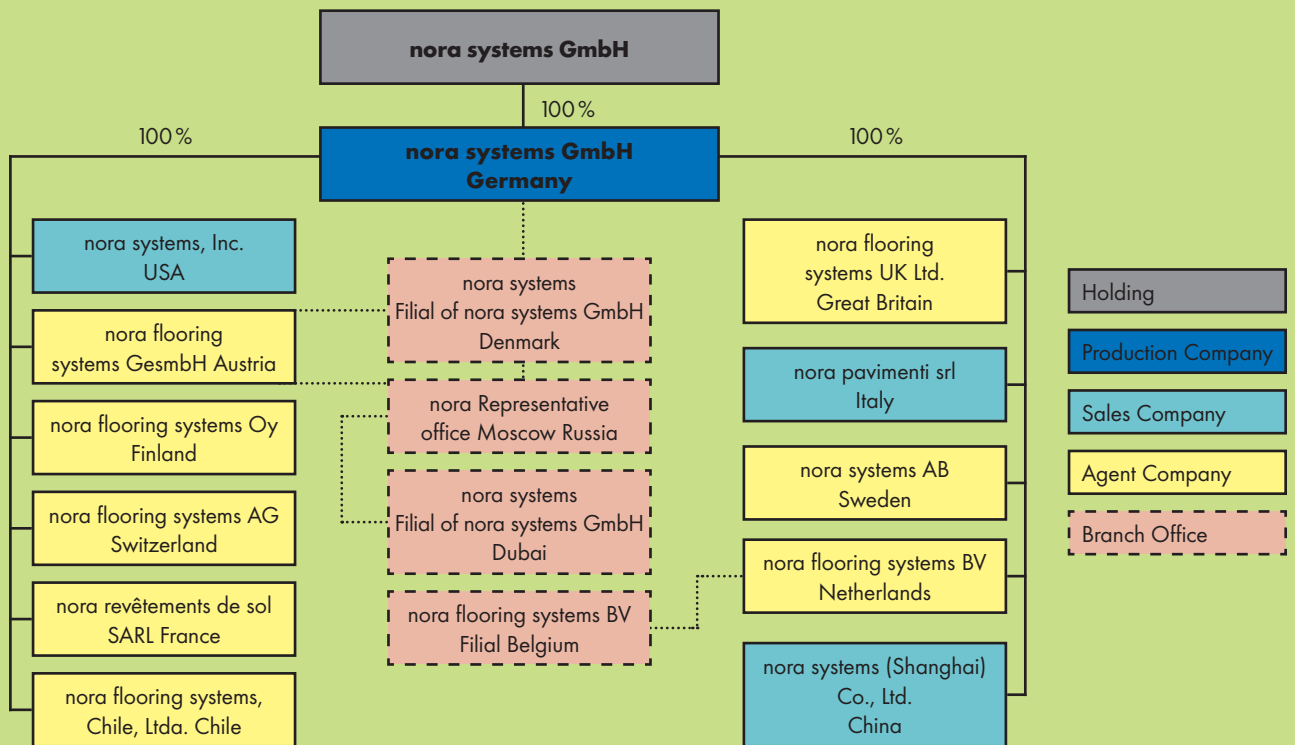


Fig. 1: Corporate structure

nora systems GmbH is a company specializing in high-quality floor covering systems and shoe components. With a production output of more than 6 million square metres a year, nora systems GmbH is the world's market leader for resilient rubber-based floor coverings. The noraplan® rolls are vulcanized in an endless web on automatic continuous lines, while the noramen® tiles are produced in multiplaten presses. The materials for shoe components and the expanded-material sheets for orthopedic applications are likewise manufactured in presses.

nora systems GmbH currently has 860 employees in Germany, about 450 of them in the production operation. Annual turnover in 2011 exceeded 196 million euros. Development, production, administration and sales are concentrated at the facility in Weinheim. Sales abroad are all handled by local sales organizations, with another 250 staff worldwide.

The nora systems GmbH is located in the industrial park Weinheim ("Zwischen Dämmen"). The production lines and administrative buildings are essentially located in the south-west corner, where the "Alte Weschnitz" river arm forms the area's southern boundary. The buildings are rented from Freudenberg Immobilien Management GmbH.

Weinheim is conveniently situated in the Rhine valley, on the edge of the Odenwald Forest, in the vicinity of Mannheim and Heidelberg. The autobahn is only a few kilometres away.

On terms of European economic classification, the facility is assigned NACE Code 22.19.

III ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

nora systems GmbH is fully conscious of its responsibilities to the natural environment. Environmental protection enjoys equal priority with other important corporate goals.

Environmental protection is handled at boardroom level in nora systems GmbH. The goals of supporting and fostering eco-awareness among our staff, and continuously improving corporate environmental protection with the best available technology which is also financially viable, are an integral constituent of corporate policy-making.

nora systems GmbH develops, produces and sells products which are as eco-compatible as possible in terms of their manufacture, utilization and disposal.

1. GUIDELINES

The management and staff of nora systems GmbH are working systematically to assure continuous improvement of corporate environmental protection. The aim is to use the best available technology, provided this can be reconciled with adequate cost-efficiency.

We focus on long-term goals: economical husbandry of all resources, utilization of a cooling water circuit, and the use of secondary raw materials show that ecology and economy are by no means mutually exclusive.

We practice preventive environmental protection: compliance with environmental legislation is a *sine qua non*, and is not restricted to the statutory minimum. Above and beyond the legal requirements, internal guidelines are enacted and appropriate action is taken to ensure our continuous improvement in terms of corporate environmental protection.

We regularly monitor the success of our environmental protection initiatives by means of internal and external audits, measurements and analyses, together with mutual feedback in internal working groups and on external bodies. Sustained success is possible only by involving all staff in line with their qualifications and responsibilities. Environmental protection is therefore an essential constituent of training and information.

We keep our customers informed about the eco-responsible production and utilization of our long-lived products, and provide guidelines on how they can be recycled after the end of their useful lifetimes. One defined objective of our processes is to minimize the impact on human beings and the natural environment.

We involve our business associates in implementing our environmental policies. Raw and process materials, plus packing materials, are also selected and used in line with environmental criteria.

We keep the public informed of our eco-relevant activities, and also of improvements and goals already achieved or currently planned in our company, through this environmental declaration and through further publications on the subject of environmental protection.

2. ECO-MANAGEMENT

Alexander K. Althof, spokesman for the board of management, bears overall responsibility for environmental preservation at nora systems GmbH. Responsible for Technology and Distribution, he is also consequently registered by name with the authority as being the person responsible in accordance with §52a BImSchG. The environment-related operational business activities were delegated to the Head of Technology, Dr. Peter Schwarzenberger. He is the company's Environmental Management Officer. The body entrusted with formulating environmental protection goals and action plans is the Environmental Protection Committee. Environmental policies and the eco-programmes are implemented on all levels of the line organization.

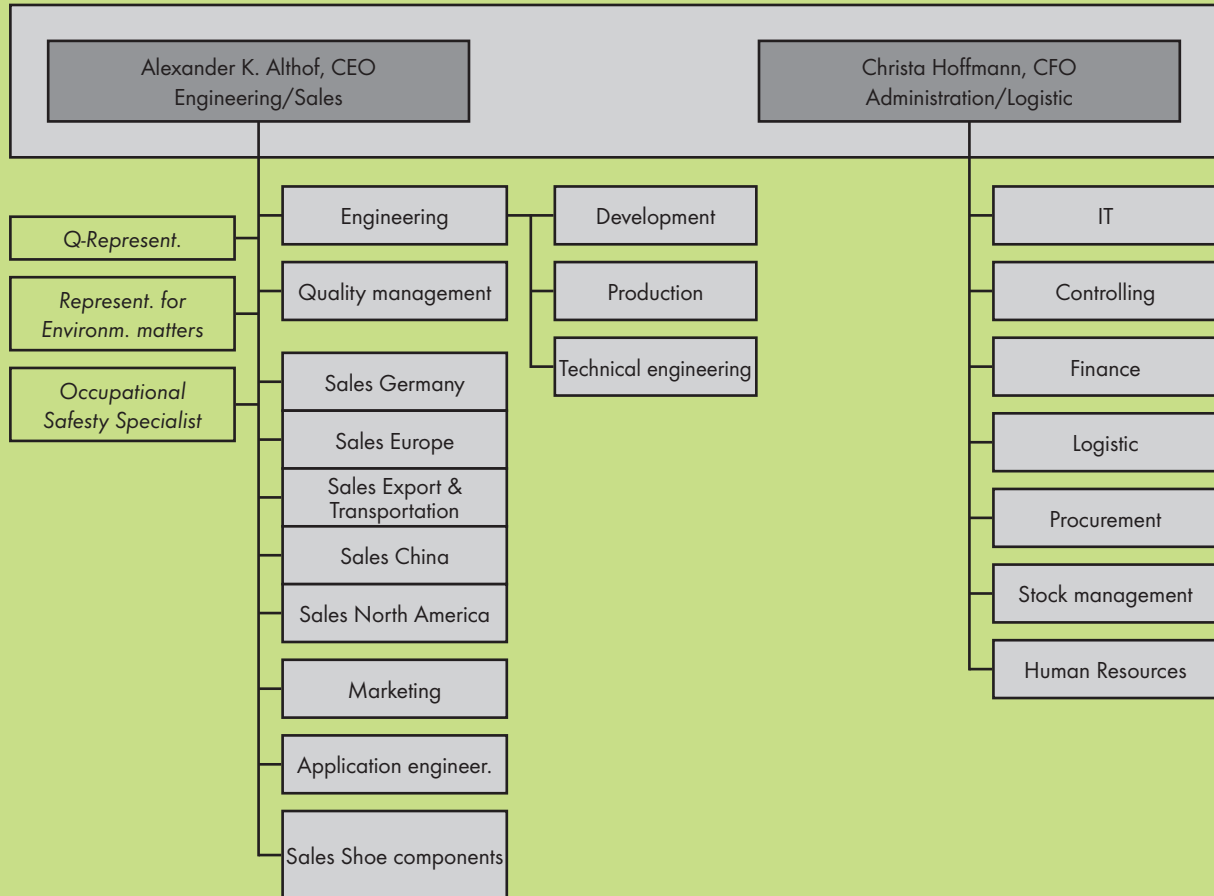


Fig. 2: Organigram of nora systems GmbH

Special remits in terms of environmental protection are handled by the following functions:

- The Head of Development is responsible for the substances used in our products.
- The Head of Engineering is responsible for planning, installation and maintenance of lines and equipment.
- The Plant Officer for Environmental Protection coordinates and monitors all environmental protection activities.
- The Hazardous Goods Officer is an employee of Freudenberg Service KG appointed by contractual agreement.
- The Freudenberg Service KG operates the Industrial Estate in Weinheim. The following of the environmentally relevant tasks are handled there under contractual arrangements on behalf of nora systems GmbH:
 - full-time plant fire brigade for emergencies
 - supplying energy and water
- The commissioning of an employee as immission control officer is not necessary according to legal regulations.

A detailed description of how corporate environmental protection has been organized is provided in an Eco-Management Manual, which is written and updated by the Plant Officer for Environmental Protection.

The eco-management system is regularly monitored by internal and external auditors. This ensures that all elements of the norm are being appropriately complied with. Any deviations from the rules discovered are discussed in the Environmental Protection Committee, and eliminated by appropriate measures taken in consultative coordination with the board.

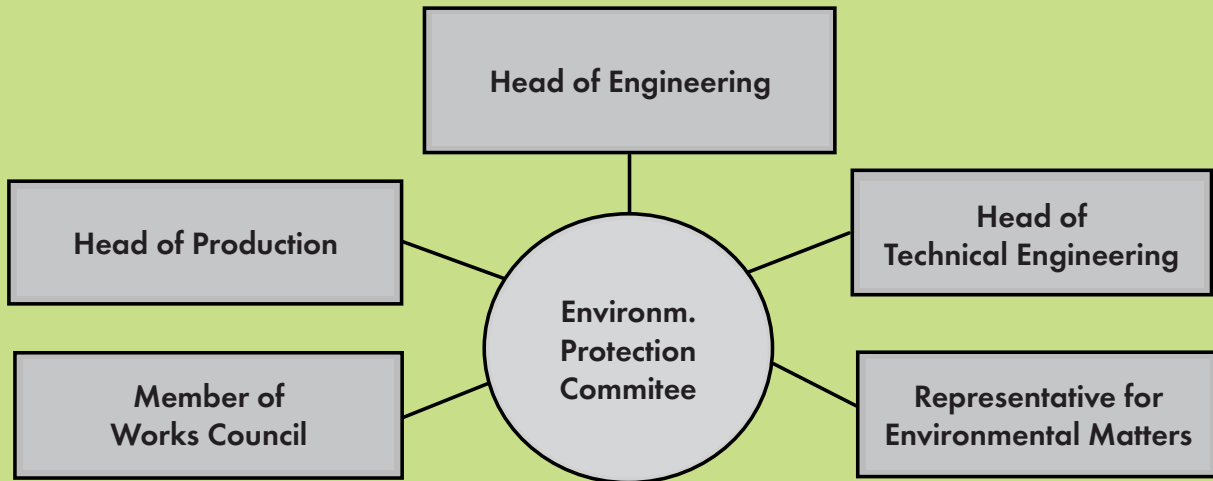


Fig. 3: Composition of the Environmental Protection Committee

IV ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS/SUBSTANCE AND ENERGY UTILIZATIONS

1. MANUFACTURING RUBBER FLOOR COVERINGS

The diagram below shows in simplified form the process used for manufacturing floor coverings from rubber.

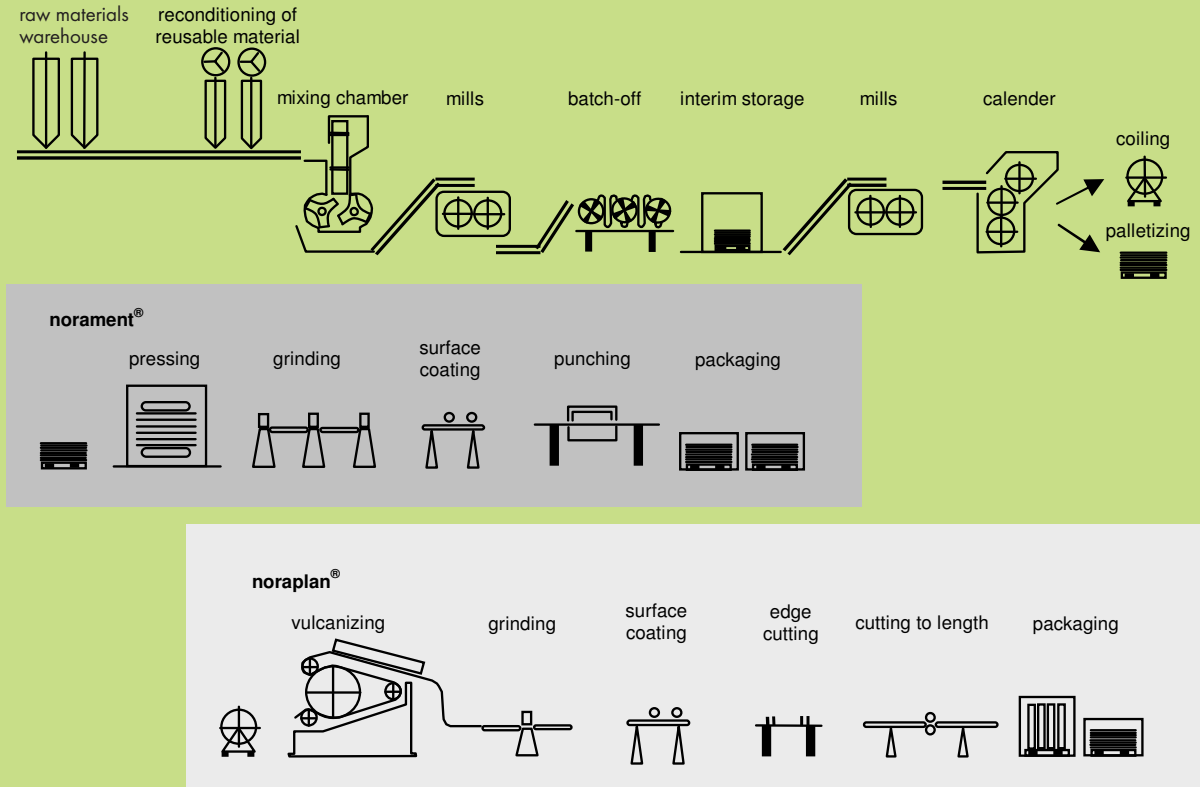


Fig. 4: Process diagram for the manufacturing of floor coverings

On the basis of a recommendation by the European Commission (2001/680 EC), the environmental impacts attributable to nora systems GmbH have been determined. The results are summarized in the table below.

Assessing environmental impacts		
STAGES OF THE ECONOMIC CYCLE		
Activities	Nature of environmental impacts	Influencing options
Procurement		
Purchase of starting materials for processing, distribution and marketing		
Purchasing of raw materials for the production process	Exhaustion of non-renewable raw materials Exploitation of raw material resources Energy consumption for raw material production and transport	Purchase renewable raw materials Use geogenic fillers Be alert for renaturation options Purchase recyclable materials Minimize the quantity of hazardous substances and hazardous goods Minimize transportation distances
Purchasing of process materials like paper, cardboard and other packing material	Wood consumption, water pollution	Purchasing of recycled paper and cardboard Re-usability / recyclable materials
Development		
Product development		
Development of new products / design enhancement of existing ones	Indirect effects: raw material selection product design health aspects	Minimize the use of hazardous substances, re-usability / disposability Minimize emissions
Production		
Product manufacture		
Storage of raw and process materials	Pollution of the environment with chemicals Fire risk with emissions of conflagration gases	Avoid discharging unwanted substances into the environment
Mixing the raw rubber mixture	Pollution of the air by emissions Disposal of waste mixtures (defective batches, cleaning rubber) Removal of groundwater for cooling purposes	Dust arrestance units Minimize the cleaning cycles and multiple use Avoid preparation errors Ensure waste is recovered
Calanderizing blank rolls	Disposal of waste mixtures Removal of groundwater for cooling purposes	Minimize start-up and shut-down losses Ensure waste is recovered Reduce amount of groundwater removed for cooling purposes
Vulcanization in presses	Emissions into the air Disposal of edge trim waste Removal of groundwater for cooling purposes	Minimize lateral waste Ensure waste is recovered Reduce amount of groundwater removed for cooling purposes
Vulcanization on continuous machines	Emissions into the air Disposal of waste, start-up and shut-down losses, grinding dust Removal of groundwater for cooling purposes	Minimize start-up and shut-down losses Ensure waste is recovered Reduce amount of groundwater removed for cooling purposes

Finishing (punching, grinding)	Disposal of waste (punching waste, grinding dust) Removal of groundwater for cooling purposes	Ensure waste is recovered Reduce amount of groundwater removed for cooling purposes
Order-picking	Disposal of waste (sorting losses)	Ensure waste is recovered
Marketing and administration		
Sales promotion and marketing of products and services		
Informing customers about our products	Reduction in amount of waste entering the environment	Communicate appropriate information on installation, cleaning, disposal
Office activities involving use of energy, paper and office equipment	Reduction in amount of waste entering the environment	Separate the waste collected in the offices
Distribution		
Road and air transportation of products from their place of manufacture to wholesalers and customers		
Use of cardboard and films for transport packing	Reduction in amount of waste entering the environment Reduced consumption of materials	Use PE films, cardboard and wood Take back packing material
Road and air traffic	Global warming and local air pollution; exhaustion of mineral oil reserves; traffic jams and noise pollution	Use sea freight Optimize freight quantities per transportation trip
Disposal		
Waste disposal by the company	Possible waste entering the environment	Ensure that as much as possible is recovered
Disposal of product packaging and installation residues by client	Increased amount of commercial waste	Use packaging made of recyclable material and recoverable substances
Disposal of removed floor coverings	Waste entering the environment	Offer to take back products after removal

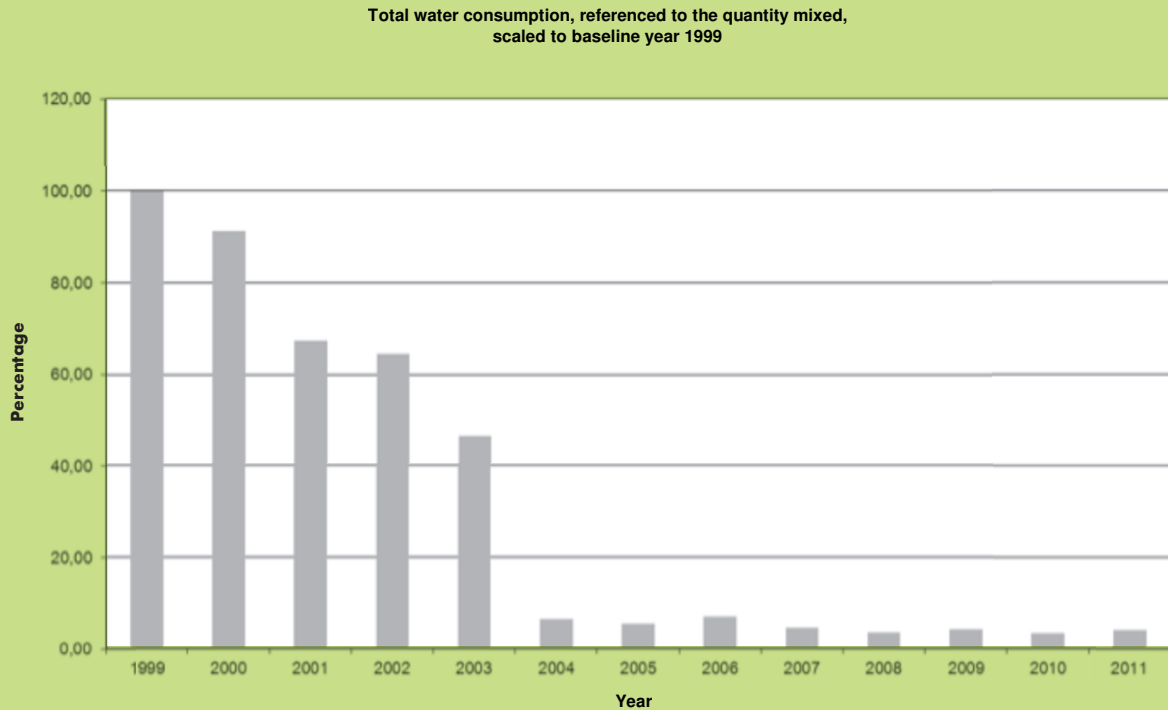
Table 1: Environmental impacts

Environmental impacts within the specific meaning not only the consumption of energy and natural environmental goods like raw materials, but also the emissions into air and water, waste and noise, insofar as their impacts extend beyond the site's boundaries. They are quantified and explained in the sections below.

The figures given below are from time-series covering several years. The data given are relative data, since they are always referenced to the quantity mixed of the year concerned. Experience has shown that this is essential if the annual figures are to be meaningfully compared. The quantity mixed is the total masses of all raw and process materials made into raw mixtures in the mixing chamber.

2. WATER AND WASTEWATER

Water consumption per ton of quantity mixed. The quantity of water consumed in the reference year 1999 in tons per ton mixed is indicated by 100 %.



The total water quantity is composed of several different water qualities. The breakdown of water categories for 2010, for instance, was:

Well water (cooling water)	40 %
Municipal water (drinking, sanitary water)	35 %
Demineralized water	25 %

In total the water consumption could be reduced by up to 95 % to 5 % in comparison to the year 2010. In substance this is caused by the decrease of well water; therefore the percentage of demineralized water (for cooling towers) and municipal water (sanitary) has increased respectively.

Well water, which is provided by the Freudenberg Service KG on the industrial estate "Zwischen Dämmen", is used for toilet flushing and in the beginning of 2007 as additional cooling system. Else the production line is cooled via own cooling towers and thermal/electrical generated cooling energy from the power plant of the Freudenberg Service KG.

The municipal water from the public supply is used as drinking water and in the sanitary facilities; the resultant wastewater corresponds to domestic wastewater in terms of its composition.

Demineralized water is used in processes and machines where deposits of salts dissolved in water absolutely have to be avoided, especially in cooling towers.

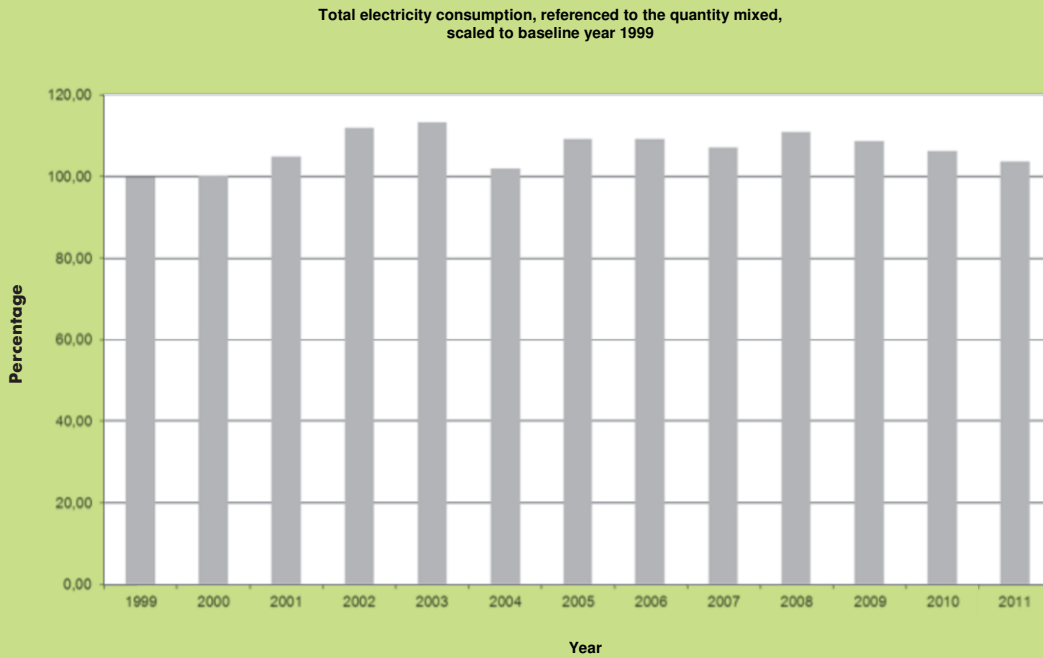
All the wastewater produced, essentially consisting of sanitary wastewater is purified in the sewage plant, which is operated by Freudenberg Service KG. The four-stage process used also eliminates nitrogen compounds, which may contribute towards eutrophication of the surface water.

Dirty water and rainwater (surface drainage) on the site are passed into separate drainage systems. The rainwater is discharged into the river Weschnitz.

3. ENERGY

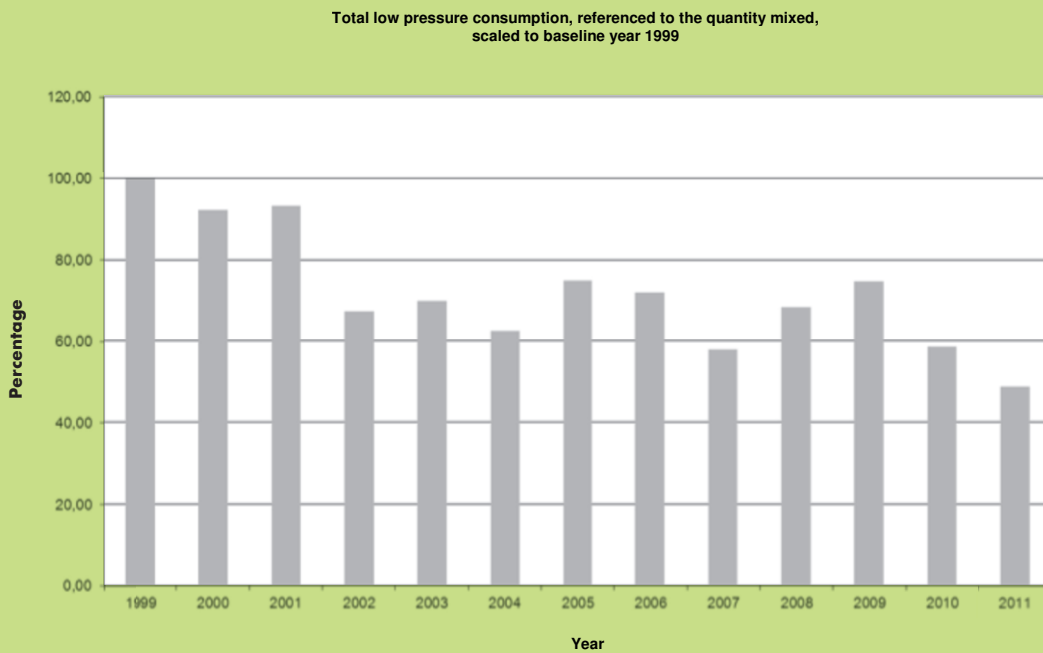
a) Electricity

The time-series diagrams below provide a visualized depiction of our energy consumption. As a reminder: due to the targeted comparability, the data are referenced to the quantity mixed, the baseline year (100 %) is 1999.

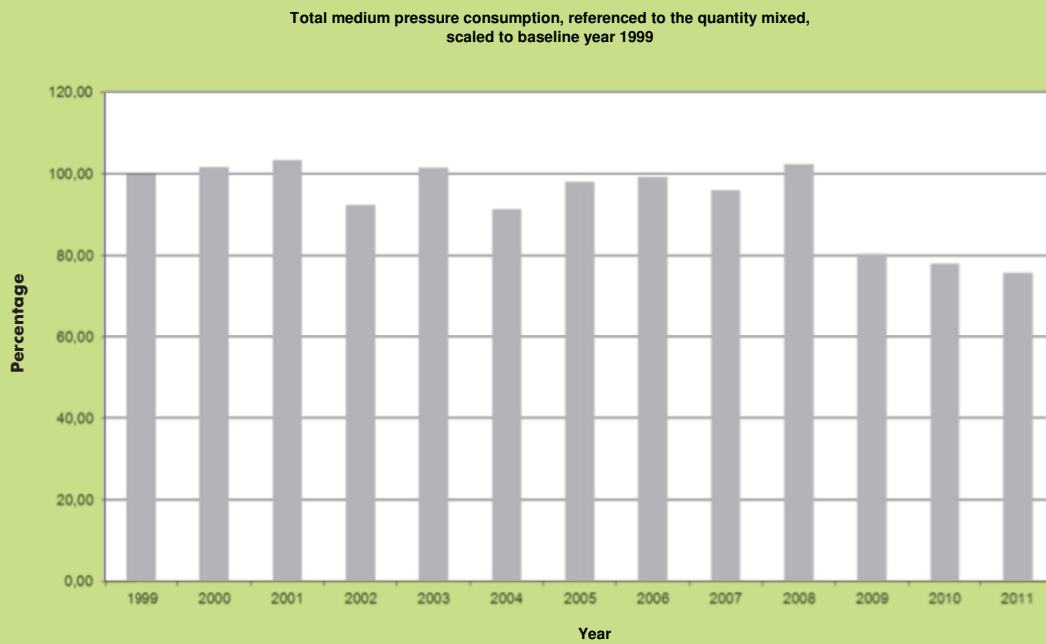


Since 2008, there has been a slight downward trend in the consumption of electrical power. In future, this encouraging trend will be continued in additional measures, including smaller ones.

b) Low-pressure steam



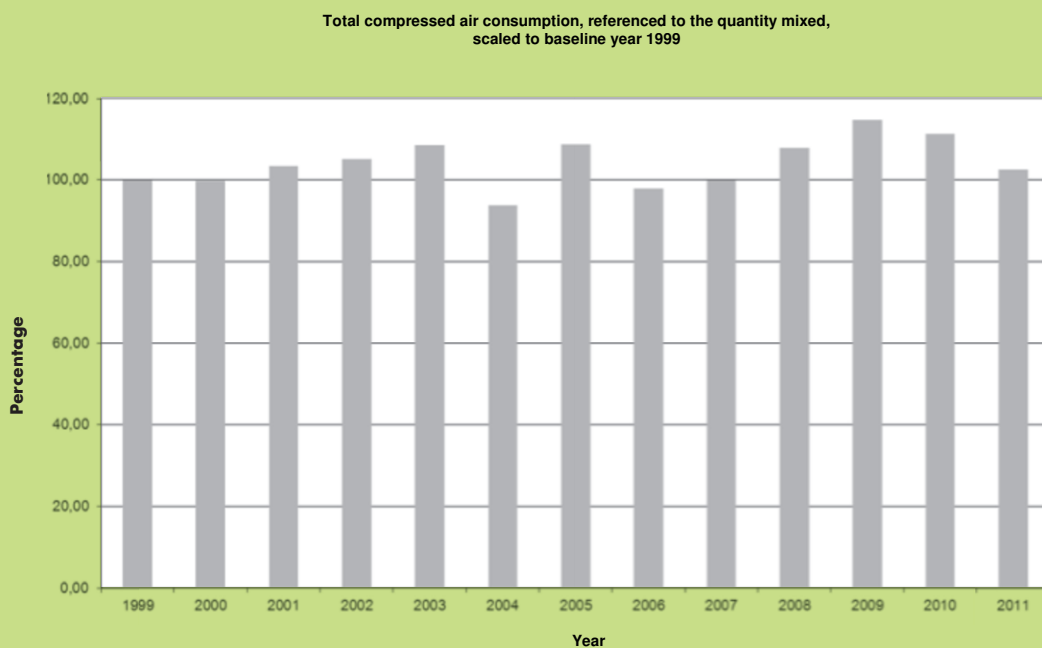
c) Medium-pressure steam



nora systems GmbH is supplied with all forms of energy by the energy department of Freudenberg Service KG. Electricity and medium-pressure steam as the principal energy carriers for the processes are generated from natural gas in a cogeneration power plant, located in the industrial park with an efficiency of about 85 %, for maximized eco-compatibility.

The low-pressure steam consumed is utilized for heating production halls and offices. The decrease of the consumption since 1999 has its cause in better heat insulation of the used buildings and automated gates (especially in the cold seasons). The differences in the last four years depend on the variability of the yearly temperatures.

d) Compressed air



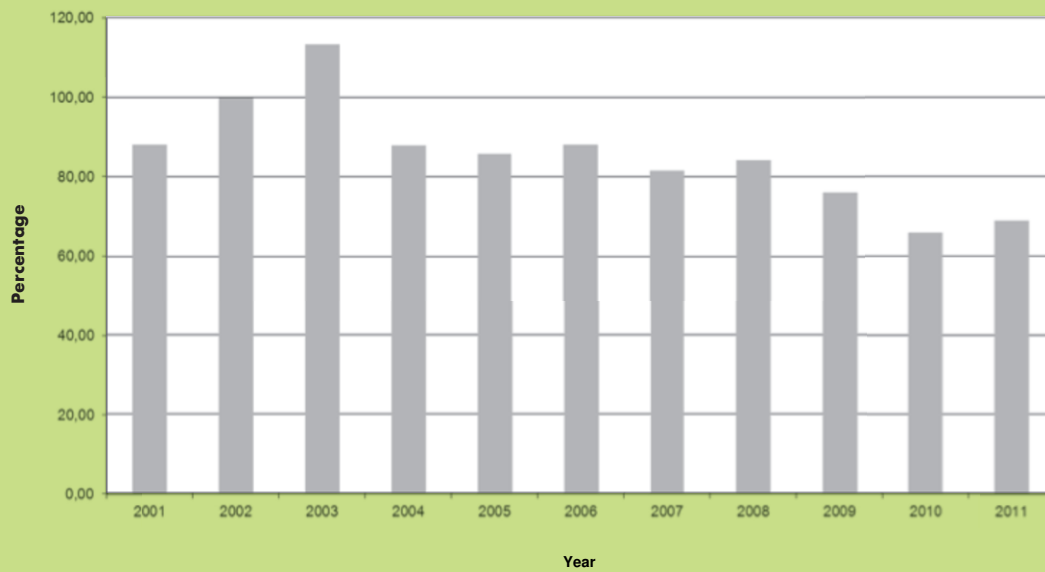
The compressed air for all main parts of the production line is also provided from the Freudenberg Service KG. In substance it is used for the machine control and for re-blowing of particle filters.

e) Natural gas

In 2001 and 2002 new continuous equipment for the manufacturing of roll goods has been installed. The necessary process heat is generated directly on-site by a fire tube boiler fed by natural gas. The quantity produced on this line was increased since 2004, so that improved energy consumption is visible because of a better usage rate. (The figure refers to the total area of floor covering per year, which has been produced on this equipment.)

In contrast to the above specified consumptions, the natural gas consumption in kWh is referenced per production quantity in m² at the twin-belt press (V 6). The year 2002 is chosen as reference year and equals 100 %.

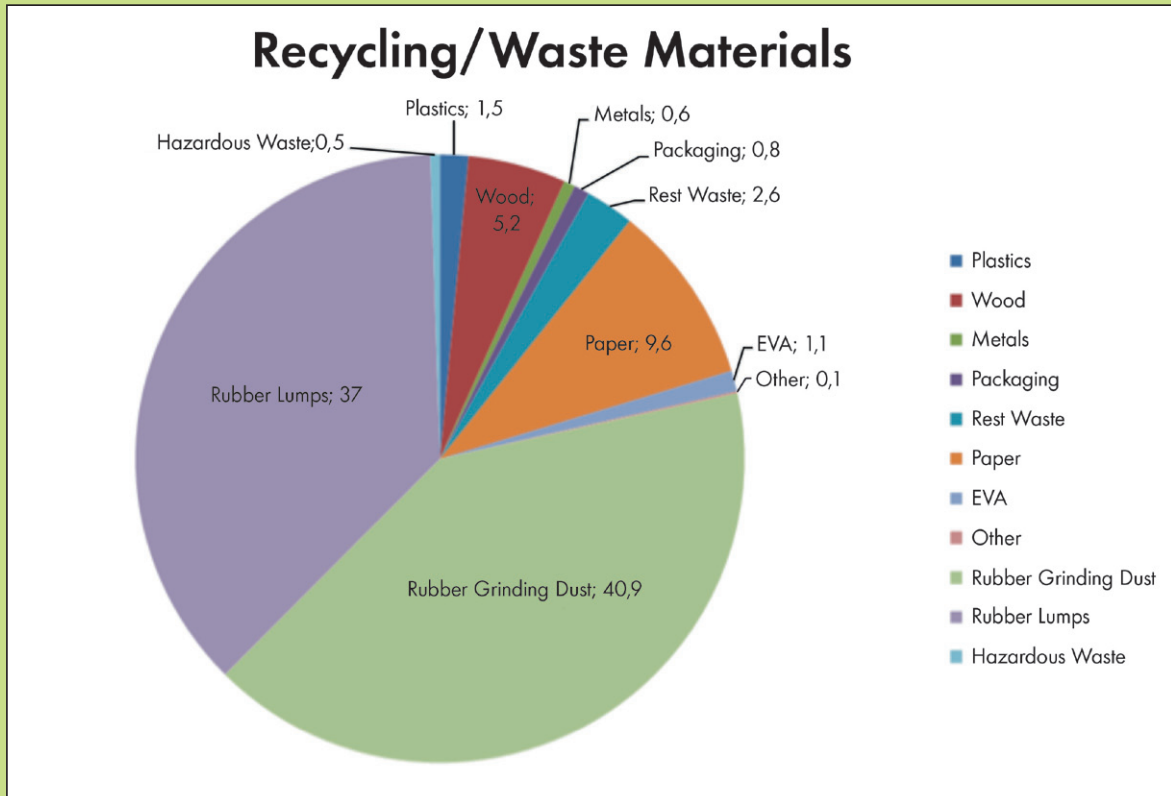
Natural gas consumption for dual press equipment, referenced to produced area (m²), scaled to baseline year 1999



6. REUSABLE MATERIAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

a) Reusable materials and wastes

Details of the occurring material substance amounts can be found in the table below:



Since 2008, all useful materials have been sorted and collected so that they can be resold afterwards wherever possible and thus returned to the resource cycle.

With 80 %, the rubbers resulting from floor coverings have the largest share in the total waste. Of these 79 %, 60 % were directly resold as reusable waste. The essential fractions are contributed by piece goods and grinding dust generated by production processes. Some of the rubber residue is sold directly for material recycling purposes, and the remainder is introduced as fuel to cement works. There, the fine-grain silicone oxides – which make up approx. 50 % of the floor covering – are released by burning the rubber. They form an ideal raw material for the Portland cement produced there. This means that the rubber residues are recycled both thermally and as material.

Further collected fractions are: paper and cardboard packagings, timber, plastics and packagings and metals. This reusable waste – is collected and stored as mono-fraction materials and then sold to the corresponding industrial enterprises.

The percentage of the total substance recycling meanwhile amounts to 80 %.

The small quantities of residue materials (e.g. residual waste) are utilized for generating heat or electrical energy at incineration plants.

b) Recycling of production waste

Grinding dusts from the norament® end processing are separated by colour before being collected, and after a sieving process are admixed to appropriate products in the mixing process as a high quality filler.

For special applications (e.g. installation in golf club buildings, large-animal clinics and indoor rifle ranges), we produce norament® tiles, which in addition to a top layer of new material, exhibit a thick underlay of recycled materials.

For design creating decorative granules are used. Originally this design has risen out of the idea to reuse web flashes, which accrue during production. Due to the demand of granules and colour shades they are not sufficient any longer. Compact material is vulcanized, which is then processed to granules.

Internally processed substances are not included in this figure. These are centrally collected through our office cleaning provider and transferred to the reusable material cycle.

c) Raw materials used

Since 2000 the following substance quantities have been processed into rubber mixtures.

The alteration of the proportions of the substance quantities is substantiated by a commercial adjustment within the allocation of the goods groups.

Raw and process materials are stored in the central warehouse.

We pay particular attention here to hazardous substances, particularly those which are a threat to water. Storage of water-hazardous substances has been audited by an approved assessor organization. Substances whose storage is governed by the German Plant Safety Ordinance are kept in an approved VbF (German Ordinance on Flammable Liquids) store until they are used.

Almost all raw materials used to produce the rubber mixtures are processed in the mixing shop. To save on packing material, the raw materials used in large quantities are stored in silos, and dosed into the process from there.

For packing our products, we take re-usable or recoverable materials like wooden pallets, PE films and cardboard. For the pallets, we offer a return scheme with a financial incentive.

Year	Rubber [t]	Fillers [t]	Process materials Cross-linking chemicals Pigments [t]
2000	12.800	18.500	5.500
2001	11.900	17.300	5.100
2002	11.550	17.500	4.950
2003	11.400	17.200	4.900
2004	12.780	18.000	4.350
2005	11.770	17.200	5.600
2006	12.500	19.500	4.700
2007	12.600	19.600	4.700
2008	11.500	18.200	4.400
2009	10.100	17.200	4.100
2010	11.400	18.200	5.600
2011	12.000	19.000	5.800

Table 4: Substance quantities since 2000

V ECO-PROGRAMME

1. THE ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS UP TO THE YEAR 2012

We had set ourselves the following environmental goals for the 3-year period from 2009 to 2012:

No.	Environmental goal	Planned improvements	Implementation of the goals
a) Environmental Product Declaration (EPD)			
1	Transparency concerning the product life cycle (production of the base chemicals, transport, installation, usage, end-of-life, recycling)	Gathering of data for the drafting of Environment Product Declarations (EPDs) in cooperation with PE International	Fulfilled EPDs (since 28.12.2010) for the norament® 926 product family (source: 1) and the noraplan® 913 product family (source: 2)
b) Reduction in the environmental impact during the <u>installation phase</u> by the floor layer			
2	Reduction in the environmental interaction with regard to the different types of adhesives/fillers and primers used by external providers in conjunction with nora® floor coverings	Development of a floor laying system with environmentally optimised adhesives, reduction in the diversity of used adhesives, reduction in emissions during the installation phase	Fulfilled 2010: Launch of nora system blue® (source: 3, 4)
3	Avoidance of the wrong adhesive being chosen by the floor layer and the associated adverse environmental impact	Development of a floor laying system (see above) Training of floor layers by nora® experts Certification of floor layers in Germany by the safety standards authority (TÜV)	Fulfilled 2010: Launch of nora system blue® (source: 3, 4), 171 floor layer training courses (date: 16.08.2012) Certificates were awarded by TÜV (source: 5)
c) Improvement in the environmental impact during floor covering's <u>lifetime</u> at the customer			
4	Reduction in the environmental interaction with regard to the different types of adhesives used by external providers in conjunction with nora® floor coverings	Development of a floor laying system with environmentally optimised adhesives, reduction in the diversity of used adhesives, reduction in emissions during the floor covering's lifetime at the customer	Fulfilled 2010: Launch of nora system blue® (source: 3, 4)
5	Reduction in the need for chemicals for floor care (daily, weekly)	Usage of cleaning pads (diamond-studded) and use of water as a cleaning agent	Fulfilled nora® cleaning pads launched in 2011 (source: 6)
d) Reduction in the environmental impact of <u>floor cleaning</u> at the customer			
6	Reduction in cleaning water residues (cleaning tensides, lipogenous agents)	Usage of diamond-studded cleaning pads in combination with water as a cleaning agent	Fulfilled nora® cleaning pads launched in 2011 (source: 6)
e) Other measures			
7	Additional measurements for the emission register	Summary of the data in a register Identification of the company's overall emission levels in proportion to the utilised substance quantities partly fulfilled. The most significant manufacturing plants concerning emissions were surveyed. The emissions have stayed at practically the same levels compared with the previous register.	Partly fulfilled The most significant manufacturing plants concerning emissions were surveyed. The emissions have stayed at practically the same levels compared with the previous register.
8	Increase in the proportion of material recycling	The proportion of total material recycling in 2008 (78%) should be improved	Partly fulfilled The proportion of material and thermal recycling was 80%
9	Reduction in the consumption of raw materials by 5%	Identification of potential savings Documentation of the improvements	Partly fulfilled Total reduction in consumption for 2009 and 2010 was 1.3%

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)	Planned measures	Implementation of the goals
Awareness of corporate social responsibility	Initiation of projects with external stakeholders	Fulfilled Expansion of the multi-generation house in Weinheim with participation of nora® employees. Several donations were given to social projects and organisations such as "Doctors Without Borders"

Sources: (1): http://bau-umwelt.de/download/C456ff211X12ddb69e5a8X5336/EPD_NOR_2010211_D.pdf
(2): http://bau-umwelt.de/download/C456ff211X12ddb69e5a8X5333/EPD_NOR_2010111_D.pdf
(3): <http://www.nora.com/de/produkte-systeme/nora-system-blue/>
(4): http://www.tuvdotcom.com/quality_marks/0000026227?locale=de
(5): <http://tinyurl.com/8g7axok>
(6): <http://www.nora.com/produkte-systeme/reinigungszubehoer/>

Table 5: Environmental goals and CSR measures

2. NEW ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS AND CSR MEASURES

No.	Environmental goal	Planned improvements	Implementation of the goals
1	Transparency concerning the product life cycle (production of the base chemicals, transport, installation, usage, end-of-life, recycling)	Regathering of data for the Environment Product Declaration (EPD) for nora® products	The new EPDs should be drafted by the end of 2013
2	Preparation of recommendations for floor cleaners with minimum environmental impact for interested customers	Identification of cleaning companies that also focus on the environmental impact of their products as well as their cleaning services. Publication of the names of these companies on the nora® website	By 2015
3	Reduction in the environmental impact of floor coverings	Analysis of the raw materials and substitution as required Reduction in emissions during the production process Reduction in emissions during the floor covering's lifetime at the customer	By 2015
4	Reduction in product waste during the production phase	Analysis of the production process and measures for internal recycling; identification of internal and external recycling potential	By 2015
5	Introduction of an energy management system	Development of the system audit by a registered assessor organisation	By 2013
Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)		Planned measures	Implementation of the goals
Perception of corporate social responsibility		Definition of CSR as part of the company's core business activities (employees, market, company), development and publication of a CSR policy	By 2015

Table 6: Environmental goals and CSR measures in 2015

VI ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCT DECLARATIONS

In mid-2010, nora systems GmbH began drafting environmental product declarations for their leading norament[®] and noraplan[®] floor coverings (norament[®] 926 and noraplan[®] 913 formulations) and noraplan[®]. Usually referred to as EPDs, these comprehensive descriptions covering the entire lifecycle of the products from the production of the raw materials through to disposal of the products were published at the beginning of 2011. Based on a full ecobalance (LCA) "from the cradle to the grave", they were calculated by PE INTERNATIONAL in Stuttgart.

Not only do the declarations serve the interested public domain in providing special information on the environmental qualities of the products, but they also aid construction planners in drawing up building performance audits.

Both of these declarations, as well as those for several other building products, are available on the website of the Institute Construction and Environment (IBU) at the following link:

<http://bau-umwelt.de/hp3621/Bodenbelaege.htm>

VII CONTACT DATA

As part of our responsibility for the environment, we maintain a dialogue with the public domain. Please contact nora systems GmbH, preferably by e-mail, for further information and to submit queries and suggestions.

We will pass on your inquiry to the appropriate specialised department.

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Höhnerweg 2-4	e-mail: info@nora.com
69469 Weinheim	http://www.nora.com
Germany	

**VIII ZERTIFIKAT DER DEUTSCHEN GESELLSCHAFT ZUR
ZERTIFIZIERUNG VON MANAGEMENTSYSTEMEN (DQS) –
UMWELTMANAGEMENTSYSTEM NACH DIN EN 14001**



CERTIFICATE



This is to certify that

nora systems GmbH

Höhnerweg 2-4
69469 Weinheim
Germany

has implemented and maintains an **Environmental Management System**.

Scope:

Manufacture, sales and marketing of floor covering systems, shoe components and table mats made of rubber

Through an audit, documented in a report, it was verified that the management system fulfills the requirements of the following standard:

ISO 14001 : 2004 + Cor 1 : 2009

Certificate registration no. 053195 UM

Date of certification 2012-06-30

Valid until 2015-06-29



TGA-ZM-02-90

DQS GmbH

Michael Drechsel
Managing Director



Accredited Body: DQS GmbH, August-Schanz-Straße 21, 60433 Frankfurt am Main

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