

step towards a safer future

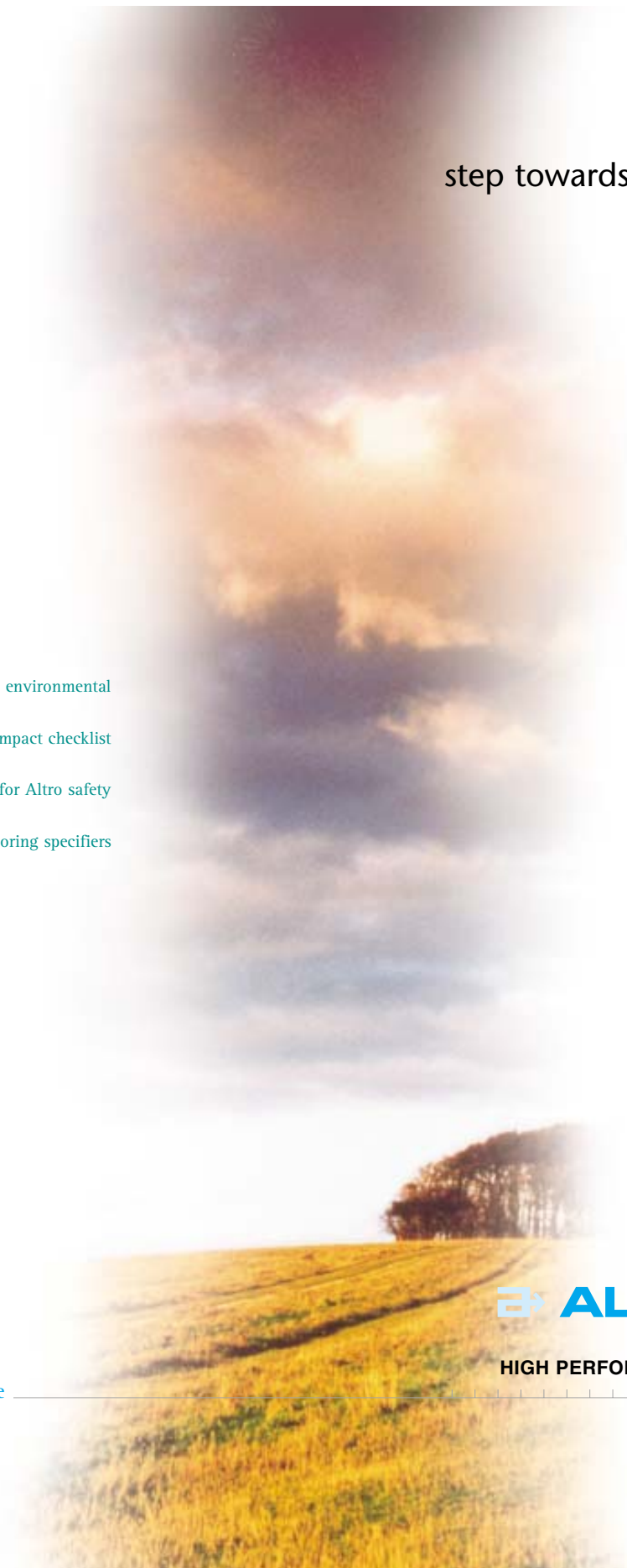
an environmental
impact checklist
for Altro safety
flooring specifiers

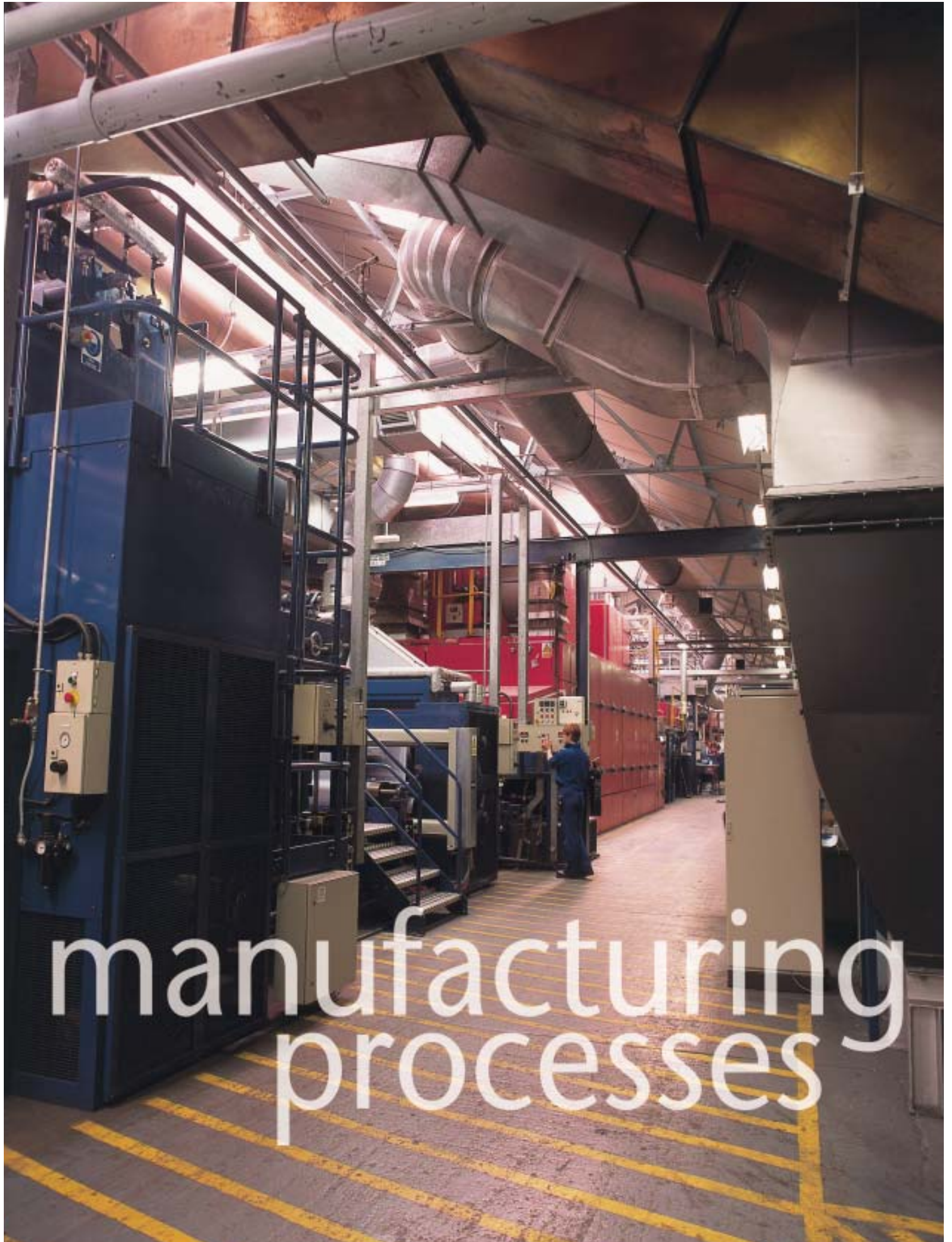
 **ALTRO**

HIGH PERFORMANCE FLOORING

AND WALLING

the safe choice for the future



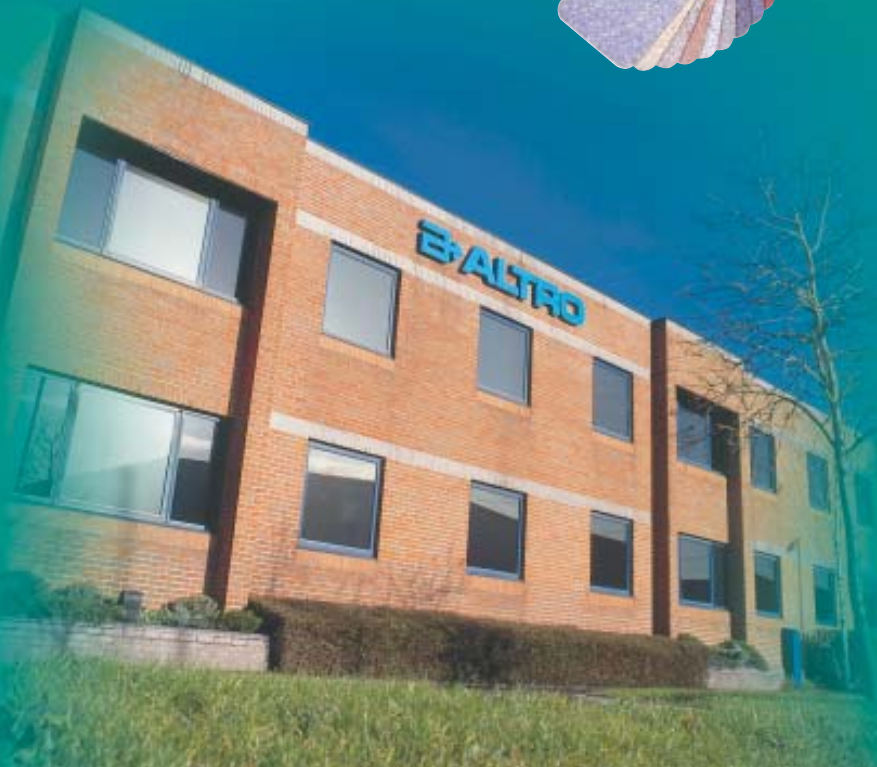
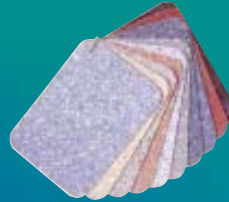


manufacturing
processes

Altro and the environment

“ Altro recognises it has a duty to help protect the environment - now and for future generations. This duty of care is actively endorsed by the Altro Board and is embodied in a company-wide commitment to ensure that our products and processes not only minimise any risk of environmental impact but provide positive benefits to society.

To meet these responsibilities, Altro operates targeted objectives to set, review and achieve continuous environmental improvements - not just within the minimum statutory controls - but by pioneering new levels of environmental care. In this way, our employees, our customers and all those who use our products will gain genuine environmental benefit from placing their trust in Altro.



position statement:

⇒ **ALTRO** adopts modern, fail-safe manufacturing practices which are designed to ensure the safety and well-being of its employees, the community in which it is located and the customers and users of its products.

key facts:

There are two main stages in the manufacture of Altro PVC

products: *The manufacture of the raw materials which we purchase from some of Europe's largest and most reputable producers, and the conversion of raw PVC into the finished Altro safety flooring products. Both of these primary stages of production are carried out to the highest UK and EU regulatory controls.*

The European PVC producers

(ECVM)... *...have created their own Charter for the Production of VCM and PVC which goes well beyond the legal requirements. UK manufacturers, including Altro, have also agreed a Charter which covers not just manufacture but also use and eventual disposal.*

The manufacture of raw PVC (VCM)...

... *...takes place in sealed vessels and UK plants are open to public inspection as well as being routinely inspected by the authorities such as the UK Environment Agency.*

Altro manufacturing and production processes...

... *...adopt advanced environmental and quality control protocols and fully meet accreditation under ISO 9002 and ISO 14001.*

main issues:

Waste:

Waste gases and liquids are monitored continually and captured before escape to the atmosphere or watercourse through primary (heat exchanger) and secondary (electrostatic) scrubbing processes. Particulate and liquid residues are removed by an accredited waste removal specialist for analysis prior to safe disposal under local authority licence.

Altro has introduced a programme to segregate and reduce all **trim waste** leaving the site. Over 50% of all PVC waste produced from the process is recycled into production with a target of 100% within 5 years.

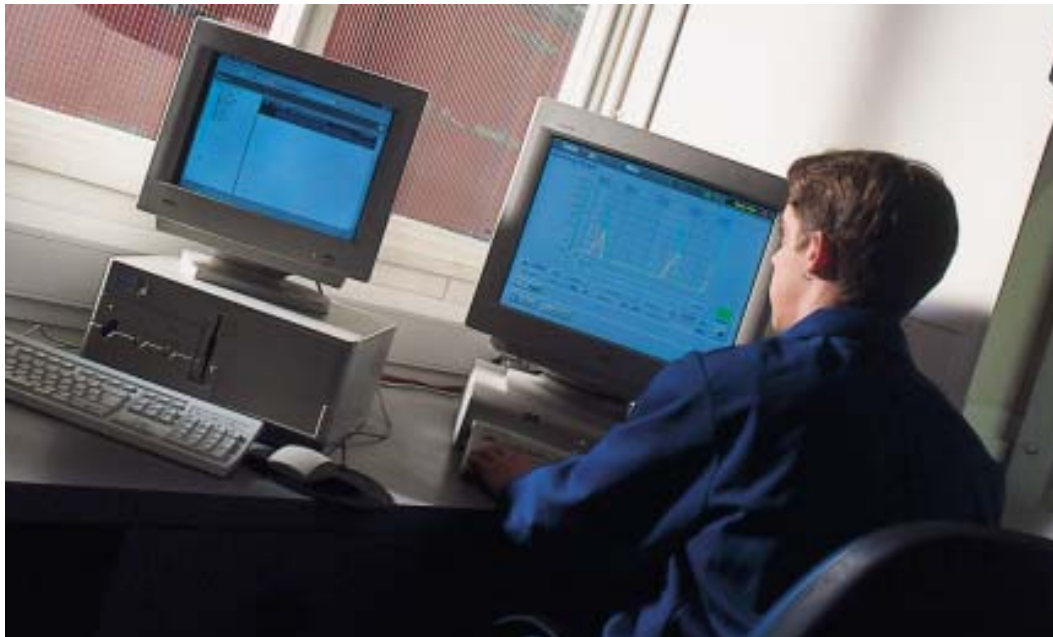
Special **wrapping systems** minimise packaging requirements and wastage.

Safety:

All manufacturing control processes are microprocessor controlled, utilise safe shutdown procedures, and are manned by fully trained personnel.

Suitable, approved **protective clothing** is used by all production personnel.

Plant and equipment maintenance is carried out on a programmed basis by a specialist internal support team.



main issues:

Dioxins:



Although some environmentalists have claimed that **the manufacture** of pure PVC (VCM) creates dioxins, studies in the UK, USA and Netherlands have shown that only trace amounts of dioxin can be attributed to PVC production. In fact UK Government statistics show that PVC is an insignificant producer of dioxins compared with such activities as iron and steel manufacture. ① In addition, studies in the UK, USA and Germany on trends in dioxin emissions show that

in these countries, dioxin levels have halved since 1970 during the same period that PVC production has doubled. ②

At every stage of the Altro materials handling and manufacturing process, care is taken to ensure that all possible risks to health or the environment are eliminated.

Raw materials are received and stored under strictly controlled conditions. PVC powder is pressure blown from sealed tankers into enclosed silos. Other materials such as colour pigments are properly labelled and stored in clearly defined areas until required. Special barrier walls and fire shutters prevent the possibility of escape into the production areas and beyond.

Energy and Water:

Energy usage including gas and electricity is monitored and a continuous energy improvement programme is adopted including energy recovery and a closed loop chilled (non-CFC) water process.

Water consumption in Altro's manufacturing process has been reduced to less than 1% of levels of a decade ago.



references:

① "A Review of Dioxin Emissions in the UK", Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Pollution (HMIP) September 1995

② A Study Commissioned by the Department of the Environment and completed by Lancaster University (UK). March 1996.

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