

step towards a safer future

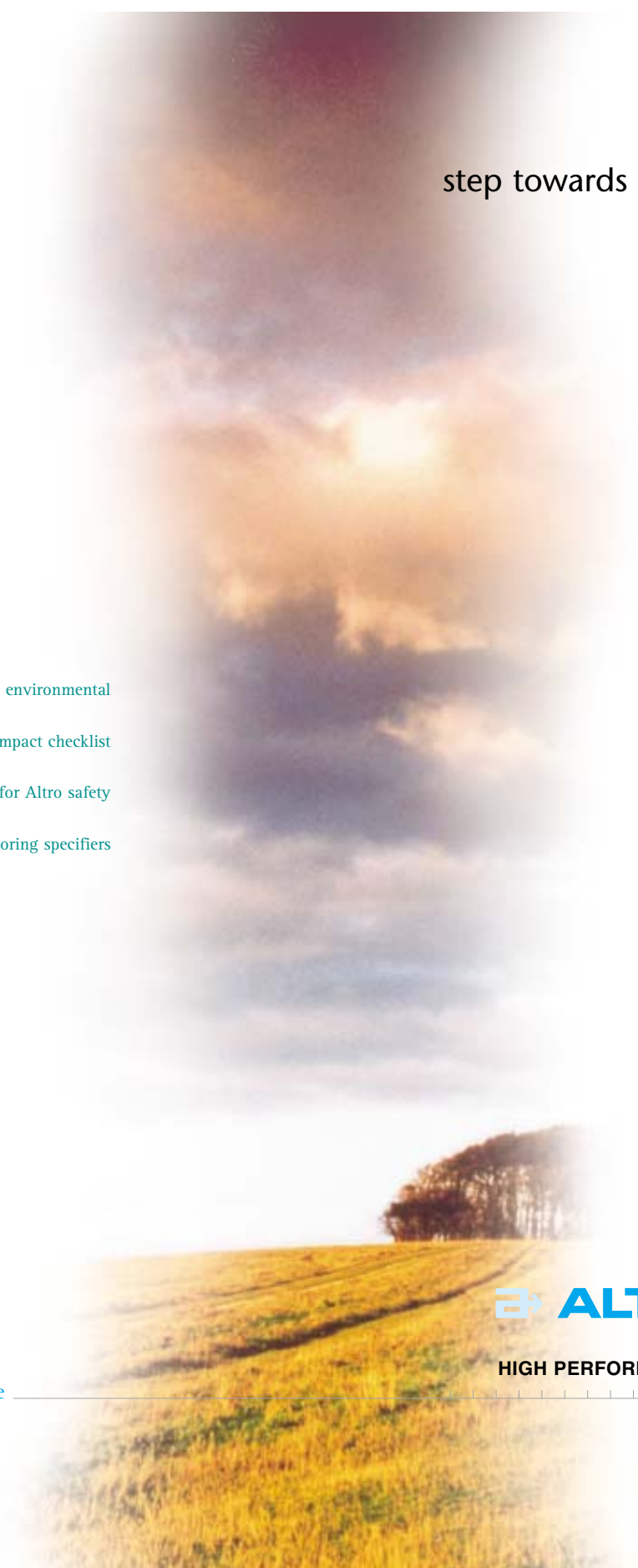
an environmental
impact checklist
for Altro safety
flooring specifiers

 **ALTRO**

HIGH PERFORMANCE FLOORING

AND WALLING

the safe choice for the future



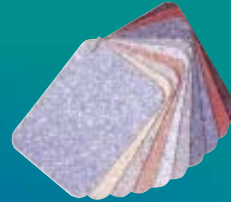


PVC
in use

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** believes that by manufacturing its products from advanced PVC formulations, it is not only offering customers the safest option but the best environmental choice.

key facts:

More than
15 Life-Cycle

Analyses ...of PVC and products made from it have been carried out in Europe since 1973. All confirm that PVC holds a favourable ecological position relative to other plastics or traditional materials. ©

The unique
qualities...

...of wear resistance, strength and relatively light weight mean that PVC offers considerable benefits to the environment across all applications when compared with heavier, less durable materials.

PVC will
not

rot,... ...warp, peel or flake like some alternatives. This reduces the impact on the environment which comes when lesser materials need replacing, refurbishment or maintenance using chemicals or preservatives.

PVC's fire
retardant
properties...

...and low flame spread characteristics make it ideal for many construction applications including power cables in homes, factories and offices. PVC will generally not continue to burn when the heat source has been removed, nor will PVC drip when burning, due to the formation of a carbonaceous char which further reduces the spread of flame.

Altro floors
are formulated...

...to significantly reduce the need for cleaning agents and to eliminate the need for sealing, waxing and scouring materials, all of which can have a negative impact on the environment.

references:

© "PVC - The Facts" published by the British Plastics Federation. July 1994

main issues:

Long life benefits:

PVC was first discovered in 1835 and came into widespread use earlier this century. In applications from nappy liners to blood bags, fresh food packaging to paddling pools, there has never been a reported case of PVC causing harm to users.

Safety:

In hundreds of building and construction applications, PVC can bring long-life benefits. Our records show that a life in excess of 20 years may be expected from Altro safety flooring even in the most arduous working conditions.

PVC is a highly cost-effective choice providing an affordable solution which, across years of service, will prove favourable compared with other materials.

Altro slip resistant flooring incorporating biocidal protection against cross-infection is ideally suited to environments where safety and hygiene are paramount, including hospitals, clinics, children's and retirement homes, food and pharmaceuticals production.



The UK's Department of Trade and Industry, as part of its Technology Foresight programme, stated, "PVC is perfectly safe and this is why it is used for bottles for mineral water, bags for blood transfusions, and fine bore tubing that is inserted into premature babies. PVC can be crystal clear or as black as coal. It can be as rigid or as flexible as we choose. It will stand up to extreme conditions and so is widely used for windows, water pipes and insulation for electric wiring. Britain, with its abundant supplies of salt and natural gas, is an obvious place to manufacture this versatile plastic." ②

After the fullest investigation of the environmental aspects of PVC in building products, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation states, "The balance of evidence suggests that there is no alternative material to PVC, in its major product applications, that has less overall effect on the environment." ②

Commenting on the use of PVC in everyday life, the independent scientific expert, Michael Gallagher, Professor of Chemistry, University of New South Wales said, "The only way you could harm anyone with PVC would be to hit them over the head with a large piece. Criticism of PVC as a building material is ill-informed."

references:

② UK DTI Report on the Competitiveness of the UK's Chloralkali Industry, Technology Foresight Programme, March 1996.

② Dr Russell Smith, CSIRO Report, "The Environmental Aspects of the Use of PVC in Building Products", A study carried out for the Plastics and Chemicals Industries Association Inc. Australia, September 1996.



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