

step towards a safer future

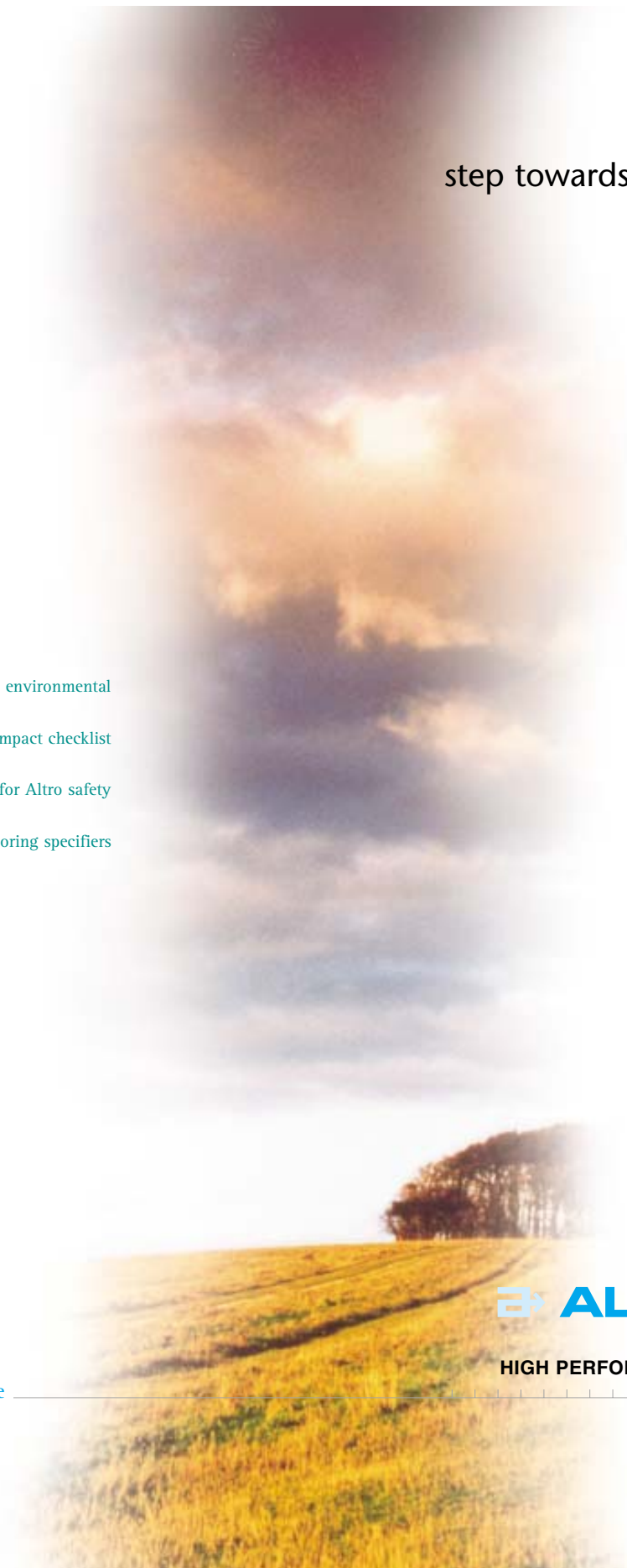
an environmental
impact checklist
for Altro safety
flooring specifiers

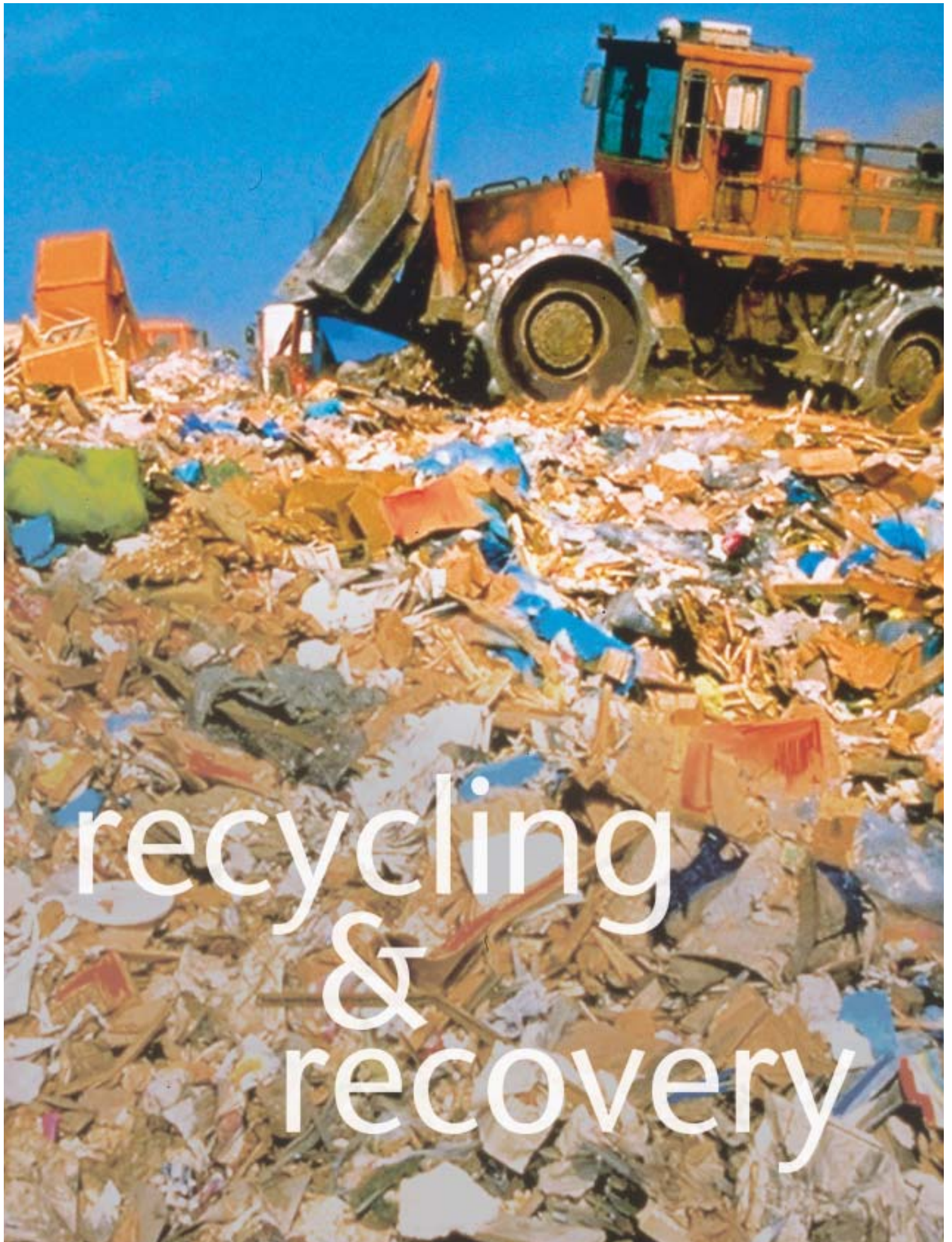
 **ALTRO**

HIGH PERFORMANCE FLOORING

AND WALLING

the safe choice for the future



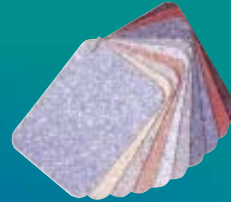


recycling
&
recovery

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** products are deliberately designed and manufactured to give long, trouble-free service. At the end of their life, Altro products may be mechanically recycled for a useful second life or incinerated in a modern facility.

key facts:

PVC can
easily be

recycled

There are established schemes throughout Europe for the mechanical recycling of PVC pipes, windows, flooring, walls, roofing and even cable insulation. ③

More than 30
companies in
the UK...

...are involved in the recycling of PVC and over 10,000 tonnes of PVC are put back into use in this way every year. ④

The PVC
Industry...

...is also currently developing the technology needed for large-scale 'feedstock' recycling whereby plastics can be broken down into their basic chemical 'building blocks' for re-use. ⑤

Where
facilities

exist,...

...PVC can also be burned in modern waste incinerators to produce energy (electricity) and hot water for district heating.

references:

③ "PVC in Building & Construction". European Council of Vinyl Manufacturers Briefing. Dec 1997

④ "PVC Explained". P.Law et al. British Plastics Federation publication. UK 1997.

⑤ ECVI sponsored project at Solvay, Tavaux, France expected to be operational during 2000 utilising technology from German company, Linde.

main issues:

Waste:

The entire world usage of PVC for all construction applications including windows, pipes, cables, flooring and walls constitutes only 0.3% of building waste. Even so, as responsible producers we must take care that the products we produce can be safely disposed of without risk to the environment.

Landfill:

Although PVC can be - and is - recycled, inevitably some of our products will one day be confined to landfill. Even in such cases, PVC remains totally inert.

An intensive three-year study has confirmed that the presence of PVC in landfill does not constitute a significant risk to the environment. ^⑬



Incineration:

When incinerated, PVC has similar heat value to wood or paper and, although some environmentalists claim that burning PVC adds to the creation of dioxins, there is now a substantial amount of evidence to show that, when properly incinerated, the presence or absence of PVC in the waste makes no difference to the level of dioxins produced. ^⑭

Nor does the burning of PVC significantly add to the creation of acid rain. Studies show that, when incinerated, PVC contributes less than 0.2% to the total volume of gases which cause acid rain. ^⑮

references:

^⑬A joint study by the European Council of Vinyl Manufacturers; European Council for Plastics and Intermediates, The European Stabiliser Producers Association, the Organotin Environmental Programme Association and Hydro Polymers. September 1999.

^⑭C. Rappe, S. Markland and I Fangmark, "Formation of dioxins and dibenzofurans during incineration and pyrolysis of PVC" - PVC 90, Brighton, April 1990

^⑮Dr W. Freiesleben, "Plastics in Municipal Incineration", Technical Paper for APME/PWMI, 1992

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