

HOLCHEM ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY REPORT 2017



Holchem Laboratories Ltd. Gateway House
Pilsworth Road, Bury, Lancashire. BL9 8RD
01706 222288 | holchem.co.uk

PARTNERSHIP
INNOVATION
APPLICATION 

Managing Director's Review



Environment and climate changes impact all of us. Holchem intends to continue working towards understanding the environmental impact of our products and proactively driving it down, whilst maintaining our customer focus and profitability.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S L Bell'.

S L Bell

Managing Director

Executive Summary

Holchem is a profitable business with motivated, trained and competent staff that are integral to our long term sustainability. Our ISO systems drive our business review and ensure we understand our business and customers businesses. In addition the business continuity plan ensures we can continue to function during times of crisis.

We are continually working to reduce the impact of our operations on the environment by increasing efficiency, minimising waste and reducing our energy consumption in the factories.

In addition we recognize the significant part our products and their lifecycle play on our environmental profile. Many of our core products have been optimised to provide enhanced cleaning power but at an overall lower environmental impact. The development of efficient cleaning methods coupled with concentrated products and reliable cost effective dosing systems ensures the minimum product volume is used for a given task.

Cleaning products in Europe are regulated by many pieces of legislation usually enacted from European Regulations. Our commitment to producing safe products is supported by comprehensive management systems that reflect legal and regulatory compliance as a minimum standard, and cover raw material use and product assessments, labelling and packaging requirements.

We continue to develop systems that enable our customers and suppliers to partner with us as efficiently as possible. The use of electronic data transfer rather than the post and eLearning are examples where the carbon footprint of service can be reduced without affecting quality.

Holchem strives to maintain a safe workplace for all. We continue to ensure that our business activities are undertaken in a responsible manner and in accordance with relevant statutory legislation. All employees participate in the development, promotion and maintenance of a safe and healthy working environment for employees, visitors and the public.

Summary of Environmental Initiatives

1982 - Holchem Laboratories Ltd. founded

Raw materials generally sourced in the North West, a traditional centre of the UK chemical industry.

1992

Moved to new more energy efficient premises at Haslingden. BS5750 upgraded to new standard ISO 9000.

1995

Voluntary phase out of APEOs (nonyl phenols) in product formulations (not banned in Europe until 2003).

1997

Started re-use of containers to reduce waste packing entering the waste stream and landfill. Changed field force car fleet to more fuel efficient diesels.

2005

Developed water and energy usage model giving benchmarking and “what if?” capabilities. Developed portable CIP monitoring unit allowing analysis and optimisation of cleaning cycles.

2006

Successfully gained Environmental Management System accreditation through ISO 14001.

2007

Increased use of natural soaps rather than synthetics, leading to less processing of the raw material. Start to phase out the use of solvents in products.

2008

Reduction in usage of phosphonates (P reduction) in products, reducing potential eutrophication in lakes and water courses.

2009

Changed to low mercury content caustic supply. Increased proportion of re-useable packaging and

also increased proportion of recycling of plastic packaging.

Reduction of EDTA, introduction of dry lube to conveyor lubrication reducing water usage.

2010

Phased out use of aerosols. Removed Triclosan from Hand Care formulations. Continue to reduce ‘Dangerous to the Environment’ products. Additional bulk storage added, reducing raw material miles.

2011

Removed butyl glycol solvent from Mark & Adhesive Remover and Trisolve.

2012

Design of new mixing plant to reduce water wastage. Introduced range of concentrate washroom products to reduce packaging and transport impact of RTU products.

2013

Replaced Chill Shield thus removing PHMB - biguanide (suspected Carcinogen) from our product range. Moved to new premises based in Bury.

2014

Holchem’s first acquisition, Merlin Chemicals. Energy efficient mixing plant sees reduction in energy required to manufacture product.

2015

Installed larger mixing vessel for acids reducing energy input per tonne.

2016

Introducing LED factory lightening saving 1.3m Kg CO₂ over the 15 yr. lifespan.

2017

Attained the new ISO 14001:2015 environmental standard.

Product Impact

Raw Material Sourcing

We aim to source our raw materials wherever possible locally. The North West of England has traditionally been, and continues to be, a region of major chemical industries. The high volume raw materials used in many formulations (caustic soda, sodium hypochlorite and quaternary ammonium compounds) are sourced within 40 miles of our production facility.

Some examples: Sodium Xylene Sulphonate (SXS) is a solubilising aid used in many Holchem formulations to replace solvents that come from a Petroleum source. Each year we purchase over 800 tonnes of this material from a plant approximately 16 miles from our factory. The same plant also provides around 400 tonnes per year of Ether Sulphate.

Over 1400 tonnes of Sodium Hydroxide and approximately 1000 tonnes of Sodium Hypochlorite per year are sourced from a plant 35 miles away. The alternative would be supply from the South of England or Europe.

We source 350 tonnes per year of biocide surfactant, a major component of our main disinfectants, from a plant about 35 miles away.

330 tonnes per year of re-cycled Phosphoric Acid is sourced from a plant 60 miles away. This is the major component of descaling products, acid detergents and Optimum Toilet Cleaner Concentrate. Not only is this a low chemical miles raw material, but by using cleaned and re-cycled acid we have assisted in removing 300 tonnes of Phosphate from entering the environment. Alternative supplies of virgin acid would be shipped from Europe.

Packaging Reuse and Recycling

Each year there are recovery and recycling targets for UK businesses to meet, which are designed to enable the UK to comply with the Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive.

Holchem in addition to meeting its obligations with packaging waste legislation, Holchem reduces its packaging impact by encouraging the return from customers of 25 litre kegs, drums and IBCs, for launder and re-use and only using re-used pallets, re-used drums and re-used IBCs.

Holchem have, since 1997, back loaded their delivery fleet with suitably palletised empty and rinsed containers collected by our customers. The containers are laundered, inspected and/or tested and then returned to us for refilling

Pack Reuse

Year	25 litre keg	200 litre drum	1000 litre IBC
2008	35%	100%	98%
2009	51%	100%	98%
2010	58%	100%	98%
2011	61%	100%	98%
2012	46%	100%	98%
2013	52%	100%	98%
2014	62%	100%	98%
2015	49%	100%	98%
2016	54%	100%	98%
2017	62%	100%	98%

Manufacturing Facility KPIs

As part of our continuous improvement, required under both ISO9001 and ISO14001, we monitor our environmental impact from our manufacturing facilities.

Waste disposed is waste that is sent for energy recovery or for disposal through registered waste handlers. All waste is disposed of in accordance with local regulatory requirements.

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Waste Disposed (kg/tonne)	2.18	1.97	2.12	2.22	2.38	0.97	0.88	0.86
Waste Recycled (kg/tonne)	1.07	1.08	0.55	1.06	1.69	1.62	0.93	0.86

Total Water is the volume of water supplied to our manufacturing facilities for product, wash-water and process water including facilities.

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total Water (m ³ / tonne)	0.51	0.48	0.48	0.50	0.50	0.51	0.47	0.49

Total Energy is the combination of electricity, natural gas and bottled gas used within our manufacturing facilities. This includes energy used for manufacturing, heating and FLT charging.

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total Energy (GJ / tonne)	0.11	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.08	0.05	0.04	0.039