

# **Environmental Guideline for the A.S. Création Group**

**A.S. Création Tapeten AG**

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## **Policy Statement**

As a manufacturing company, A.S. Création consumes natural resources. Raw materials for the production of wallpapers, energy to operate the machines as well as water for washing and cooling the operating equipment. Furthermore, waste is generated in particular in the production process.

This puts a strain on the earth's limited resources and the greenhouse gases produced by production also put a strain on the ecosystem. In this context, A.S. Création aims to save valuable resources and reduce energy consumption by acting efficiently and to treat nature and the environment with respect.

## **Goal and applicability of the guideline**

In the context of A.S. Création's sustainability strategy "GREEN STEPS", effective environmental protection is a key target dimension. This environmental guideline defines our values and basic principles according to which we want to practice environmental protection as a company but also as employees. In this way, we assume responsibility in dealing with nature and thus lay the foundation for long-term and sustainable business. These guidelines apply to all employees of the A.S. Création Group.

In addition, this guideline has an orientation function for A.S. Création's business partners, as we firmly believe that a sustainable future can only be achieved through joint efforts. We would therefore like to encourage our business partners to embark on this path together with us.

## Principles of our Environmental Guideline

### 1. Immission Control

In our operations and processes, we strive to avoid harmful effects on the environment as far as possible. Any contamination, noise, vibrations and other factors that may have an impact on people, animals, plants, soil, water and the environment should be avoided.

For this purpose, A.S. Création employs an immission control officer who ensures compliance with all relevant laws and directives and implements preventive measures in the context of immission control.

### 2. Greenhouse gas emissions and climate protection

In the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, the United Nations highlights the special responsibility of private-sector companies in the fight against climate change. A.S. Création is aware of this responsibility and accordingly promotes comprehensive measures to measure and reduce its greenhouse gas emissions.

For the production site in Germany, A.S. Création Tapeten AG has set itself the target of reducing total greenhouse gas emissions by 30.6% from 5.65 kg CO<sub>2</sub>e per Euro roll of wallpaper in 2020 to 3.92 kg CO<sub>2</sub>e per Euro roll of wallpaper in 2030.

As part of this target, every employee is required to take climate protection into account in his or her decisions.

### 3. Energy consumption

With regard to the energy sources used at A.S. Création, a holistic energy concept ensures efficient energy use. Moreover, A.S. Création purchases 100% carbon-neutral electricity from hydropower at its German production sites.

To further reduce energy consumption, this energy concept will be refined in the context of A.S. Création Tapeten AG's ISO 50001:2018-certified energy management system by continuously recording and analysing energy consumption data.

Every employee is also encouraged to take even the smallest energy saving potentials, such as turning off the lights when leaving the office, seriously in their daily work.

### 4. Waste and circular economy

With regard to its sustainability strategy, waste management at A.S. Création pursues two main objectives. On the one hand, we want to reduce the amount of waste generated and, on the other hand, we want to recycle as much of the unavoidable waste as possible. To make this possible, we ensure that all types of waste are separated by type in our day-to-day operations in order to ensure optimal recycling.

In order to contribute to the transition to a circular economy, A.S. Création Tapeten AG is involved in (research) projects to develop recycling processes for wallpaper waste in order to keep valuable raw materials in a technical cycle.

## **5. Conservation and restoration of biodiversity**

A.S. Création has an impact on the forest ecosystem through the purchase of paper products. Healthy forests play a key role in ensuring intact ecosystems worldwide, promoting biodiversity and protecting the climate, water and soil. Therefore, it must be our goal to value the forest habitat, which is threatened by humans, and to preserve it in good condition.

In order to contribute to the preservation and restoration of the forest ecosystem, all wallpapers produced by A.S. Création in Germany are certified with the FSC seal. The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) contributes to the maintenance of the forest ecosystem and thus also protects animal and plant species that are threatened with extinction.

## **6. Sustainable use and protection of water**

A.S. Création requires larger quantities of water as a resource for the production of wallpapers as well as in washing and cooling processes. We therefore strive to effectively reduce, reuse or treat the wastewater discharges generated in the course of our activities. By continuously measuring the water quality in our production processes, we seek to prevent the discharge of pollutants into wastewater streams.

Through these measures, we aim to protect water as a scarce resource, improve overall water quality and keep local waters and marine resources clean of pollutants.

## **7. Raw materials and chemicals**

A.S. Création's sustainability strategy pursues two approaches with a view to reducing the environmental impact of the raw materials used. On the one hand, the amount of raw materials used is to be reduced by increasing material efficiency. On the other hand, the quality of the raw materials used is to be improved with regard to their environmental impact.

With regard to the chemicals used in the company, A.S. Création complies with all applicable legal regulations of the EU and the Federal Republic of Germany on chemicals, in particular the REACH Regulation (EC No. 1907/2006), in the interest of customer and employee health. To ensure this, we are in regular contact with our suppliers in order to exclude any REACH-relevant risks.

## **8. Health and safety**

A.S. Création places utmost importance on the safety of all raw materials and chemicals used. The consistent observance of and compliance with the legal requirements for indoor products are regularly checked by internationally accredited testing institutes. A.S. Création thus offers its customers a safe and healthy product that can also be used for wall decoration in sensitive living areas.

In order to provide its customers with a level of safety that goes beyond the legal requirements, A.S. Création is committed to meeting the strict technical, health and ecological requirements of the Gütegemeinschaft Tapete e. V., which are documented in RAL-GZ-479. Furthermore, the product-related indoor air emissions (so-called VOC) of all A.S. Création wallpapers meet the requirements of the German AgBB regulations as well as the lowest emission class "A+" according to the corresponding French regulations.

## **9. Product use and end of life**

Since wallpapers, unlike other products, cannot be repaired or reused, the high quality and durability of our products is an important criterion. We ensure the high quality of our wallpapers, which is appreciated by our customers, by means of the ISO 9001:2015 quality management system established in the company as well as quality controls accompanying production.

The high quality of the transport packaging also ensures that our goods arrive at the customer in optimal condition. Since the product packaging ends up in the trash, we want its environmental impact to be as low as possible. That's why our cardboard packaging is made from over 80% recycled paper fibres and is 100% recyclable through the paper cycle. Our shrink films are also 100% recyclable and are themselves made of 40% recycled plastic. A.S. Création is committed to further reducing the environmental impact of packaging in the future.

Gummersbach, September 2023

### **A.S. Création Tapeten AG**

The Executive Board

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Chairman of the Board  
Finance and Controlling

**Tim Herder**

Sales and Marketing

**Antonios Suskas**

Production and Logistics