

Girbau's Environmental Management System and ISO14001

A Proactive Approach to Conservation and a "Greener" World

It seems caring for the environment is gaining favor across the world. People recycle, install water-saving toilets, carpool and seek out products that conserve water, energy and natural resources. It follows suit, then, that consumers care about how those products are manufactured. Through and through, Continental Girbau customers can feel good knowing that the laundry products they purchase are manufactured in an environmentally friendly manner to conserve the Earth's natural resources and to create less waste.

Girbau S.A., the parent company of Continental Girbau, has procedures and goals in place—an International Organization of Standardization (ISO) 14001-certified environmental management system (EMS)—to ensure its products are designed and manufactured in an environmentally responsible manner. Moreover, Continental Girbau laundry products are among the most energy-efficient on the market today—and continuously improving...

Since 2001, Girbau has operated an ISO 14001-certified EMS, although the company's concern for the environment began early on. ISO is the source of more than 14,000 international standards for business, government and society. ISO 14001 applies only to processes that influence an organization's environmental performance. It isn't a one-time certification. Rather, ISO 14001 requires an organization to continually improve environmental management, and in doing so, continuously minimize harmful environmental effects.

Girbau's Environmental Management System

Girbau's EMS and an environmental committee use three tools to fulfill its environmental objectives: an environmental handbook and connected procedures, periodic recording to show the fulfillment and correct implementation of the procedures, and periodic environmental audits. The company regularly measures raw materials consumption, including water, electricity, natural gas, metals and paint; waste water generation, waste generation, soil pollution, noise production and atmospheric emissions. The company regularly publishes an environmental statement, which outlines its EMS, goals, procedures and actions taken.

Proof of Reduced Negative Effects on the Environment

The result is cleaner, less wasteful and more environmentally friendly manufacturing processes, according to Continental Girbau President Mike Floyd.

Girbau has accomplished many specific environmental goals. Among the most important are changes to Girbau's first two factories (G1 and G2) that resulted in decreased atmospheric emissions. In 1998 and 2000, the heating systems were adapted to burn natural gas, rather than fuel oil. The result? Atmospheric emissions of SO₂ disappeared (from 1028 mg/m³ N to 0), and NO₂ pp dropped from 113 mg/m³ to 38. In 2004, Girbau's third factory (G3) was built. The company's most environmentally friendly factory yet, it was designed so that work could be done using only natural light for most of the day.



A Continual Process of Change

A commitment to environmental responsibility spurred Girbau to begin instilling environmental changes even before achieving ISO 14001 Certification. In fact, Girbau has tested for industrial waste since 1988, atmospheric emissions since 1989 and water pollutants since 1993.

Since achieving ISO 14001 certification, day to day improvements are continuing to be made that reaffirm the principles of Girbau's environmental policies. "Girbau has continued to improve its environmental management processes to further reduce negative impacts on the environment," says Floyd. "Girbau's commitment to conservation is evident. It operates an ISO 14001-certified environmental management system and produces high-efficiency, top-quality commercial and industrial laundry equipment designed to use less gas, energy and water."

Why Does It Matter?

But why does it matter to you that Girbau continuously works to reduce negative environmental impacts caused by manufacturing and design processes?

"People care that the Earth will be healthy for their children," suggests Floyd. "There is a growing awareness that we all need to do the right thing for the future."

When customers purchase Continental products for their energy-efficiency, durability and quality they are taking environmentalism a step further by supporting a company that works to manufacture them in a way that is less harmful, produces less waste, and uses fewer resources.

"Many would rather buy products from a company like Girbau, than from a company with no environmental management system in place," says Joel Jorgensen, Continental vice president of sales and customer services. "Girbau has taken great strides toward environmentally friendly operations. This sets the company apart as an environmental leader."





CERTIFICATE

The Certification Body of Environmental Management Systems
TÜV Internacional Grupo TÜV Rheinland, S.L.

hereby certifies that the company

GIRBAU, S.A.

for their location in

**Carretera de Manlleu, Km.1
E-08500 Vic (Barcelona)**

**C/ Pruit, s/n
Pol. Ind. Malloles
E-08500 Vic (Barcelona)**

has established and applies an Environmental Management System for the
activities of

**Design and manufacturing of industrial laundry
equipment and technical assistance**

in accordance with the requirements of the standard

UNE – EN ISO 14001:2004

This certificate is valid until: **2010-05-31**
Certification Registration No: **3.00.00019**

Madrid, 2007-09-25

Head of the Certification Body
of Environmental Management Systems
TÜV Internacional Grupo TÜV Rheinland, S.L.

