

# Thomas Armstrong Limited

## Sustainability & Responsible Sourcing Policy



Blocks, Paving and Prestressed concrete products

Established in 1830, the Thomas Armstrong (Holdings) Ltd group has evolved and grown into one of the UK's largest, independent building product manufacturers and is wholly UK owned. Key to the unique longevity of our sustainable businesses is to source materials as close to the manufacturing facilities as possible, to utilize local workforces, local skills and support local economies.

We aim to ensure that the products and services that we provide are responsibly sourced and managed by adopting best practice such as the Responsible Sourcing framework BES 6001 and other internationally recognised management systems.

### Economic growth & business ethics

#### Supply chain management

We have established procedures to ensure that our supply of materials and services are traceable, legally compliant and adhere to our Quality, Environmental and Safety policies and standards. Wherever possible we source materials, services and labour locally in order to support local economies and communities and to establish close working relationships and mutually respectful business practices with our suppliers. We use suppliers who themselves adopt a sustainable and ethical approach in their operations and towards their own employees and stakeholders.

#### Business ethics

Our business operates to the highest standards of corporate governance, loyalty and solidarity. We have a comprehensive approach to ethics supported by clear policies on anti-bribery, whistle-blowing, anti-harassment, data protection and fraud. We aim to deal with our business partners and stakeholders in as fair, transparent and professional a manner as possible.

#### Contribution to the built environment

Thomas Armstrong Limited has a long and proud history of innovation and expansion of the range of products offered. We strive to manufacture products of the

highest quality whilst utilizing sustainable materials and manufacturing techniques with the lowest environmental impact. Our products actively contribute to the goal of sustainable, low-energy construction and buildings that are made to last. Our products are fully recyclable beyond their typical lifetime and we are continually seeking ways of further enhancing these credentials.

#### Legal compliance & management systems

We are fully committed to ensuring that our business and operational activities are fully compliant with all legal, regulatory and industry standard best practices. To achieve this, we have adopted an integrated business management approach incorporating the principles of the internationally recognized Quality, Environmental and Health & Safety management system standards ISO 9001, ISO 14001 and OHSAS 18001. Our production is quality assured and rigorously checked and our products are fully CE marked in line with European regulations. As part of these management systems legal compliance is measured, documented and reported. Records of complaints, actions taken and prosecutions are kept and maintained and risks are identified. Objectives and targets are set to ensure continual improvement and ongoing adherence to our policies and legal obligations.

## Social responsibilities and commitment

### Employees

We are proud of our record of retaining a predominantly long-serving workforce across all of our plants, in many cases across a number of generations of families. We have achieved this through employing locally, providing thorough training and involving the employees in the business as much as possible. We provide as much knowledge and training to employees as possible because we believe that a skilled and competent workforce at all levels is fundamental to remaining a responsible and sustainable business.

### Health & safety

Our company's comprehensive health & safety policy and inspection regime helps to ensure that our sites comply with legislation and wherever possible exceed best practice. The safety and welfare of our employees, visitors and contractors is our number one priority and we offer guidance to the safe use of our products to end users, freely available in our product literature and on our company website.

### Employment & skills

A skilled, competent and informed workforce is essential to meeting our objectives, adhering to our policies and remaining competitive. Our management systems are designed to monitor training & awareness, highlight training needs and promote personal and professional development. We encourage all employees to identify needs in their own knowledge and training to further strengthen our team.

### Community & stakeholder engagement

We encourage good relationships and open dialogue with local communities and stakeholders who are affected by our operations and believe in an open and honest approach. Our goal is to minimise any adverse impact on local communities and maximise the value that we bring whether it be employing locally or simply being a good neighbour. We try to use local labour, materials and services wherever possible to further strengthen our ties with local communities.

## Environmental protection and stewardship

### Waste management

Our manufacturing processes produce no waste by-products and results in a material that can be easily modified on the construction site to minimize site waste during the build. Studies have shown that after the lifetime of a masonry built construction, blocks can be reused and recycled in new builds as they are completely inert and non-hazardous to the environment. Our management systems are designed to ensure that we minimize waste to landfill through the adoption of the waste hierarchy by eliminating waste and wherever possible reusing and recycling. We only use fully licensed and approved waste carriers whose management and documentation systems are in line with our policies.

### Energy conservation

At most of our block manufacturing plants, we have eliminated the use of energy-intensive steam curing by maximizing the natural ambient curing of the blocks through enhanced insulation techniques and improve the heat conservation within the curing kilns.

This has eliminated the use of energy hungry oil or gas boilers along with the associated emissions, effluent streams and use of mains water. We replace production

equipment and facilities fittings with low energy alternatives wherever possible. Renewable energy technologies are being installed at manufacturing sites on an ongoing basis. Staff will be made aware of the importance of minimising energy usage by way of regular updates and awareness campaigns and the performance of the business will be regularly reviewed in the formal management meetings.

### Transport Policy

We aim to keep our main customer base within a regional radius of each production plant to help minimize the environmental impact of transport and associated depletion of fossil fuels. We run a comprehensive fleet of vehicles from small 6-wheeler rigid wagons up to large articulated vehicles in order to meet specific customer and site requirements maximize load efficiency and capacity and reduce fuel consumption. All vehicles are replaced with new on an ongoing cycle of renewal and we always acquire the latest fuel-efficiency technology with our vehicles.

We monitor and measure the environmental impact of delivering our source raw materials to our manufacturing facilities and aim to source materials as locally as possible in order to reduce these impacts.

## Water

The addition of water is necessary and unavoidable in our products. However, all water added to our concrete mixes during production is fully consumed with no effluent stream to drain. Water additions are kept to the minimum possible in order to maintain product quality and performance. Wherever possible we eliminate the use of mains water by using rainwater harvesting and water recovery techniques, recycling any process vessel cleaning water and installing sustainable borehole water technologies where possible. All employees are made aware of the importance of conserving water and minimising waste.

## Greenhouse gases

Our continuing goal is to seek ways to reduce the energy intensity of our operations wherever possible and reduce our greenhouse gas emissions both directly and indirectly. Our performance is monitored and measured against industry benchmarks and independently verified and targets for GHG reductions are set annually.

## Recycled raw materials

The vast majority of raw material used in our Airtec aerated and Insulite lightweight aggregate concrete blocks is fully recycled. Up to 90% weight of the block consists of recycled ash from local coal fired power stations. A significant proportion of our dense concrete block and paving block raw material comes from recycled sources and we continually look ways to increase the use of such materials in these products.

## Life cycle assessment

We recognise the need to understand fully the impact of our products throughout their entire life from cradle to grave and to this end are actively involved in industry-wide investigations involving national trade associations. We consider the environmental sensitivity and limitations of the materials used during manufacture through to the disposal or recycling and reuse of the installed product at the end of the life of the building. We strive to further improve the reusability of our products beyond their initial end use and communicate this to our marketplace.

*Mr Anthony Denham*

**Managing Director**

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Serving the Construction  
Industry Since 1830