

CASE STUDY

BEMIS UK



Summary

Needs

- To demonstrate high standards of product quality and safety. To respond to demands from clients and customers
- To comply with changes in legislation

Benefits

- Improved control of food safety hazards
- Continual improvement and updating of management system
- Improved credibility and competitiveness

Background

Bemis Swansea UK specializes in producing shrink bags and tubing for high-barrier food packaging. It is part of the Bemis group of companies, the largest flexible packaging companies in America, which operates in 11 countries with combined sales of more than \$3.5 billion.

Bemis Swansea has more than 50 years of manufacturing experience, and operates from a state-of-the-art facility in Swansea Enterprise Park, employing more than 260 people. It exports packaging to 35 countries. Nearly two-thirds of Bemis packaging is used in the food industry, with the balance used in markets including medical, pharmaceutical, chemical and agribusiness.

Bemis Swansea's critical control point with its packaging is to ensure that it provides an oxygen barrier to prevent food spoilage.

Customer Needs

Issues such as food safety scares, ethical trading pressures and product quality and safety have put the accountability and transparency of the food sector under the spotlight. Several recent high profile cases have underlined the potential danger of foodborne illness to consumers, employees and brand value.

Organizations such as Bemis Swansea who are involved in the food supply chain are under increasing pressure to demonstrate the consistency and high standards of their management practices and procedures across their business. Companies who are part of ever more diverse and internationally-spread supply chains have to manage increased risk, demonstrate good corporate responsibility and meet legal requirements.

As a result of these factors, certification from an accredited and globally-recognized organization such as BSI has become increasingly important in order to remain credible and competitive.

Bemis Swansea had already achieved the British Retail Consortium/Institute of Packaging (BRC/IoP) Packaging Standard, but wanted a certification that was recognized internationally. ISO 22000 – the new international food safety management system standard – fulfilled these requirements.

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Benefits

Assessment and certification of Bemis Swansea's management system against the requirements of ISO 22000 has provided an independent endorsement of the company's corporate commitment to food safety best practice.

It provides assurance to clients, consumers, government enforcement and trade agencies that the management systems controlling the safety and legality of food are in place.

Certification ensures a continual improvement and updating of Bemis Swansea's food safety management system. It combines generally recognized key elements to ensure food safety along the entire food chain. These elements include; interactive communication, system management, and control of food safety hazards through required programmes and plans.

Mike Bird, Plant Manager for Bemis, commented that achieving certification was a major milestone for the company. "This significant accomplishment demonstrates our company's continued commitment to deliver products that meet customer requirements. The ISO certification will now extend the scope of our current food safety management system by enabling us to demonstrate the result of our activities to customers, suppliers and other interested organizations worldwide."

BSI's Role

Bemis Swansea had already established a successful working relationship with BSI in previously achieving Quality Assurance standards.

BSI was the preferred certification body for a Food Safety Management System because of its wealth of experience in the food packaging sector, its global reputation for excellence, and because it leads the field in auditing against ISO 22000.

Joy Franks, Product Marketing Manager for BSI Management Systems, said: "By being audited and certified by BSI against the requirements of ISO 22000, Bemis can demonstrate that they have the management and control systems in place to control food safety hazards and provide consistently safe end-products that meet the requirements of all stakeholders."

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