

## Technical Factsheet

# PAS 510: 2021 Plastic pellets, flakes and powders – Handling and management throughout the supply chain to prevent their leakage to the environment

### What is a PAS?

A PAS (Publicly Available Specification) is a fast-track standardization document. It defines good practice for a product, service or process. The British Standards Institution (BSI), in its capacity as UK's national standards body, coordinated the development of PAS 510 at the request of a multi-stakeholder sponsor group.

#### PAS 510 key features:

- PAS 510 is available to download and use free of charge from BSI online shop.
- It is a comprehensive, risk-based, performance standard applicable internationally.
- Adoption and compliance with PAS 510 can assure an organisation's customers, suppliers, and other stakeholders that the organisation has a disciplined, systematic process in place for the handling and management of plastic pellets and is complying with good practice.
- PAS 510 can be easily integrated into a company's existing auditing processes.
- It builds on the voluntary Operation Clean Sweep programme; Operation Clean Sweep guidance can be used to inform compliance with PAS 510.

### Who can use PAS 510: 2021?

Any company within the supply chain that is either using, managing, transporting or storing plastic pellets, flakes or powders (collectively referred to as 'plastic pellets') can use PAS 510 to mitigate the risk of spills to help reach the goal of zero pellet loss to the environment.

### What is the purpose of PAS 510: 2021?

Plastic pellets are the raw materials used to make a wide variety of plastic products. As a result of handling and management practices, pellets can be lost to the environment at every stage of the supply chain, including manufacturing, road transport, shipping and storage<sup>i</sup>. Once in the environment, pellets, along with other types of microplastics, are known to cause harm to fauna and ecosystems. Every part of the supply chain that handles plastic pellets has a responsibility to contain any pellet spills and ensure no loss occurs to the environment.

The plastics industry has developed an international voluntary programme for plastic pellet containment. Operation Clean Sweep<sup>®</sup> helps companies implement good practice and is run by the British Plastics Federation (BPF) in the UK<sup>ii</sup>.

PAS 510 builds on the groundwork laid by Operation Clean Sweep<sup>®</sup> and creates a standardized approach to risk management and containment of plastic pellets. The overarching goal of PAS 510 is to help companies achieve and maintain zero pellet loss across their pellet handling operations.

### **How was PAS 510: 2021 developed?**

Recognising the need for a standardised, supply chain approach to prevent plastic pellet pollution, a multi-stakeholder group of sponsors including The British Plastics Federation, Marine Scotland and nine institutional investors co-ordinated by The Investor Forum and represented by Fauna & Flora International (FFI)<sup>iii</sup> supported the development of PAS 510.

A steering group of external experts under the coordination of BSI provided technical input and expertise. The following organizations were involved in the development of this PAS as members of the steering group:

- British Plastics Federation (BPF)
- British Ports Association
- Chartered Institution of Wastes Management (CIWM)
- Consumer & Public Interest Network (CPIN)
- ECOS
- Eunomia Research & Consulting Ltd
- Fidra
- Fauna & Flora International (FFI)
- INEOS Olefins & Polymers UK
- Innovia Films
- Leviton
- Marine Scotland – Scottish Government
- Plastics Industry Association
- PS Partnerships & Consultancy Ltd
- Road Haulage Association (RHA)
- RPC BPI Group
- Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)
- Scottish Plastic and Rubber Association
- University of Plymouth
- Waitrose & Partners
- Zero Waste Scotland

### **How will PAS 510: 2021 help to prevent plastic pellet loss?**

PAS 510:2021 provides requirements for the handling and management of plastic pellets and covers organizational responsibilities, competence, training and awareness, risk assessment of pellet loss to the environment and operational controls.

PAS 510 can be easily integrated into a company's auditing and compliance processes. Third party verification of compliance against PAS 510 requirements can raise the profile of a company's environmental sustainability credentials and position the company as a leader in the supply chain.

## **What is the scope of PAS 510: 2021**

This PAS provides requirements for the handling and management of plastic pellets, flakes and powders throughout the supply chain to prevent spills, leaks and loss to the environment.

The PAS covers the following:

- a) Organizational responsibilities.
- b) Leadership and commitment.
- c) Competence, training and awareness.
- d) Risk assessment of pellet loss to the environment.
- e) Operational controls:
  - 1) Prevention, containment and clean-up.
  - 2) Procurement and suppliers.
- f) Internal and external communication.
- g) Performance evaluation:
  - 1) Monitoring and documentation.
  - 2) Auditing and verification of conformity.
- h) Improvement:
  - 1) Internal and external non-conformity and corrective action.
  - 2) Continual improvement

---

<sup>i</sup> ICF and Eunomia, "Investigating Options for reducing releases in the aquatic environment of microplastics emitted by (but not intentionally added in) products – Final Report for DG Environment of the European Commission"

<sup>ii</sup> [www.bpf.co.uk/sustainability/operation\\_clean\\_sweep.aspx](http://www.bpf.co.uk/sustainability/operation_clean_sweep.aspx)

<sup>iii</sup> Allianz Global Investors, Brewin Dolphin, Man Group, Environment Agency Pension Fund, Generation Investment Management LLP, LGPS Central Ltd, McInroy & Wood Ltd, Ownership Capital B.V., Troy Asset Management Ltd.