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News release

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Cortec Receives Environmental Standard Certification

ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA, USA—Cortec Corporation recently received ISO 14001 certification, a standard for Environmental Management Systems. Cortec produces and sells corrosion inhibitor products worldwide, and focuses on developing products that are environmentally friendly. Cortec is one of the first corporations in Minnesota to be awarded the ISO 14001 certification. This accomplishment is significant for Cortec's customers, especially international customers in Europe and Asia, and for the White Bear Township community where Cortec's World Headquarters is located.

What is ISO 14001 and how does it work?

ISO 14001 is a standard for Environmental Management Systems. The ISO 14001 standard states:

"This International Standard specifies requirements for an Environmental Management System, to enable an organization to formulate a policy and objectives taking into account legislative requirements and information about significant environmental impacts. It applies to those environmental aspects which the organization can control and over which it can be expected to have an influence. It does not itself state specific environmental performance criteria."

ISO 14001 provides a systematic tool for an organization to deal with environmental issues regarding its activities, products, or services. Five key elements are used to achieve the objectives of an Environmental Management System:

1. Regulations: Identify all regulatory requirements that affect Cortec's operations and products.

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Cortec, cont.

2. Environmental Management Plan: Develop and maintain an environmental plan that defines goals, plans of action, and assignment of responsibilities.
3. Environmental Operating Procedures: Document standard operating procedures that meet compliance objectives.
4. Environmental Assessment: Verify performance and identify opportunities for improvement through regular evaluation.
5. Continuous Improvement: Set targets for waste that exceed environmental performance expectation, from product design to final disposition.

The ISO 14001 mandates that an organization meets the requirements of the standard. The standard is designed to allow an organization to define the scope of their own program, customizing their Environmental Management Program to be as inclusive as they feel is appropriate while still meeting the requirements of the standard.

Why Cortec?

Cortec understands the global concern for governments and businesses to become more environmentally conscious. As a result of this consciousness, Cortec strives to produce products that can be recycled or reused. The company's philosophy is to produce "environmentally friendly products" that help their customers respect the environment. To be "environmentally friendly" includes but is not limited to recycling as many materials as possible—office paper, metal test panels and parts, corrugated cardboard, aluminum cans—and working with chemicals in a responsible fashion so as not to pollute the area surrounding the manufacturing facility.

Cortec spent about one year finishing the requirements of the Certification Audit. The ISO 14001 certification was awarded to one of Cortec's two manufacturing sites. The second site is expected to be awarded certification within the next two years. Cortec was certified to the ISO 9001 Quality Management System standard in May 1994. Cortec is located in White Bear Lake Township in Minnesota, USA.

