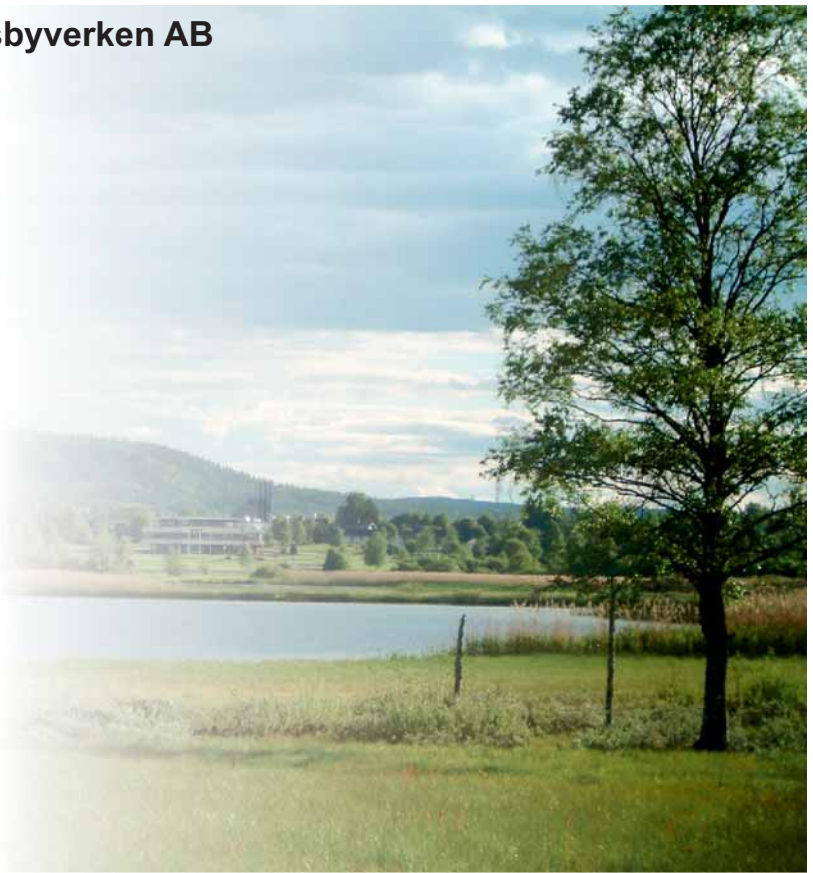


Environmental declaration



The environmental policy of Edsbyverken AB

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1. The Company and the Environment

AB Edsbyverken actively works to improve the environment in all processes. This applies to dialogue with suppliers, the development of new products, manufacturing and delivery, as well as handling and usage. The company works continuously towards seeking out environmentally friendly materials and for a better use of resources. AB Edsbyverken is certified according to ISO 9001, ISO 14001 and is the first producer in Sweden to be awarded the Swan approval mark on the majority of its office furniture assortment.

1.1 Environmental Policy

Through constant improvements, AB Edsbyverken prevents or minimises negative environmental effects from its manufacturing processes, products, transport and other operations. AB Edsbyverken always works to abide by laws and regulations.

AB Edsbyverken achieves this by:

- Continuously and carefully following developments within environmental matters, thereby creating preparedness within the company for new and future demands.
- Stimulating and mobilising all our associates' creativity and concerns for environmental issues.
- Striving to eliminate contributing materials and production processes which include substances that are environmentally hazardous and unhealthy.
- Seeking construction solutions that are least wasteful of material, and applying a life-cycle philosophy to products and process development.
- Placing requirements upon, and prioritising, suppliers who supply products and services which are in accordance with our environmental policy.
- Making our products recyclable, which means considering possible future uses at the time of construction.
Striving to ensure that transportation takes place in as favourable an environment as possible.



1.2 Environmental labelling

AB Edsbyverken has five complete office series which are Swan eco-labelled by SIS. These include our desk series Connect, Centro, Sitt & Stå as well as our Reflect and Part storage range. Our environmental approach is mirrored in our other products through the use of components from a life-cycle perspective. This includes our choice of wood and board material, metal, plastic, adhesive, lacquer, packaging and other materials.

1.3 Chemical Materials

The materials, which in certain cases are included in the products and which are found on OBS and the restricted list, are as follows:

Formaldehyde

All wood-based board materials that AB Edsbyverken uses meets the emission limit of 0.13mg formaldehyde/m³ air, according to test method EN 120. Our suppliers of chipboard meet the requirements for the Swan mark.

Chrome

Chromed details in the standard range are only used in small details, for example, hinges.

Zinc

Pre-Zinc details are used in assembly fittings.

Leather

The leather included in our products is tanned by a process that involves chrome. The process is approved according to regulations for environmental protection with Westdeutsche Gerberschule in Reutlingen. This guarantees that manufacture takes place in such a way that the environment is not damaged.

1.4 Associates

All associates of the company are continuously educated with respect to environmental issues and their consequences.

1.5 Legal and Requirements

Laws and requirements which affect production are continuously monitored in order to ensure that current demands are met. Routines and on-going working practices are updated according to current legislation.

2. Raw Materials

2.1 Wood-based goods

The wood-based raw materials which are used in the standard assortment are chipboard, MDF board, HDF board as well as veneer and trim in oak, beech and birch.

Chipboard, MDF board and HDF board are manufactured by factories that come under the constant supervision of a third party, for example, the Swedish National Testing and Research Institute, the Norsk Treteknisk Institut and others, regarding fulfilment of the requirements of European Standard EN 120. This standard provides the test method for formaldehyde separation and the class E1 states that the limit of 0.13mg/m³ air cannot be exceeded. All board material that we use is of E1 quality. The material for the boards is taken from long-term plantations in Scandinavia.

Veneer is used to cover different board materials. Oak is brought from North America; beech is brought, in the main, from Germany and birch from Finland. These countries operate an active forest policy, which means that the forests are viewed as an important natural resource that will be constantly renewed.

2.2 Metal

Metal components, in steel and aluminium, that are used in our construction are bought ready-made from sub-contractors. The steel is basic trade-quality steel. The majority of the steel is recycled.

Degreasing before surface treatment takes place partly with biologically biodegradable chemicals, and partly in facilities with simultaneous alkali degreasing and spray phosphating.

The metal surfaces are treated with lacquer in different colours, galvanised or treated with some other method that protects the raw metal surface from rust attack and other discolouring. When lacquering the metal components our suppliers use solvent-free, fast-setting powder paint, which is applied in modern electrostatic facilities with recycling. Galvanising and anodising are approved methods, which come under the supervision of the authorities concerning discharges.

2.3 Plastic

The following types of plastic are used today in our products:

- Polythene PE
- Polypropylene PP
- Polystyrene PS
- Acrylic-Butadien-Styrene, ABS
- Expanded polystyrene EPS
- Polyamide (glass fibre filled) PA6
- Acrylic plastic (Plexiglas) PMMA

All plastics are recyclable either by regranulation or burning. The marking of plastic parts for source segregation is entered gradually.

2.4 Adhesives

Several different types of adhesive are used in the production.

PVAC, polyvinyl acetate, is a single component liquid adhesive and contains no formaldehyde or solvents.

Urea-hardened adhesive is a water-based dual component adhesive that includes a very small amount of formaldehyde and, by good margins, clears the limit according to the E1 class.

The above adhesives are used in veneering and foliation

Melt adhesive is a dry adhesive in the form of granulated material. The adhesive includes no solvents or formaldehydes and is used for the fixing of trim to our products.

2.5 Lacquer, Paint and Stain

Three different types of lacquer and stain is used in the manufacture of office furniture:

- UV-hardened clear lacquer
- Waterborne clear lacquer
- Waterborne stain

UV-lacquer is applied in modern machines and hardened by radiation with ultra-violet light. The lacquers are free from organic solvents, acrylates and formaldehyde.

Waterborne clear lacquer is used in the edge spraying of components. The lacquer contains no formaldehyde and only small amounts of solvents, ph-regulated additives, anti-corrosion agent and preservative.

Waterborne stain is, in standard form, completely free from solvents.

2.6 Packaging

Enquiries always take place with the consignee to establish if the delivery can take place without packaging. For these direct deliveries the furniture is protected with blankets during the transportation.

When packaging is required, the following materials are used:

- Thin foam of polythene is used as protection for desktops.
- Outer packaging consists of corrugated cardboard cartons, which are produced using approximately 30% recyclable materials.
- The binding of the packaging is done with plastic bands of polypropylene.
- Stretch film is made from polythene.
- Sealing tape is made from polypropylene.

All packaging materials that AB Edsbyverken uses are recyclable.

2.7 Filler and Covering Materials

AB Edsbyverken only uses filler and covering materials which are approved, according to the Consumer Council's directives concerning fire prevention requirements. No products can be treated with halogen-containing flameproofing agents. The products are tested by the Swedish National Testing and Research Institute. The same demands are placed on the products that are ready made by our subcontractors

3. Transportation

We endeavour to use a method of transportation that is effective and environmentally friendly. All deliveries from the factory take place in lorries and our employed transporters work actively with environmental issues. We insist that all vehicles are driven on environmental diesel. The routes are planned for the shortest possible driving distance. If possible, vehicles are utilised to bring returns back to Edsbyn. An active delivery plan takes account of a number of factors such as quantity of goods, the customer's wishes regarding delivery, combination possibilities as well as the cost of the transport. Amongst all factors, the environmental effect weighs in the decision of choice of transport method.

4. Water Protection

AB Edsbyverken does not discharge any contaminated industrial water into the ground or the public water-treatment system.

5. Heating

AB Edsbyverken is directly connected to a heating plant that is mainly fired with bio-fuels. The factory is run with fuel from the factory's carpentry waste and from the purchase of wood chips. Apart from the company's heating, the factory also assists the district's distant heating with surplus heat.

6. Product testing

Our furniture is continuously tested at external, approved establishments, like the Swedish National Testing and Research Institute. Internally, there are continual tests of procedures and performance with our own test equipment, according to effective test standards. AB Edsbyverken partakes in the work of standardising office furniture. This is in order to obtain advance information on prospective changes in regulations.

7. Reusing, Recycling

AB Edsbyverken works according to a recycling philosophy.

- All incoming components can be recycled.
- Waste, such as corrugated cardboard, office paper, soft plastics and metal, are sorted according to type during processing.
- Waste in the form of paint is sent to RECI and SAKAB for destruction.

The company is connected with REPAREGISTRET that frees customers from charges relating to the handling of packaging. The fees for this are already paid. Export deliveries have a charge added for recycling, according to the DUALE system, and the packaging is marked with Der Grüne Punkt.

8. Conclusion

AB Edsbyverken strives to be a company that is characterised by environmental awareness in all its operations. This also applies to the education of personnel in environmental issues, in work development, in the choice of raw materials and the retailers who stock the finished product. Our environmental plan will be a dynamic plan undergoing constant improvement.

*AB EDSBYVERKEN
Sören Hammarström
Environmental/Quality Manager*

