

# PREVENTION OF PLASTIC PELLET SPILLS

## NEW CERTIFICATION SERVICE OFFERED BY BQA

BQA IS AN INDEPENDENT OPERATION CLEAN SWEEP (OCS) CERTIFICATION BODY AND ASSESSES THE PROCEDURES AND PRACTICES OF PARTNERS IN THE PLASTICS PROCESSING INDUSTRY FOR THEIR EFFECTIVENESS IN PREVENTING SPILLAGE OF PELLETS, FLAKES OR POWDERS ACCORDING TO OCS EUROPE, A VOLUNTARY SCHEME DEVELOPED BY THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION AND THE EUROPEAN PLASTICS CONVERTERS.

### STEPS TO OCS CERTIFICATION

1. **COMMIT TO THE PROGRAMME:** Sign the OCS pledge, committing your company to implement the Programme's guidelines and best practices to prevent plastic loss.
2. **CONDUCT AN INTERNAL ASSESSMENT:** Review your current practices related to plastic handling and identify areas where improvements are needed to prevent spills and loss.
3. **DEVELOP A PLAN:** Create a comprehensive plan to address the identified areas for improvement. This includes updating procedures, training employees, and installing necessary equipment to minimize plastic loss.
4. **IMPLEMENT BEST PRACTICES:** Apply the OCS guidelines within your facility. This involves enhancing housekeeping procedures, improving containment systems, and ensuring proper handling and transport of plastic materials.
5. **TRAINING AND EDUCATION:** Train all employees on the importance of preventing plastic loss and the specific measures they need to follow. Continuous education is crucial for maintaining compliance.
6. **MONITORING AND RECORD KEEPING:** Regularly monitor the effectiveness of your implemented practices. Keep detailed records of any incidents of plastic loss and the corrective actions taken.
7. **CERTIFICATION AUDIT:** Audit performed BQA, an authorized OCS certifying body. The audit will assess your facility's adherence to the OCS guidelines and best practices.
8. **ACHIEVE CERTIFICATION:** Upon successful completion of the audit, your facility will be awarded the OCS certification, demonstrating your commitment to preventing plastic loss.

OCS IS AN INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME DESIGNED TO PREVENT PLASTIC PELLET, FLAKE, AND POWDER LOSS TO THE ENVIRONMENT, PARTICULARLY IN MARINE ECOSYSTEMS. COMPANIES INVOLVED IN THE HANDLING AND TRANSPORT OF PLASTIC MATERIALS CAN ACHIEVE CERTIFICATION BY IMPLEMENTING BEST PRACTICES AND ADHERING TO GUIDELINES SET FORTH BY THE PROGRAMME.

<https://www.bqa.be/en/operation-clean-sweep>