

CASE STUDY: CARLISLE BRASS

BACKGROUND

Carlisle Brass, part of the Arran Isle group of companies, are focused on the design, sourcing, marketing and distribution of branded building products to the Construction Industry.

Carlisle Brass are unique to the industry, having two Lead Audit Assessors who assist with the ongoing development of suppliers and the Quality team within AISC. Employing around 160 staff across the UK, and a Dubai office that serves the Middle East, more than 95% of Carlisle Brass sales come from sales of their own branded products. Turnover in excess of £40m.



Carlisle Brass serves all sectors within the door hardware industry such as Residential, Merchant, Architectural and commercial.

SUSTAINABILITY WITHIN CARLISLE BRASS

Responsibility for sustainability is focussed directly from the Senior Management Team at Carlisle Brass, along with AISC in Ningbo, with responsibilities and authorities assigned through supply and quality teams in UK and China. Carlisle Brass explained how economic, legislation, social and environmental issues are their biggest challenges.

Reducing the amount of plastic and recyclable waste within in Carlisle Brass is very important along with reducing container shipment.

Carlisle Brass Commercial Product Category Manager, Martin Orr, started the process by using our volume selling stainless steel commercial lever range, by reducing the individual boxes and outer cartons by 50%. This minor change alone, freed up 51 pallet spaces within our distribution centre, whilst freeing up more than 50% in shipping container space for all orders.

SELF – ASSESMENT & ACTION PLAN

Carlisle Brass have completed assessments and have accessed the resources within their action plans. Paul Campbell, Technical manager, explained how it was easier to complete the assessments with the help from other departments on specific areas. Paul also explained how the management sector is the best sector for Carlisle Brass, as it is process driven, allowing Carlisle to ensure that they are always looking at continual improvement opportunities within every aspect of not only their business, but also with their suppliers’ processes.

ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

A Modern Slavery supplier day was an initial supplier day that Carlisle Brass attended. Carlisle Brass explained that the event was extremely enlightening and was the reason Carlisle Brass began to participate in the school through accessing resources. As a result, Carlisle Brass attended two more supplier days focused on the construction and homes industry and explained how the events were very beneficial regarding networking and provided a better understanding of the needs of contractors and subcontractors.

BENEFITS

- **Meeting client’s requirements** – As a result of joining the School Carlisle Brass has been able to meet requirements on several house builder’s supplier evaluation packs.
- **Awareness** – The school has enabled Carlisle Brass to be set apart from other wholesale/distributors in the UK
- **Maintaining transparency** – the school has enabled Carlisle Brass to maintain transparency within their supply chain
- **Networking Opportunities** – Carlisle Brass have experienced various networking opportunities with interested parties at the School events which has been of great benefit to Carlisle Brass



THE FUTURE

- Carlisle Brass will encourage their colleagues to attend school workshops.
- Carlisle Brass would like to see improved awareness by the School promoting itself, and its members at a high level within the construction industry, to include architects' practices and consultants for example.