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ISO/AS Registration Means Growth For Kansas City Company



Equipment in the Evans/Evco Corporation facility is used to manufacture a variety of pressure sensitive tapes, industrial packaging products and adhesives.

The management team at Kansas City converter/fabricator, Evans/Evco Corporation, understood the importance of achieving ISO 9001:2000/AS9100 B registration, but since the team did not have the internal resources to undertake the process on their own, they turned to Missouri Enterprise for support and assistance in January 2008.

"Not only was registration important in retaining our existing customers, but it was a means for our company to expand into markets where registration is a prerequisite for doing business," said Tom Armstrong, General Manager and Management Representative of the 78-year-old company.

Evans/Evco Corporation was founded in 1930 as a supplier of industrial paper, office supply and packaging materials. The company has evolved into a leader in pressure sensitive tapes, industrial packaging products and adhesives for bonding, gasketing, vibration control, masking and surface protection for the aerospace, automotive, printing, transportation, food and drug, distribution and electronics industries.

To begin the registration process, a team of Missouri Enterprise ISO specialists, led by Project Manager Curtis Lopez, conducted a thorough audit to determine the state of the company's existing quality management system and to develop a plan by which the

company could move quickly and efficiently toward registration.

The audit resulted in a number of recommendations about how the company could simplify and streamline its processes and its quality management system. These recommendations formed the basis of the company's plan of action and were integrated into an overview training program for management and key employees, whom Armstrong said played a very important role in the registration process.

Once this had been accomplished, Missouri Enterprise helped the company organize and execute its management review, provided the necessary internal auditor training and assisted in final preparations for the company's registration audit.

The audit was held in October 2008 and the company was recommended for its ISO 9001:2000/AS9100 B registration.

Discussing the successful registration efforts, Brooke Hewitt, Production Lead, said, "Missouri Enterprise did an outstanding job of working with us throughout the registration process. They were very sensitive to our schedule and respected the fact that the tight schedule put a lot of pressure on our normal business activities."

Sikeston Manufacturer Launches Lean, Clean And Green Project

Trena Vaughn and Vicki Myers sew a large tarp in DeWitt's custom sewing operation.

DeWitt Company was founded by Larry DeWitt in 1977 and provides a full line of landscape fabrics, knitted and woven shade cloth, ground cover, plant protection, erosion control and kennel covers.

The company is a leading producer of landscaping products and plant fabrics used by professionals in the lawn and garden industry as well as homeowners. DeWitt's high-performance, quality products save time in long-term maintenance and are environmentally safe. The company currently employs approximately 100 people in the Sikeston area.

"DeWitt Company decided to undertake the Lean, Clean and Green program for several reasons," according to Rick Potter, Company CFO. "We have a very strong commitment to being an environmentally friendly company in both our processes and products," he said, "but, also because we anticipate that this diagnostic program will result in recommendations that will generate bottom line cost savings."

According to Jason Mitchell, Manager, "Larry DeWitt's goal from the beginning was to make an impact on the environment that was both positive and affordable and promote that way of thinking in the industry and the general public."

The Lean, Clean and Green Program is a diagnostic program that helps manufacturers find ways to reduce waste generation and the resulting disposal costs, decrease energy consumption as well as improving productivity and operational cost savings.

To begin the Lean, Clean and Green process, DeWitt Company officials will complete a questionnaire that helps establish a benchmark that shows how the company rates in nine critical areas.

Next, one of Missouri Enterprise's Lean specialists will create a Value Stream Map to graphically illustrate the flow of material and information in the company's processes and the potential for improvement in DeWitt's manufacturing operations, energy conservation and reduction of waste material.

Then, Missouri Enterprise will conduct an environmental assessment and records review and an energy consumption/conversation audit and on-site assessment.

The environmental assessment and records review will focus on air emissions, waste water discharge, hazardous waste handling, solid waste disposal, recycling potential and indoor air quality.

The energy assessment will include

an on-site facility inspection that details overall energy consumption and energy conservation opportunities.

Missouri Enterprise will then use all the data collected to create a final report containing process improvement, energy consumption and waste generation and disposal opportunities that DeWitt Company can use to affect bottom line savings.

KC Industrial Crawl To Focus On Environmental Action

The Kansas City Manufacturing Network will sponsor a "Green" Industrial Crawl from 12:45 - 6:30 pm on November 6, 2008.

The Crawl will begin at the Q Hotel and Spa, 560 Westport Road in Kansas City, Missouri. From there, buses will transport attendees to three area manufacturing companies, where they will learn how these companies have made changes/improvements in their business operations and practices to become more environmentally responsible.

The host companies will be LaserCycle, Inc., a provider of remanufactured print cartridges; Performance Roof Systems, Inc., manufacturers of high performance modified bitumen roofing products; and cfm Distributors, Inc., an HVAC and refrigeration distribution company.

Following the tours, participants will be transported back to the hotel for a networking reception.

The cost is \$75 per person for non-KCMN members and \$45 per person for members. RSVP by October 30 to Donna Gordon at 816-304-7958 or at donna@kcmn.org.