

Thesis

Project 3: Traceability of installed plastic flooring for future materials recycling

Company: Tarkett AB

www.tarkett.com



Extent

Masterlevel (20 weeks), suitable for one or two students working together.

Field of study

Relevant background at master or bachelor level (such as innovation, design, mechanical engineering etc.).

Planned start and duration

At once or during 2013.

Task

Background

Tarkett AB in Ronneby develops, manufacture and sell plastic floorings. The average lifespan at customer's installation is very long, between 15 and 25 years. The used materials are most often very much intact (not significantly degraded) and therefore represent a great potential for material recycling. Today only the waste from installation is recycled.

The specific type of plastic flooring supplied by Tarkett in Ronneby is so called "homogeneous" plastic flooring. Homogeneous plastic flooring has the same plastic material through the thickness of the product (except a thin coating for wear resistance). Therefore product design by it self open room for material recycling.

The volumes for homogeneous vinyl flooring is significant, for EU25 the annual volume is about 168 000 tonnes (56 million m²). The annual volumes of wasted flooring from un-installations are believed to be lower but at the same level.

In long term we need to develop methods and processes for recycling of used plastic floorings. To day the supplier of the flooring product loose track of the material more or less directly after the sales transaction. The supplier has very little or no knowledge on where the material is installed. Therefore the opportunity for direct material recycling is lost. Tarkett AB wants to develop ideas and concepts for improved traceability of their products.

Cefur

Objective for project

The objective of the project is to perform a pre-study on how Tarkett AB could develop traceability of their homogeneous plastic floorings installed in both private and public buildings. The project could also address the possibility in new business models, such as renting the flooring

About Tarkett AB

Tarkett AB is a part of Tarkett Group. Tarkett provides integrated flooring-, wall based- and sports surface solutions to professionals and end-users that measurably enhance both people's quality of life and building facilities' life-time return.

Each of our integrated flooring and surface solutions cater to a very specific customer need. The space, how it's used, design choices, building norms and safety regulations, as well as budgets are all different – because every customer is unique and has highly individual needs. Today, across the world and day after day, people experience their lives at home, in public buildings, schools, hospitals, offices, and during sports- or leisure activities through a Tarkett floor.

At Tarkett Group, about 9.200 people around the world service customers and clients every day through sales representations in more than 100 countries and through our 32 production sites, which produce an average of 1,2 million m² of flooring every day. At Tarkett AB in Ronneby, about 550 people develop, manufacture and sell plastic flooring for different segments and applications.

More information about Tarkett is found here: www.tarkett.com

Location

Ronneby

Language

Swedish or English.

Expenses

Expenses might be reimbursed after agreement.

Please contact

Martina Lindgren, Cefur, phone: 0457-61 88 13, e-mail: martina.lindgren@ronneby.se
<http://www.ronneby.se/sv/sidowebbplatser/cefur/examensarbete/>

Application

Register your interest by sending your CV, cover letter, course list and references to the contact person at Cefur: martina.lindgren@ronneby.se
Application and selection is ongoing.



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Center för forskning och utveckling inom hållbarhet - Cradle to Cradle® i Ronneby

