

# OPERATION CLEAN SWEEP (OCS) EUROPE CERTIFICATION



## What is OCS Europe Certification?

OCS is a free voluntary program to improve awareness, promote best practices and provide guidance and tools to support companies in implementing pellet-loss prevention measures. By signing the European OCS pledge, your facility can incorporate plastic-loss prevention into its strategy.

The European scheme comprises an external audit that verifies your adherence to the OCS pledge and applies to any pellet-handling facility across Europe. When passed, we award your facility the OCS Europe certificate and a listing on the OCS Europe public register of certified companies.

## Why is certification important?

Pellet loss is the second-largest source of primary microplastics in the marine environment. As the plastics industry has direct control over pellet loss, Plastics Europe and the European Plastics Converters (EuPC) launched the European certification scheme integrated with OCS.

The program helps companies tackle pellet leakage by providing key recommendations based on six pillars:

1. Improving workplace configuration to prevent and respond to leaks
2. Establishing internal procedures to achieve zero loss of plastic materials
3. Providing training and accountability for employees
4. Conducting regular audits
5. Ensuring compliance with the law
6. Raising awareness among value chain partners

## What we offer

As the world's leading testing, inspection and certification company, with a technical competence in the plastics industry, we offer independent, third-party OCS Europe-accredited audits.

Our global, multi-disciplinary network of experts will help your company ensure compliance with requirements on the prevention of plastic pellets, powders and flake loss.

## Who is it for?

Any pellet-handling facility in Europe, including material suppliers, warehouses and distributors, service providers, trucking and railroad companies, and processors and converters.

## Key benefits

OCS certification validates your commitment to environmental responsibility and sustainability reporting strategy. Implementing the program enables you to:

- Contribute to water quality and wildlife preservation
- Comply with state regulations
- Ensure effective safety and housekeeping programs
- Safeguard employee safety
- Improve operational efficiency
- Enhance profits
- Secure your reputation in the community

## What is the certification process?

Stage A: tailored proposal for acceptance before the audit process.

Stage B: audit part one – a documentation review to check system compliance.

Stage C: audit part two – on-site to confirm implementation. Discussions with employees. Audit results are presented.

Stage D: annual surveillance audits take place over a three-year certification cycle to verify that initial certification conditions are maintained and to ensure continuous improvement.

Stage E: every three years, a recertification audit is performed on-site to verify that the conditions for the initial certificate are still met.

## Next steps

For more information on our OCS services, email: [Certification@sgs.com](mailto:Certification@sgs.com).

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When you need to be sure