



## Afton Chemical commits to continual improvement with Responsible Care certification

“We are committed to achieving our Vision of Zero Goal. That goal includes a vision of zero injuries to employees or contractors, zero fires, zero releases, zero process safety management incidents and zero noncompliances,” said Steding. “The Responsible Care certification is one of the tools we are using to achieve that goal.”

**Kevin Steding**

Director, Environmental Health & Safety  
Responsible Care Coordinator  
Afton Chemical

**Customer needs:**

- Mitigate risk and implement a globally consistent Environmental Health & Safety (EHS) program
- Bring the central EHS management system to multi-site certification
- Validate adoption of Responsible Care Guiding principles at all sites

**Customer benefits:**

- Reduced risk and consistent EHS expectations across the global organization
- Consistent policies, procedures and programs to drive improved performance
- Demonstrated the company's desire to be a responsible neighbor and conscientious business partner
- Improved awareness of, and ability to meet, “Vision of Zero” and other corporate goals from senior level management to front-line workers



...making excellence a habit.™

## Company Background

Afton Chemical Corporation uses its formulation, engineering and marketing expertise to help its customers develop and market better fuels and lubricants. Afton's products help reduce emissions, improve fuel economy, extend equipment life, improve operator satisfaction and lower the total cost of vehicle and equipment ownership.

Today, Afton Chemical has approximately 1,800 employees worldwide. The company develops, manufactures and sells an extensive line of unique additives for gasoline and distillate fuels, driveline fluids, engine oils and industrial lubricants to its customers.

From its Richmond, VA headquarters, Afton supports global operations of 6 Research and Development (R&D) facilities and 10 plants located in Asia Pacific, Europe, India, Latin America and North America. Currently, all 3 of the company's US production sites – Chicago, Sauget, IL and Port Arthur, Texas – and its US R&D center and corporate headquarters operate under the Responsible Care Management System with RC14001 certification. Facilities outside the US have ISO 14001 certification. All sites globally operate under the Responsible Care Guiding Principles, according to Kevin Steding, Director Environmental Health, Safety, and Security (EHS), Responsible Care Coordinator for Afton.

---

## Customer Needs

Afton Chemical has always had a strong environmental and safety culture. The Company addressed the challenges associated with global expansion by implementing EHS Management Systems at all of its sites worldwide, ensuring maintenance and protection of that culture.

In 2013, Afton's executive management team made the decision to achieve a new level of EHS performance and improvement by bringing all of its US sites under one RC14001 certification. In addition to optimizing performance, expanding the certification would improve consistency and align company EHS standards, policies, and procedures on a global basis, explained Steding.

"For example, the Process Safety Program in place in the US, which satisfies US OSHA requirements, is applied across our global manufacturing organization," said Steding. "Moving to RC14001 at all of our US sites has driven all sites worldwide to develop the documentation used in their EHS systems to a consistent format, following document control requirements associated with the standard."

These examples are just a couple of the many ways that Afton has improved its EHS consistency, he said, noting that only three years ago the company did not use a consistent set of EHS standards. Today, there is a "level playing field" of expectations, requiring a very high-level of performance both inside and outside the US, he added.

Responsible Care (RC) certification requires the Company to reflect on the important and ever-changing social aspects of a chemical company's business. Having the RC certificate shows Afton's customers and communities the ways Afton is being a responsible neighbor and corporate citizen, he added.

"Because of RC14001, they know that Afton has good systems and practices in place," said Steding. "We are providing information to the public about our operations, the products we produce and the risks associated with using and manufacturing them."

Additionally, Afton's decision to implement RC14001 in all US sites was fueled by the Company's desire to energize its "Vision of Zero" program.

"We are committed to achieving our Vision of Zero Goal. That goal includes a vision of zero injuries to employees or contractors, zero fires, zero releases, zero process safety management incidents and zero noncompliances," said Steding. "The Responsible Care certification is one of the tools we are using to achieve that goal."

Afton also felt that the RC certification would help the Company reach additional objectives, including attaining a 10 percent reduction in waste and energy intensity, and completing development of its product safety summaries and putting them online by 2018.

## Customer Benefits

While Afton Chemical has only recently completed the expansion of its RC14001 certification to its Chicago and Port Arthur plants, Steding says that he expects many more benefits and a positive return on investment to come. For example, simply implementing the standard at those locations has helped the company improve its risk mitigation efforts.

“Taking a focused look at the EHS aspects and impacts in each functional group, Afton has been able to better identify risk and ensure the processes are in place to address risks as they arise, including our business areas,” he explained. “Having such a focused approach has helped us identify operations we needed to look at to further reduce risk and achieve our vision.”

Afton Chemical, a founding member of the American Chemistry Council (ACC) and its Responsible Care program, identifies the

RC certification process and the implementation of Product Safety Code (PSC) as a way to have significantly “stepped up Afton’s game in the area of assessing product hazard and risk, prioritizing concerns and working with customers to better manage risk with certain products,” said Steding.

The certification process has also raised awareness throughout every level of the organization, especially among the senior leadership team. In general, there is a better understanding of the importance of the Company’s safety and environmental programs and the resources they require, he added.

For example, implementation of the Process Safety Code has brought process safety into Afton’s senior leadership meetings. Each month, senior leaders are provided with a view of the health of the

program, where actions have taken place and where resources are needed. “Our senior leaders understand the significance of process safety and how it impacts the Company’s day-to-day operations,” explained Steding.

Going forward, Afton also expects its expanded RC14001 certification to help the company attract top candidates to its workforce.

“We can attract top candidates and retain those folks because we have a Company that not only cares about its employees and their safety, but we care about the value of our products and the benefits they bring to the environment and the communities where we operate,” said Steding.



## Why BSI?

After making the decision to obtain RC14001 certification for all of its US plants, Afton Chemical put out a request for quotation (RFQ) to several companies. Among those considered was BSI, a company which already had been managing Afton’s EMS certifications and some of its quality certifications in Europe.

“In the selection process, we narrowed the field down to two registrars. Frankly, BSI was head and shoulders above the other competitor from both a service and capability perspective,” explained Steding.

Ultimately, Afton chose BSI to oversee its new RC14001 certification and manage all of its ISO 14001 certifications going forward. Afton also asked BSI to take over its OHSAS 18001 certificate and several ISO 9001 certificates in the US, Europe, Asia, India and Brazil.

“We like the way that BSI manages multi-site certification. Conducting individual audits and bringing them all together at our headquarters works well for us,” said Steding.

While implementing the new management systems and switching to a new certification body required a significant time commitment, extra work and the need to become familiar with a new team, the process has gone very smoothly for Afton, he added.

Afton is confident that its certifications and partnership with BSI will drive continual improvement across the company for years to come.

## About Responsible Care®

The Responsible Care® initiative was created to enable America's leading chemical companies to achieve even higher standards of environmental, health, safety and security performance and generate greater value for their businesses.

The RC program contains 2 certification options: **RCMS®** and **RC14001®**. RCMS® is a technical specification, based on the Responsible Care codes to manage risk throughout environmental, health, safety, security and transportation processes. RC14001® is a technical standard that combines ISO 14001 with the Responsible Care Management System (RCMS)® requirements to achieve higher standards of performance and create greater value for your business.



The goals of the Responsible Care program are continual improvement and responsiveness to stakeholders' concerns about the chemical industry's operations and products.

The Responsible Care® management system structure is focused on continual improvement in 6 key areas:

- 1 Employee Health and Safety
- 2 Pollution Prevention
- 3 Security
- 4 Process and Product Safety
- 5 Distribution
- 6 Community Awareness and Emergency Response

Whether you are new to Responsible Care or looking to take your expertise further, BSI has the right training courses, resources, and services to meet your needs. A Responsible Care package can be designed to remove the complexity of getting you where you want to be – whatever your starting point.

### The codes of the Responsible Care program include:

- Adhering to the Responsible Care Guiding Principles
- Implementing the newest Responsible Care Product Safety Code, Process Safety Code, and Security Code
- Measuring and publicly reporting performance, using the Responsible Care Performance Measures
- Applying the chosen Responsible Care Management System standard to achieve and verify results

Certification must be renewed every three years, and companies can choose one of two certification options:

1. RCMS® certification, which verifies that a company has implemented the Responsible Care Management System;  
*or*
2. RC14001®, which combines Responsible Care and ISO 14001 certification into a single, cost-effective process.

An Index of RCMS Documents and the RCMS Technical Specifications are publicly available from the American Chemistry Council.

# bsi.

**BSI Group America Inc.**  
12950 Worldgate Drive  
Suite 800  
Herndon, VA 20170  
USA

T: 1 800 862 4977  
E: [inquiry.msamericas@bsigroup.com](mailto:inquiry.msamericas@bsigroup.com)  
[bsiamerica.com](http://bsiamerica.com)



The BSI certification mark may be used on your stationery, literature and vehicles when you have successfully achieved certification and conform with applicable guidelines.

The mark shall never be applied directly on the product or service.