
CO₂ RATED CEMENT – NEW FROM AFRISAM

AfriSam has developed an “environmentally friendly” mark which indicates the relative carbon footprint status for its cements.

In yet another pioneering step for this organisation, AfriSam has developed a CO₂ footprint worksheet for each main AfriSam cement type which calculates the CO₂ associated with the production of one kg of cement. This initiative is based on the Greenhouse Gas Protocols developed by the World Resources Institute and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development. Currently, the world average emission of CO₂ per kg of cement is 890 g as per Cembureau.

The model developed by AfriSam not only takes specific types of direct and indirect emissions into account, but also weighs up the effects of interplant transportation. Emission calculations and summations are based on a “cradle to gate” approach, where the “gate” is the factory gate at which the cement is finally sold.

In the cement manufacturing process, roughly 60% of the emitted CO₂ is from the process (the de-carbonation of limestone) and 40% from fuels. Interplant transportation emissions come into play where cement is processed at more than one facility.

The actual value of CO₂ associated with manufacturing and transporting each individual product will soon be printed on all AfriSam cement bags, and this will be clearly visible to the end user. The bag will carry a CO₂ thermometer insignia indicating emissions in comparison to the world average of 890 g/kg. Characteristics of low CO₂ cement could include low fuel consumption, high mineral component extension (fly ash and GGBS or a combination thereof within SABS standard requirements) and low clinker content.

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