



• Protecting the soil from chemical spillage Arab Foam Factories Co, Chemicals, Jordan

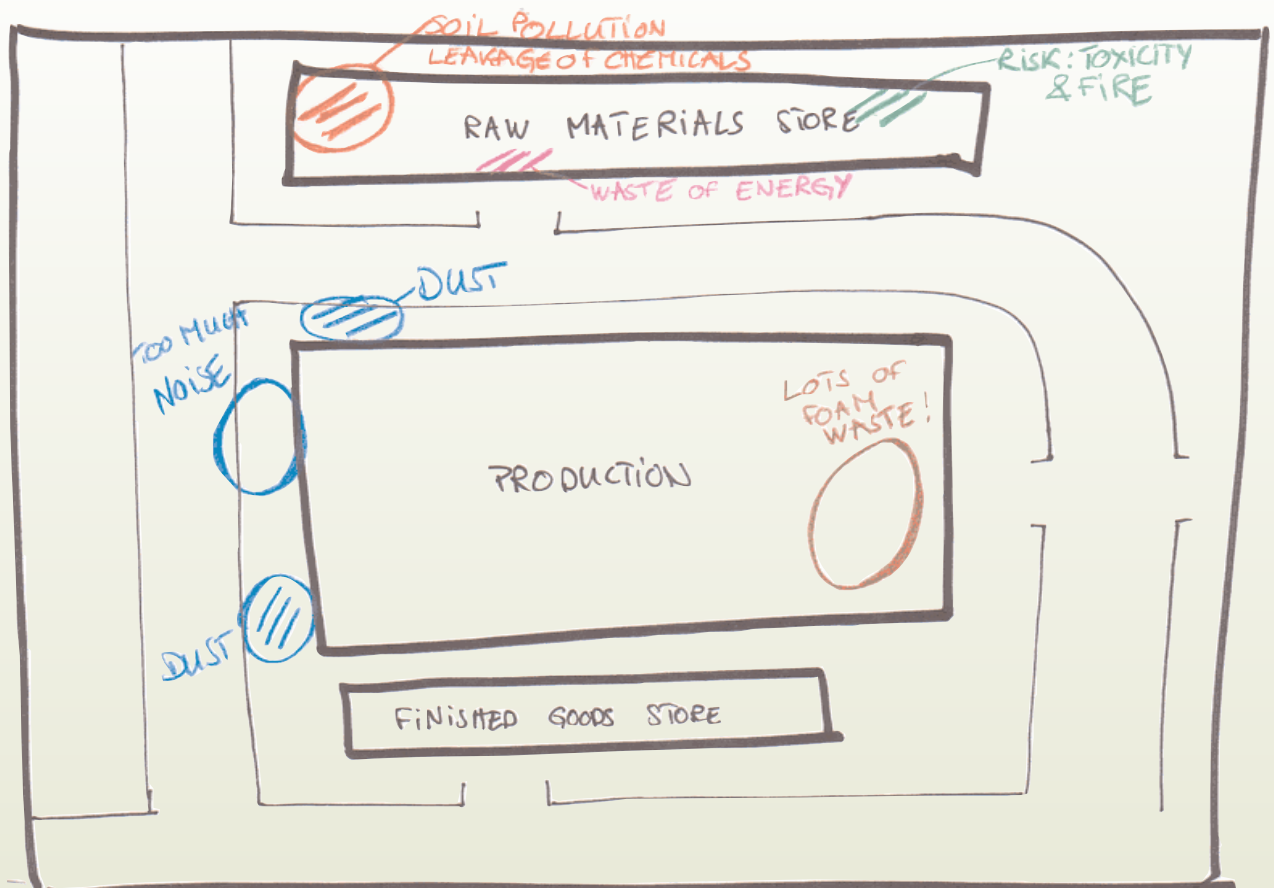
In brief

Founded in 1972, Arab Foam Factories Company is one of the major foam factories in the region (100 employees). The company is equipped with the latest machines for manufacturing synthetic sponge, polyurethane foam, spring and foam mattresses for household and industrial use. Having already obtained ISO 14001 and ISO 9001 certifications, the management wanted to concentrate on environmental aspects that could directly harm the working conditions of its employees. The buildings were quite old and not well organised. For instance, as foam manufacturing requires the use of dangerous chemicals, the storage areas needed to be revised to update and improve the safety.

Application

The first impression while arriving on the company site was the high level of noise due probably to the means of transport and to the various machines of the production area. In addition, before applying the Ecomapping Guide, the process of receiving and storing chemicals in the raw materials building was very disorganised. The discharge process from the tanker to the storage underground tanks was done manually through a hole in the ground. There was small leakage during this process which caused water and soil pollution. The management decided to change the whole process by installing a new vacuum pump for TDI (Toluene Diisocyanate) and another pump for Polyol. Thanks to this investment, the area was kept clean and the leakage was reduced by approximately 80% (i.e.1 tonne/month). Consequently, the company provided safety uniforms and fire extinguishers.

• Ecomaps



• Action plan

Environmental aspect	Corrective measures	Investment	Annual savings
Soil	Installing 2 new vacuum pumps	3'290 US\$	15'000 US\$
Risk	Providing safety uniforms and fire extinguishers	1'800 US\$	424 US\$
Waste	Reprocessing 10% of reusable waste into a secondary product (Bonded Foam)	20'000 US\$	42'240 US\$
Energy	Installing insulation in chemical storage rooms	2'000 US\$	3'770 US\$

• Mini audit *

The employees' impression confirmed the environmental aspects encountered on the factory site. Indeed, they believed that air pollution problems such as dust and odours and the reduction and control of noise were a priority and needed to be improved.

Air pollution

Noise

Raw materials

• Lessons learned

"Creating Bonded Foam, our new product, was a challenging duty for our company. Indeed, we managed to develop a new market while fulfilling the principles of eco-efficiency."

Eng. **Nael Saleh**

production planning manager, Arab Foam Factory Co.

• For further information

• WHO IS SBA?

SBA, Sustainable Business Associates is an international non-governmental organisation (NGO) working to engage industrialists in 'eco-efficiency' with the aim of minimising environmental impact and improving business productivity. To pursue this aim, SBA has initiated the DELTA Programme to sensitise industrialists to new business risks and opportunities, and to provide them with the management tools and training to move towards sustainable development.

• WHERE ARE THE DELTA NETWORKS?

The DELTA Networks are operating in: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey.

• SUPPORT TO DELTA



• WHAT IS DELTA?

DELTA stands for Developing Environmental Leadership Towards Action. Chapter 30 of Agenda 21 (an outcome of the 1992 United Nations 'Earth Summit') indicates that business & industry have a critical role to play in achieving sustainable development goals. After an initial awareness-raising phase, the DELTA Programme focused on structuring industrialists in 'business & environment' networks (DELTA Networks) in 11 countries of the Mashrek & Maghreb. These Networks are composed of key industrialists interested in taking a proactive role and leadership on environmental issues. The DELTA Networks are practical, working structures for industrialists to obtain information & contacts, exchange experiences, develop environmental know-how, and gain access to practical management tools that can offer 'win-win' options based on eco-efficiency.

• SBA

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The **Ecomapping Guide**, elaborated by the Association Belge des Eco-Conseillers (ABECE, Belgium), is a visual tool that enables managers and their staff to assess the environmental performance of a micro-company or workshop. By drawing a set of maps (water, soil, risk, air, etc.) of the plant, the main environmental risks and sensitive areas of the factory can be identified. See <http://www.ecomapping.org>

*The mini audit is a 120-second audit done by the workers to assess the company's environmental performance. The results of all staff are then consolidated in a table that is analysed and graphically interpreted.