

ASCEND PERFORMANCE MATERIALS OPERATIONS LLC (GROUP)



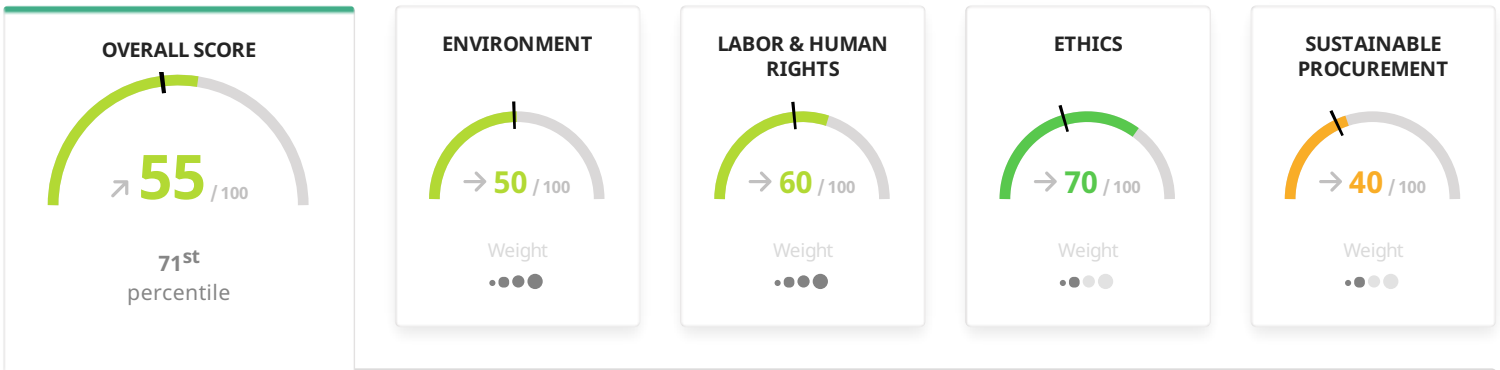
United States of America | Manufacture of basic chemicals, fertilizers and nitrogen compounds, plastics and synthetic rubber in primary forms

! Significant operations in at least one risk country

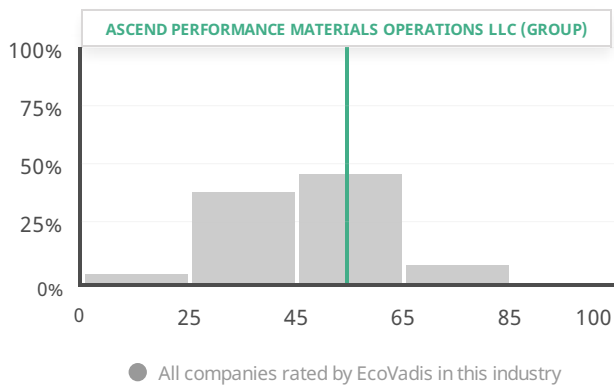
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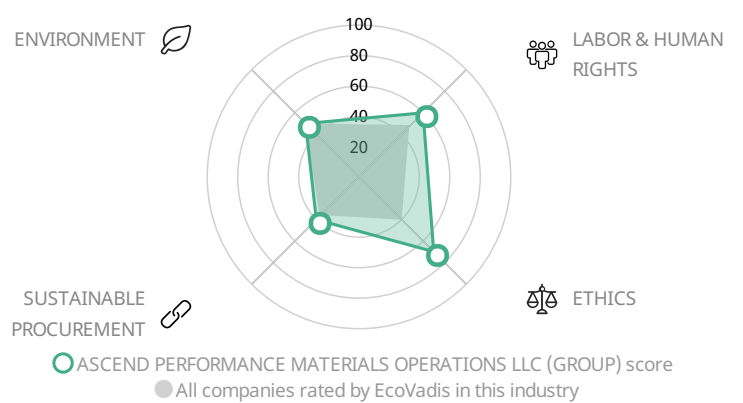
Sustainability performance ● Insufficient ● Partial ● Moderate ● Advanced ● Outstanding Average score



Overall score distribution



Theme score comparison



Strengths and Improvement Areas



Strengths (31)

Policies

Strengths

Environmental policy on some relevant issues [i.e. materials, chemicals & waste, customer health & safety, local & accidental pollution]

Endorsement of the Responsible Care Global Charter

Actions

Strengths

Company-specific emergency preparedness and response procedure regarding local pollution

Measures to ensure enclosure of emission sources and airtightness of equipment.

Reduction of carbon emissions in transportation

RC14001 certified

RCMS (Responsible Care Management System) certified

Supporting documentation demonstrates a high level of coverage of environmental actions throughout the company operation

Provision of Safety Data Sheets (SDS)

Reduction of GHG emissions through process optimization

Communication to downstream users regarding the use of dangerous substances and/or substances of very high concern (SVHC)

Registration of substances to the ECHA

Internal chemical classification and labeling system with reference to Global Harmonized System (GHS) and/or references to regional classifications

Formalized process in place to assess and document environmental risks

Company's checklists with safety requirements to support loading and unloading operations

Employee awareness or training program on transportation of hazardous materials

Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) available for all products (not web-based)

Use of waste heat recovery system(s) or combined heat and power unit(s)

Measures to treat waste gas or reduce air pollutants emissions

Infrastructure implemented to reuse water from operational processes (e.g. recover water from evaporation operation)

Company-specific research on potential health impacts of products/services

Provision of safety data sheets (SDS) adapted for the REACH regulation

Measures to reduce the sludge coming from the wastewater treatment

Awareness program offered to customers regarding product/service health & safety issues

Company awareness program for customers on health & safety issues associated with products/services

Measures for handling hazardous substances

Use of renewable energies

Results

Strengths

Reporting on total Scope 1 and/or 2 GHG emissions

Materiality analysis in sustainability reporting

CSR report follows a recognized international reporting standard [SASB]

Reporting on total energy consumption

Improvement Areas (7)

Policies

Priority

Improvement Areas

Medium

Inconclusive documentation for environmental policies on some relevant issues [i.e. energy consumption & GHGs, water]

Results

Priority

Improvement Areas

High

Reporting available on environmental issues, but some material topics are not covered

Medium

Our 360° screening has identified at least one significant controversy, fine or penalty regarding environmental issues in the last five years (see news flagged with red warning sign in the 360° section) [significant fines for RCRA and CWA violations]

Low

No external assurance of sustainability reporting

Low

Declares reporting on total water consumption, but no supporting documentation available

Low

Declares reporting on total weight of hazardous waste, but no supporting documentation available

Low

Declares reporting on total weight of non-hazardous waste, but no supporting documentation available



Labor & Human Rights

Weight ●●●●

Strengths (33)

Policies

Strengths

Labor or human rights policy on some relevant issues [i.e. employee health & safety, working conditions, diversity, discrimination & harassment]

Health and safety policy also covers subcontractors working on the company premises

Endorsement of the Responsible Care Global Charter

Actions

Strengths

Compensation for extra or atypical working hours

Additional leave beyond standard vacation days

Employee satisfaction survey

Collective agreement on working conditions

Health care coverage of employees in place

Awareness training on child labor, forced labor and human trafficking

RC14001 certified

RCMS (Responsible Care Management System) certified

Whistleblower procedure on discrimination and harassment

Awareness training regarding diversity, discrimination, and/or harassment

Supporting documentation demonstrates a high level of coverage of labor and human rights actions throughout the company operations/workforce

Formalized process in place to assess and document risks related to employee health and safety

Training on health and safety issues for subcontractors working on the company premises

Employee representatives or employee representative body (e.g. works council)

Internal audits on health & safety issues

Provision of protective equipment to all impacted employees

Employee health & safety detailed risk assessment

Transparent recruitment process communicated clearly and formally to all candidates

Regular assessment (at least once a year) of individual performance

Active preventive measures for stress and noise

Mandatory health check-up for employees

Provision of skills development training

Joint labor management health & safety committee in operation

Specific measures implemented for the integration of employees with disabilities

Setting of individual career plan for all employees

Training of relevant employees on health & safety risks and best working practices

Results

Strengths

Reporting on the percentage of workers from minority groups and/or vulnerable workers in top executive positions

Materiality analysis in sustainability reporting

CSR report follows a recognized international reporting standard [SASB]

Reporting on the percentage of women in top executive positions

Improvement Areas (6)

Policies

Priority

Improvement Areas

Medium

Inconclusive documentation for labor and human rights policies on some relevant issues [i.e. career management & training, child labor, forced labor & human trafficking]

Results

Priority

Improvement Areas

High

Reporting available on labor and human rights issues, but some material topics are not covered

Low

No external assurance of sustainability reporting

Low

Declares reporting on accident frequency rate, but no supporting documentation available [reporting is obsolete]

Low

Declares reporting on average training hours per employee, but no supporting documentation available

Low

No information on reporting on accident severity rate



Ethics

Weight ●●●●

Strengths (19)

Policies

Strengths

Disciplinary sanctions to deal with policy violations

Employee signature acknowledgement of ethics policies

Comprehensive policies on ethics issues

Actions

Strengths

RC14001 certified

RCMS (Responsible Care Management System) certified

Incident response procedure (IRP) to manage breaches of confidential information

Whistleblower procedure to report ethics issues

Awareness training on ethics issues

Implementation of a records retention schedule

Information security risk assessments performed

Audits of control procedures to prevent information security breaches

Corruption risk assessments performed

Supporting documentation demonstrates a high level of coverage of ethics actions throughout the company operations

Measures to protect third party data from unauthorized access or disclosure

Anti-corruption due diligence program on third parties in place

Specific approval procedure for sensitive transactions (e.g. gifts, travel)

Results

Strengths

Materiality analysis in sustainability reporting

CSR report follows a recognized international reporting standard [SASB]

Standard reporting on ethics issues

Improvement Areas (4)

Policies

Priority

Improvement Areas

Medium

No information on endorsement of external initiatives on ethics issues

Actions

Priority

Improvement Areas

Medium

No supporting documentation regarding an information security due diligence program on third parties

Low

No supporting documentation regarding audits of control procedures to prevent corruption

Results

Priority

Improvement Areas

Low

No external assurance of sustainability reporting



Sustainable Procurement

Weight ●●●●

Strengths (9)

Policies

Strengths

Sustainable procurement policies on both supplier environmental and social practices

Actions

Strengths

Supplier CSR code of conduct in place

Formal assessment of suppliers' progress with regards to REACH requirements

Capacity building of suppliers on environmental or social issues (e.g. corrective actions, training)

On-site audits of suppliers on environmental or social issues

Regular supplier assessment (e.g. questionnaire) on environmental or social practices

Results

Strengths

Declares using no tin, tantalum, tungsten, gold, and/or their derivatives (Not verified)

Materiality analysis in sustainability reporting

CSR report follows a recognized international reporting standard [SASB]

Improvement Areas (5)

Actions

Priority

Improvement Areas

High

Declares social or environmental clauses included in supplier contracts, but no supporting documentation available

High

No supporting documentation on the coverage of sustainable procurement actions throughout the company supplier base/operations

High

No information on CSR risk analysis being conducted (i.e. prior to supplier assessments or audits)

Results

Priority

Improvement Areas

High

No information on reporting on sustainable procurement issues

Low

No external assurance of sustainability reporting

360° Watch Findings

5 May 2021

Fire Reported Wednesday Morning At Ascend Performance Materials

<http://www.northescambia.com/2021/05/fire-reported-wednesday-morning-at-ascend-performance-materials>

A fire was reported at Ascend Performance Materials on old Chemstrand Road Wednesday morning. Midday Wednesday, Ascend told NorthEscambia.com that a lightning strike is being investigated as the possible cause of the fire.

 Labor & Human Rights → No score impact

19 March 2021

Has the Ascend Nylon Plant in Florida Cut Its Greenhouse Gas Emissions, as Promised? A Customer Wants to Know

<http://insideclimatenews.org/news/19032021/ascend-nylon-plant-florida-greenhouse-gas-emissions-nitrous-oxide/>

The Ascend Performance Materials facility, 10 miles north of Pensacola on the west bank of the Escambia River in the town of Cantonment, promised last year to cut emissions of a potent greenhouse gas in half in 2020, and eliminate nearly all such emissions by early 2022.

 Environment → No score impact

1 October 2020

Illegal Air Pollution in Texas 2020

<http://environmenttexas.org/sites/environment/files/reports/T>

Ascend Performance Materials Chocolate Bayou Plant is one among the top 10 carbon dioxide polluters in Texas for the year 2020.


 Environment → No score impact

31 July 2020

2020 TCC-ACIT Industry Awards

<http://www.bicmagazine.com/resources/people-going-places/2020-tcc-acit-industry-awards/>

Ascend Performance Materials - Chocolate Bayou obtained the ACIT Industry Award recognizing their members for excellent safety performance, caring for Texas and support for industry.


 Labor & Human Rights → No score impact

1 July 2020

Employee Airlifted To Burn Center After Accident At Ascend Performance Materials

<http://www.northescambia.com/2020/07/employee-airlifted-to-burn-center-after-accident-at-ascend-performance-materials>

One person was airlifted to a burn center following an accident Tuesday at Ascend Performance Materials on Old Chemstrand Road, according to Escambia County. The injured employee was transported to the University of South Alabama Burn Center in Mobile by LifeFlight helicopter.

 Labor & Human Rights → No score impact

14 April 2020

Siemens gas turbines selected for upgrade project with Ascend Performance Materials

<http://www.hydrocarbonprocessing.com/news/2020/04/siemer-gas-turbines-selected-for-upgrade-project-with-ascend-performance-materials>

This project will allow Ascend Performance Materials to retire assets that currently provide process steam for the facility. The shift to gas turbines for steam generation is part of Ascend's long-term sustainability strategy to improve its environmental footprint and accelerate the growth of expanding its core businesses. Ascend Performance Materials knew that gen-sets would help them meet their future power generation needs while also lowering their emissions.

 Environment → No score impact

14 December 2019

U.S. EPA Final Order With Penalty against Ascend Performance Materials Operations LLC

<https://echo.epa.gov/enforcement-case-report?id=FL-19-1623>

In December 2019, Ascend Performance Materials Operations LLC in OLD CHEMSTRAND RD, FL, received a USD 10,000 fine for 'other' violation(s) of the Clean Air Act.

 Environment ↘ Impacts score

5 September 2019

Plastic Pollution on the Rise

<http://environmentalintegrity.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Plastics-Pollution-on-the-Rise-report-final.pdf>

Ascend Performance Materials Chocolate Bayou Plant is one among the top 10 plastic related facilities to have unpermitted "upset emissions" from 2015 to 2018 and received \$60,000 for total penalties in plastic plants risk management plan violations from 2014 to 2019.

 Environment ↘ Impacts score

25 June 2019

U.S. EPA Final Order With Penalty against Ascend Performance Materials

<https://echo.epa.gov/enforcement-case-report?id=06-2019-0918>

On June 25, 2019, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 enforcement team filed a Consent Agreement and Final Order (CAFO) against Ascend to resolve RCRA and CWA violations for an amount of \$976,707.00 (The total civil penalty of \$976,707.00 is divided between RCRA and CWA as follows: RCRA equaling \$909,365.00 and CWA equaling \$67,342.00).

 Environment ↘ Impacts score

5 April 2019

U.S. EPA Final Order With Penalty against Ascend Performance Materials Operations

<http://echo.epa.gov/enforcement-case-report?id=FL000A0000120330004059638>

In April 2019, Ascend Performance Materials Operations in OLD CHEMSTRAND RD, FL, received a USD 2,250 fine for 'other' violation(s) of the Clean Air Act.


 Environment → No score impact

21 March 2019

OSHA Penalty for Serious H&S Standard Violation

http://www.osha.gov/pls/imis/establishment.inspection_detail?id=1387516.015

On 21/03/2019 Ascend Performance Materials Inc. was proposed a fine of \$6,087 penalty for 1 serious violation of US OSHA health and safety standards.

 Labor & Human Rights → No score impact

4 December 2018

Ascend Performance Materials Exhibits Sustainable Solutions at ACS

http://www.coatingsworld.com/contents/view_live-from-shows/2018-04-12/ascend-performance-materials-exhibits-sustainable-solutions-at-acs

Sustainability and performance are the focus of Ascend Performance Materials' booth at American Coatings Show. The company is showcasing a number of unique and sustainable products for paints and coatings, including: Hextranol E, an ultralow-VOC, low-odor and biodegradable coalescing aid that produces superior film integrity at low loading levels, saving money without sacrificing performance. Hextranol E works with a variety of workhorse resins and on substrates with varying levels of porosity.


 Environment → No score impact

10 July 2018

Fire at Ascend Materials early Tuesday morning quickly extinguished

<http://eu.pnj.com/story/news/2018/07/10/fire-ascend-materials-pensacola-escambia-county-early-tuesday-morning/771003002/>

A fire occurred at Ascend Material's plant in Cantonment early Tuesday morning. Escambia County Fire Rescue was dispatched to the plant for a mutual aid call just after 4 a.m. Tuesday morning. The company tweeted at 6:36 a.m. that a fire had occurred at the site. "A fire at our Cantonment, FL site occurred this morning," Ascend's tweet said. "The fire was put out immediately and there were no injuries."


 Labor & Human Rights → No score impact

16 June 2018

One killed at Ascend plant in Cantonment

<http://weartv.com/news/local/ecsso-one-killed-at-ascend-plant-in-cantonment>

One person died at Ascend Performance Materials Friday afternoon in what appears to be an accident, authorities say. According to the Escambia County Sheriff's Office, deputies responded to Ascend on Old Chemstrand Road at 6:30 p.m.

 Labor & Human Rights → No score impact

28 November 2017

Escambia County ranks 11th in list of U.S. counties disposing of most toxins

<https://eu.pnj.com/story/money/business/2017/11/28/escambia-county-ranks-11-th-list-u-s-counties-disposing-most-toxins/890199001/>

Ascend Performance Material operates as usual Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2017. A recent environmental study cites the chemical company at a top polluter in the area.

 Environment → No score impact

1 October 2017

Ammonia leak from Ascend Performance Materials reported in Brazoria County

<http://www.chron.com/news/houston-texas/article/Ammonia-leak-from-Ascend-Performance-Materials-12245019.php>

Ammonia from Ascend Performance Materials LLC leaked Thursday in a rural area of Brazoria County, the company announced Sunday. The leak was northeast of the intersection of County Road 232 and County Road 226 in the county. Ascend asked residents of three farmhouses to evacuate, the company told the Associated Press. Ascend, which has facilities in Alvin, about 20 miles from the leak, said it is working to repair the supply line that leaked Thursday. The ammonia flow has been turned off.

 Environment → No score impact

1 April 2017

U.S. EPA Final Order With Penalty against ASCEND PERFORMANCE MATERIALS, LLC

<https://echo.epa.gov/enforcement-case-report?id=04-2017-4016>

Ascend Performance Materials Llc agreed to pay \$25,000 due to environmental violations.

 Environment → No score impact

29 August 2016

1 dead in Cantonment chemical plant blast

<http://www.pnj.com/story/news/2016/08/28/explosion-old-chemstrand/89510880/>

Escambia County officials have confirmed at least one person is dead after a Sunday explosion at the Airgas Facility at the Ascend Performance Materials chemical plant in the 3000 block of Old Chemstrand Road.

 Labor & Human Rights → No score impact

7 May 2021


No records found for this company on
Compliance Database

null


→ No score impact

Specific comments

 No records found in third party risk and compliance database.

 There is a lack of reporting on KPIs regarding sustainable procurement issues.

 There is a lack of reporting on environmental KPIs.

 There is a lack of reporting on KPIs regarding labor & human rights issues.

You are receiving this score/medal based on the disclosed information and news resources available to EcoVadis at the time of assessment. Should any information or circumstances change materially during the period of the scorecard/medal validity, EcoVadis reserves the right to place the business' scorecard/medal on hold and, if considered appropriate, to re-assess and possibly issue a revised scorecard/medal.

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