

It is our core belief that health, safety, environmental protection and energy performance as well as product and process quality and commercial efficiency are of equal importance in achieving our corporate objectives. We are signatories to the Global Charter of Responsible Care® – a worldwide initiative of the chemical industry – as a commitment by management and all of our employees to drive continuous improvement and to achieve excellence in the HSEQ areas

Health



We make continual progress towards the goal of no harm to health from products and operations. We continually improve the quality of the health benefits provided for employees in many countries to prevent ill health. We encourage awareness of healthy lifestyles, especially in view of the challenges facing us as a result of demographic changes and the rising retirement age in many countries.

Safety



Safety management and the continuous development of our safety culture are cornerstones of our corporate responsibility. We distinguish three main fields: personal safety, process safety and product safety.

Regarding personal safety we strive to prevent accidents and incidents in day-to-day work and on work-related travel. According to our mantra “Nothing we do is worth getting hurt for” we strive for a reduction of hazards targeting a Recordable Incident Rate (RIR) – the total number of recordable incidents per 100 full-time employees – of zero.

Process safety relates to the secure and reliable operation of our plants. It is essential to the health and well-being of our employees and neighbors, and hence to our success. We continually identify, reduce and manage process safety risks. For example, by monitoring the Loss of Primary Containment (LoPC) – which means the leakage of chemicals from primary containers, such as pipelines, pumps, tanks and drums – to improve the reliability of our operations. We handle dangerous substances in a fully responsible manner to maintain the trust of society and the authorities.

Product stewardship is about design and development, production, handling, packaging, storage, transportation and the use of our products. All of this must be safe and efficient, and, after proper use, our products should be available for recycling and safe for disposal.

Environment & Energy



We constantly work to lessen the environmental impact of our activities, products and services, and to develop innovative solutions that support our customers in improving their resource efficiency and reducing emissions. Resource-efficient processes in our operations help to protect the environment and at the same time cut the costs associated with materials, energy, emissions and disposal management.

Economic and environmental considerations encourage us to use resources, materials and energy conscientiously. This also includes topics such as water scarcity and the purchase of resources and energy-efficient products and services as appropriate

Quality



We set high standards in terms of the quality of the raw materials and their processing into high-tech materials. We strive to improve the quality of our activities and offerings to the satisfaction of our customers and stakeholders and hence to our benefit.

For the operational implementation of these commitments, we have established an Integrated Management System covering all HSEQ aspects. We have also defined rules and regulations that comply with internationally recognized standards. We are committed to continually improve our Integrated Management System through, for example, results of analysis and evaluation, open dialogue with stakeholders and the outputs from management reviews. To this end, our objectives regarding health, occupational, process and plant safety, environment, energy and quality are expressed as specific and measurable targets on which we openly report. The achievement of these targets is supported with appropriate resources and information and the same diligence as economic goals.