

WWF ENVIRONMENTAL PAPER COMPANY INDEX: SOFIDEL CONTINUES TO IMPROVE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND LEADERSHIP IN TRANSPARENCY

The tissue paper manufacturer Group, known for the Regina brand, has participated in all the four editions of the report, and has obtained constantly improving results on responsible sourcing and socio-environmental reporting.

Porcari (Lucca, Italy), 26 November 2019 – The 2019 edition of the WWF Environmental Paper Company Index (EPCI) was published yesterday. The EPCI report is a biennial tool proposed by the environmental organisation to the companies in the pulp and paper industry to assess their environmental commitment and transparency. The Index is based on **voluntary data disclosure on 50 indicator** questions WWF considers important for **tracking a company's ecological footprint over time**. The results can be found at <http://epci.panda.org/>.

Sofidel, one of the world's leading manufacturers of tissue paper for hygienic and domestic use, particularly well-known for its Regina brand, **has received an overall score of 77.2% which is better compared to the overall global tissue category score (67%) and marks an improvement over the last survey in 2017 (76.6%)**. Sofidel has further improved in two out of three sub-categories – Responsible Fibre Sourcing and Reporting & EMS (Environmental Management System) – demonstrating how the sustainability policies implemented by the Group keep on heading in the right direction, bringing international results and achievements.

On a scale from 0 to 100, **Sofidel has achieved a score of:**

- **75% for Responsible Fibre Sourcing** (compared to 72% in 2017), related to raw material (pulp) sustainable procurement;
- **80% for the Reporting & EMS section** (79% in 2017), with regards to social and environmental reporting.

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Sofidel is a WWF Climate Savers member

- **77% in the Clean Manufacturing category** (79% in 2017), which takes into consideration the reduced environmental impact of production processes. A result in slight decrease in particular compared to the previous survey, mainly due to the lower environmental efficiency of the Group's plants following – as is standard – the implementation of new production capacity in Spain, Poland and the United States.

Sofidel has participated in all the four editions of the WWF biennial report, launched in 2013 to promote transparency and continuous improvement in the paper sector, **showing an overall score progress of 12.4 points**. Since 2015, **the Group has provided data for the compilation of the report with reference to 100% of its production**. This year, 30 out of 84 invited companies took part in the Index.

In addition to increased overall scores assessed in the WWF Index, **Sofidel is committed to reducing direct emissions of CO₂ into the atmosphere** (reduction in carbon intensity). In order to achieve this goal, the company invested in ten years (2009 – 2018) **about 100 million euros** – of which 27.5 million euros in Italian plants – **in cogeneration plants and energy production from renewable sources** (photovoltaic and hydroelectric), **biomass power plants and energy efficiency**.

Another fundamental area of action is the **sourcing of pulp certified by independent third parties with forest certification schemes** (FSC[®], FSC Controlled Wood and other certification schemes) which **has reached a level of 100%**. Furthermore, Sofidel works to **safeguard water resources**, limiting its consumption within the production processes.

The Sofidel Group

The Sofidel Group is one of the leading manufacturers of paper for hygienic and domestic use worldwide. Established in 1966, the Group has subsidiaries in 13 countries – Italy, Spain, the UK, France, Belgium, Germany, Sweden, Poland, Hungary, Greece, Romania, Turkey and the USA - with more than 6,000 employees, net sales of 1,706 million Euros (2018) and a production capacity of over one million tonnes per year (1,308,000 tonnes in 2018). "Regina", its most well-known brand, is present on almost all the reference markets. Other brands include: Softis, Le Trèfle, Sopalín, Thirst Pockets, KittenSoft, Nalys, Cosynel, Yummy, Volare, Lycke, Forest, Nicky, Papernet. A member of the UN Global Compact and the international WWF Climate Savers program, the Sofidel Group considers sustainability a strategic factor with regards to growth and is committed to promoting socially and environmentally responsible development.

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