



LEED

CERTIFICATION

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MARMO PERFETTO COLLECTION

Environmental sustainability

With its roots in the heart of the Sassuolo district, our group is among the forerunners in the world of "Made in Italy". Our heart has always been firmly planted in the Italian ceramic tile district not only because of the obvious advantages of having the entire industry and logistic centers at our fingertips. The Romani family, has always felt a deep commitment towards combining industrial demands with the needs of the local territory which was its birthplace and nurtured the growth of its business, shaping the identity of the product and the company.

For this reason, eco-sustainability has always been a priority in the company policy. The numerous investments made in the last decade have all been made with the intent to obtain a continuous technological upgrade from an environmental perspective, so as to ensure improved industrial performance while at the same time continuously reducing the consumption of energy and raw materials.

Energy saving

Among our recent accomplishments, first of all, we completely revamped the equipment in the pressing and firing departments. Five new, state-of-the-art presses were installed to replace the ten existing ones and two new, high energy-saving kilns replaced the three existing, obsolete ones. This upgrade in equipment has made it possible for Gruppo Romani, one, to stay abreast of new market trends which are increasingly oriented towards large formats (which were either impossible to manufacture or not cost efficient with the old machinery) and, two, increase the factory productivity while running a much more compact production process, thus maximizing productivity levels as well as energy and industrial efficiency. The end result therefore was an improvement in specific consumption and production costs.

In addition to the new presses and kilns, the double-circuit heat recovery system installed on the new kilns is one-of-a-kind in the world, capable of conveying the thermal energy obtained from the cooling systems of the ovens and the firing fumes towards the atomizers (systems for the production of porcelain body material) and as well as towards the dryers downstream from the presses. This enabled us to reduce the consumption of energy in these two areas of the factory.

At the same time, in addition to the plant renovation, the company has completed multiple investments with the goal to improve environmental energy performance. In recent years, Gruppo Romani, teamed up with OM STILL, completely replaced the fleet of diesel powered forklifts with ones that run with new electric technology. It then replaced all the traditional lighting systems of the industrial plants and yards with low energy consumption LED sources and, last but not least, gradually phased out all existing electric motors and industrial compressors, exchanging them with new generation, highly efficient equipment.



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Raw Material management

With regard to the consumption of raw materials and the management of waste materials, the Romani Group has taken steps to drastically reduce its environmental footprint.

During the grinding phase of the components for the tile body, the company is now able to recover all raw and fired waste in the solid and / or fluid-dispersed phase generated along the manufacturing process, and to convert them into functional resources. In fact, the use of scrap material in partial replacement of the body mixture components reduces, on the one hand, the overall need for natural quarry raw materials, and, on the other hand, eliminates the cost and environmental impact generated by the management of them if they need to be disposed of. Gruppo Romani, in accordance with current environmental laws, is authorized to recycle both its own scrap material generated internally at its production sites, as well as that produced by third-party companies which do not have the technology in place to do this.

The consumption of water has been significantly rationalized and reduced during the various production processes, and, it is only used to grind glaze materials and to wash down machinery along the production lines. The wash down operations are timed in order to use as little water as possible, and in order to coordinate its use for the grinding of materials for the porcelain body of the tiles. Similarly to what has been seen for the recycling of production waste, this wastewater management system completely replaces the use of clean water for grinding phase of the porcelain body components. This allows us to totally avoid water consumption for this production phase and therefore reduces our costs to nil and eliminates the environmental impact this waste water would have if we had to dispose of it.

There is a completely different situation for the cooling water used post production during the fired tile rectifying and polishing processes. Given the large quantities of water needed for these two operations, much more than what is needed for the grinding of body components, a closed-circuit system has been implemented which purifies and recycles the water for continuous reuse in the same machinery, thus reducing the consumption to as little as possible.

Lastly, numerous changes have also been implemented over the years to reduce the consumption of packaging materials, some of which, in 2016 and 2018, won special recognition by CONAI (National Packaging Consortium). At first, Gruppo Romani transformed the technology for applying plastic packaging, by switching to lighter weight and partially recycled plastic in order to reduce the raw materials used per unit of product. Then, by installing new, state of the art machinery, it replaced the traditional cardboard packaging with die-cut boxes, moving to an in-line cardboard cutting and printing system, capable of reducing waste and setting times, as well as, as above, moving towards lighter packaging that would allow savings in raw materials per unit of product and introducing the use of partially recycled cardboard.

Environmental authorization

All the production plants of the Romani Group carry out their activities in compliance with the environmental authorizations issued by the relevant institutions in charge.

In addition to keeping the previously described energy, water and raw material consumption in check, the company monitors the quality of waste water discharge, emissions into the atmosphere, the temporary management of industrial waste produced and the levels and impact of noise emitted by its production sites.



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The audits performed by inspectors have never detected any non-compliance with respect to the prescribed environmental emissions per the authorizations held, nor have there been any noteworthy environmental accidents. On the contrary, the continuous monitoring and the periodical testing carried out have shown our environmental performance to be well within the set parameters, for example those identified as BAT (Best Available Technologies) for most of the reference prescriptions.

Quality and certification

Romani Group is certified UNI EN ISO 9001: 2015, the "Company Quality Management System" which defines the fundamental requirements for regularly supplying products and services and increasing customer satisfaction, which has always been one of the fundamental cornerstones of the business philosophy supported by the Romani family.

The reference certificate is No. 237566-2017-AQ-ITA-ACCREDIA. The results of the in-depth inspection conducted by DNV, the accredited international certification body, have placed the Group as above average with respect to comparable companies for its high professionalism and commitment, and project it to be among the best companies of the industry..

The careful inspection carried out in all phases of the internal organization of the company confirm the high level reached by the Romani Group for which the Quality Certification represents a further guarantee of absolute compliance with procedures and operating methods aimed at ensuring that Gruppo Romani products are manufactured to the highest standards.

Environment and certification

The Romani Group is part of the pool of ceramic companies whose environmental performance forms the reference base of the EPD (Environmental Product Declaration) No. EPD-COI-20160202-ICG1-IT sector average published by Confindustria Ceramica, calculated according to the ISO 14025 standards and EN 15804.

The products made by Gruppo Romani Spa can also contribute to the LEED v4 Rating for the following different score items:

- AREA MR - Materials & Resources -

CREDIT - Building Product Disclosure and Optimization: Sourcing of Raw Materials -

Meet the disclosure criteria according to Option 2.

Leadership extraction practices - 1 point

Recycled content:

% Preconsumer recycled content: 16%

% Postconsumer recycled content: 0%

- AREA MR - Materials & Resources -

CREDIT - Building Product Disclosure and Optimization - Environmental Product Declarations

Meet the disclosure criteria according to Option 1.

Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) - 1 point

Environmental Product Declarations:

Industry-wide (generic) EPD - Free Download: <https://www.grupporomanispa.com/it/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2017/09/Gruppo-Romani-EPD-Ceramic-Tile.pdf>

- IEQ AREA - Indoor Environmental Quality

CREDIT - Low-Emitting Materials

Meet the disclosure criteria according to Option 2.

Budget Calculation Method - 1-3 points

Non-emitting sources.



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Ceramic tiles manufactured by Gruppo Romani (polished tiles excluded) are obtained by an industrial process in which the firing phase is oxidant and it performed at high temperature (ranging from 1150 ° C to 1250 ° C). During firing, any organic compounds in the ceramic product become oxidized, with consequent emission of combustion gases. Above this temperature, no organic compounds can be present in the fired material.