

First company receiving SA 800 certificate in air conditioning sector in Turkey: Alarko Carrier meets global standards...

SA8000 certificate is owned by 492 companies in the world and by 10 companies from different sectors in Turkey

Alarko Carrier, has become the first company gaining right to obtain SA 8000 (Social responsibility 8000) certificate which has been received by 492 countries in 40 different countries in air conditioning sector in Turkey.

SA 8000, which is approved by BSI-British Standards Institute is given to companies that meet European Union standards regarding topics of work safety, working conditions, health safety of employees, forced labor, organization and collective contracting right, discriminations, working hours and wage policies.

Alarko Carrier General Manager Önder Şahin explained the importance of certificate being received by saying: "We have certificated our commitment for healthy and safe working environment to customers with ISO 9000, to environment with ISO 14001 and to employees with OHSAS 18001. Now with SA 8000 certificate we are certificating our social responsibility commitment to employees and community".

Önder Şahin evaluates reasons for obtaining these certificates in three dimensions with respect to interests of country, community and company and states as:"To obtain these certificates works are conducted for years and costs are incurred. Why are we doing this? The subject can not be explained with a PR approach to look nice to the public. First of all these certificates are not obtained just to have certificates or because some people are requesting these certificates. There are serious applications behind all of them. If you have received a certificate it means that you have fulfilled requirements of that certificate.

This means that you have changed as an institution, that you have developed yourself on international ground and that you have become a global company in another way of saying it. Therefore each certificate being obtained primarily makes contribution to the quality of country. Improvement in quality of country provides benefits for both the community and all institutions. As this quality is improved further, Turkey will be able to find more place for itself in the world.

This will have returns for both community and companies. We are exporting different products which we produce to Europe and to many countries in the world including USA. We are experiencing what can be gained both by our company and our country due to our being a global company not only with respect to financial aspects but also in relation to reliance, competitive power, development of long term partnerships and similar particulars".

Önder Şahin states that these certificates also provides gains to the community and workers of institutions. It explains that one of the ten basic principles of Alarko is to protect nature and in house social balance in all activities. He interprets this principle that everything that will be to the advantage of workers of institution and community will also be good for the company.



SA8000 Certificate

He says:"All the requirements of these certificates are related with our works.For example conditions relating with environment are related with the water, electricity and fuel that we use. These are your basic company inputs.

Meaning that the more economically you use them the more benefits you can obtain.

This is requested from you by the certificates and it is stated that you should improve technology and working system and that you should consume natural resources and energy less.

And you search for ways to consume less. In this way while contributing to environment you can also make gains.

With the certificates we continuously monitor and evaluate all of them. While we are working to provide healthy working environment for our employees, at the same time we are improving efficiency of our employees and we are realizing serious works to reduce work accidents and we are taking measures. As a result of this, serious reduction in work accidents enables to avoid serious amount of labor force and production losses besides humanitarian aspects".

Onder Sahin who stated that relating with SA8000 certificate they have completed certificates of ISO9001, ISO14000 and OHSAS18001 interprets the importance of certificate for them as follows:

"We believed that we met SA8000 conditions for a long time. Alarko Carrier is a transparent company that is registered at stock exchange market.

Whoever wishes can find the details of our company balance sheet on our web site.

But one of our most important features is not only to be transparent to the outsiders but also to our workers being insiders. In the architectural designing of our company in Gebze there is also transparency. Even my room has glass doors. In this way everyone sees everyone and efficiency is improved. In time this place is becoming a more modern venue that everyone enjoys.

Hence, we are a community here and we are aware of it. Alarko is the first private company in Turkey placing corporate principles and explaining this to everyone. In each year we are participating in employee satisfaction questionnaire that is conducted globally in Carrier.

I can state as being proud that the results we obtain can not be neglected. We have 750 employees and among them 360 are workers and all of them are registered at the union.

Among them there are no workers being employed with minimum wages and 74 of them are graduates from industrial vocational high school. This is a value that is much higher than required by law. If your worker works overtime, you pay him immediately. To change the dates of annual leave you make requests to the union.

This year we also chose a representative for white colored personnel. Now they are coming to give certificates and they are reviewing our order and discipline applications. They are investigating many more topics, they are discussing with workers, and they are seeing that you are much beyond the determined standards".

Önder Şahin states that while they were obtaining these certificates an institution said: "You have created a wonderful social company" to them and he explains as follows: "It is not sufficient for you to meet these conditions for once and you have to meet them continuously. Or else in the following year they may take the certificate back but you can work and regain it. But we will not cause this to happen. Because for us workers are assets. Our annual personnel expenses amount to 19 million dollars".

Our turnover amounts to 150-160 million dollars. Who have achieved this turnover are these people worth 19 million dollars. If these people are not taken care of and if they are not feeling themselves in peace, and if they can't gain, we can not be happy as well. This is the view point and this has serious costs related with it".

Önder Şahin states that they are applying SA8000 certificate not only for themselves but also for contractor companies with whom they work and he says: "We provided training to 117 pieces of contractor companies regarding these subjects, Once in six months we are inspecting the system requirements. We are preparing development plans for each one of them. We are realizing this by making expenditures from our pocket.

We know that it is only meaningful when we improve our quality but that it is not meaningful at a determinant level. Because we are realizing works with these people and companies. If we don't improve their qualities just like us, we can not maintain our quality in the end".

Alarko Carrier, made application to BSI for certification inspection as a result of works they carried out with the teams they established on the road to obtaining SA8000 certificate and as a result of training seminars they organized for their workers.

Following an inspection period of one week they gained right to obtain SA 8000 certificate. An international team being constituted of experts in inspection sector investigated conformity pay roll records of both the personnel of Alarko Carrier and personnel of institutions they worked with in side industries, with the laws.

At the final stage the team made work place satisfaction survey with ten blue colored and ten white colored employees being selected among the company workers and by considering the conformity of outcomes being obtained with the standards, it is decided to give SA 8000 certificate to Alarko Carrier.