



Your partner  
in progress

# Preventing Plastic Pellet Loss with OCS Europe Certification

- › Achieve OCS certification with BSI's accredited third-party audits
- › Strengthen control, reduce environmental risk and respond to regulatory requirements



## Addressing plastic pellet losses

### Microplastics: A growing environmental concern

Plastic pellets are among the most significant sources of unintentional microplastic releases, persisting in ecosystems and impacting human health.

**Pellet losses can occur at multiple stages of the plastics value chain:** production, recycling, compounding, processing, storage, packaging, transport and container cleaning.

Effective loss prevention requires a **coordinated approach across the supply chain** with all parties involved committed to best practices.

### Structured industry commitment

To tackle pellet loss, the plastics industry has established a shared prevention framework centered around **Operation Clean Sweep® (OCS)**, a voluntary global initiative launched in 2015 to promote best practices and achieve zero pellet loss.

In 2020, Plastics Europe and the European Plastics Converters (EuPC) committed to developing a **European OCS certification scheme** to verify and demonstrate that effective pellet loss prevention measures are consistently applied across the entire plastics value chain.

## The 6 pillars of the OCS Programme

### Towards zero pellet loss

By signing the OCS pledge, each facility commits to a clear set of operational principles designed to prevent pellet loss at source. The six commitments are:

1. Improve worksite setup to prevent and address spills
2. Create and publish internal procedures to achieve zero pellet loss
3. Provide employee training and accountability for spill prevention, containment, clean-up and disposal
4. Regularly audit performance
5. Comply with applicable national and local regulations on industrial plastics containment
6. Encourage partners, including contractors, transporters and distributors to adopt the same practices

These six pillars form the **basis of the requirements of the OCS Europe certification.**

# The OCS Europe Certification

OCS Europe certification provides **independent, facility-level verification** that your operations align with recognized industry best practices for pellet loss prevention.

## Who is it for?

OCS Europe certification is designed for **any organization handling plastic pellets**, including:

- Producers, compounders and converters
- Recycling and masterbatching operations
- Storage, packaging and distribution facilities
- Transport and logistics operators

It helps organizations address regulatory requirements and demonstrate leadership in environmental performance.

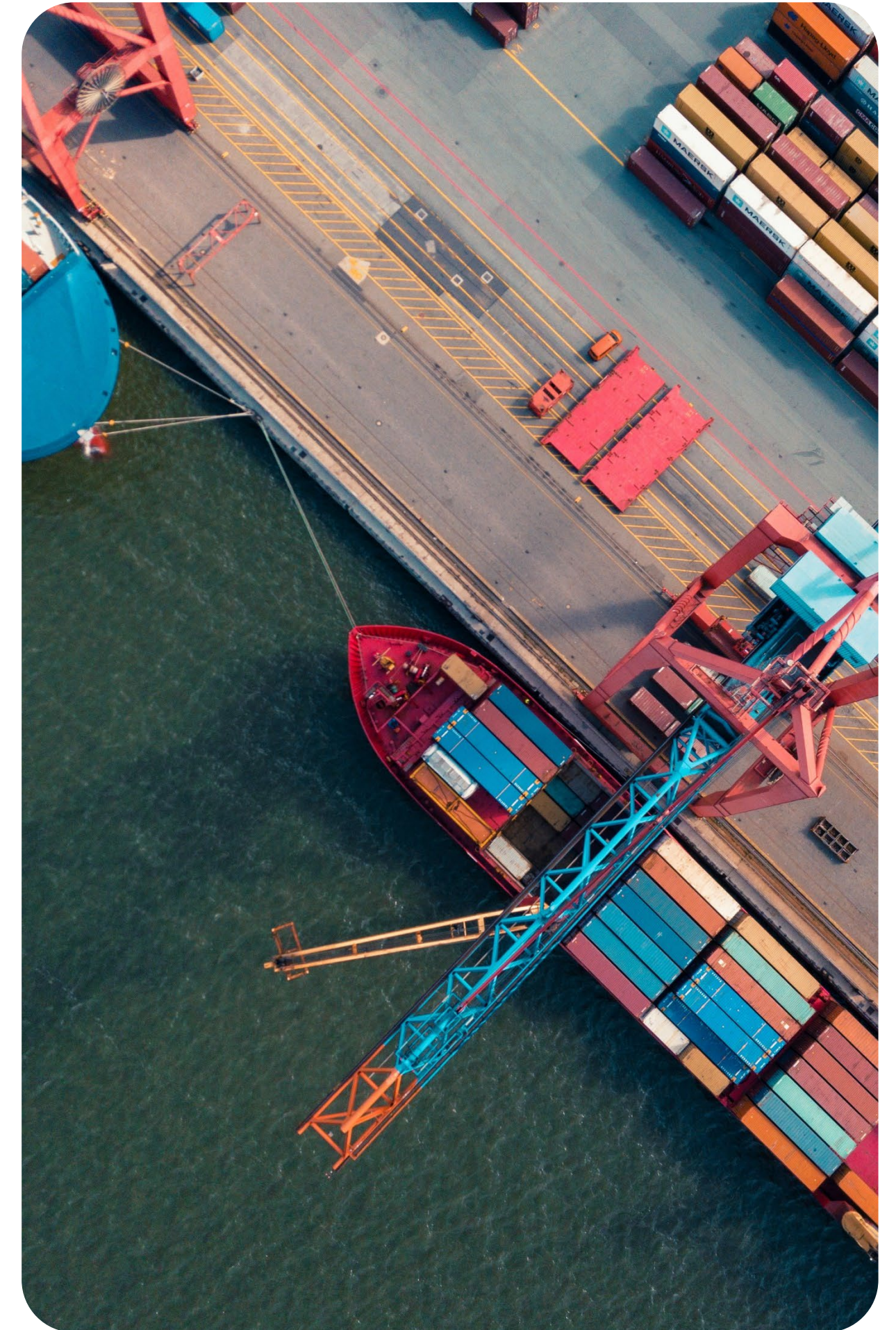
# Certification journey

Certification is a **practical, credible framework** to:

- Minimize pellet loss and environmental impact.
- Structure operational procedures and risk management.
- Demonstrate accountability to regulators, customers and stakeholders.
- Respond to regulatory requirements such as Regulation (EU) 2025/2365.
- Enhance credibility across the supply chain

## Certification & recognition

- As an approved OCS Europe Certification Body, BSI conducts a documentation review and third-party onsite audit.
- Following a successful audit, you are awarded the OCS Europe certification and your facility is listed in the official OCS Europe register. Certification is valid for three years, with annual surveillance audits.
- The whole process is designed to allow organizations to progressively strengthen their systems.



# New regulatory context

## Regulation (EU) 2025/2365

The EU Zero Pollution Action Plan sets a 2030 target to reduce microplastics released into the environment by 30%. The new **Regulation (EU) 2025/2365** introduces a **common European framework** to prevent plastic pellet losses **across all stages of the supply chain**.

The Regulation establishes a systematic risk-based approach to preventive and control measures, implemented across operations, aiming to achieve zero pellet losses. It also lays down **obligations** for handling plastic pellets and introduces **penalties**, financial and/or criminal, depending on the severity of **violation**.

## Who is impacted?

The Regulation applies to:

- **Economic operators** handling more than 5 tonnes of plastic pellets per year in the EU
- **Specific facilities:** Operators managing installations for cleaning plastic pellet containers and tanks in the EU
- **Logistics providers:** EU and non-EU carriers transporting plastic pellets within the EU
- **Supply chain participants:** Shippers and operators transporting plastic pellets within the EU

Economic operators are typically manufacturers, authorised representatives, importers, distributors or a person that is part of the product supply chain.

## A phased approach

- **From December 2025: Core requirements** apply, including preventing pellet losses, taking corrective actions when losses occur, training employees, and tracking/reporting handled and lost quantities.
- **From December 2027: additional obligations** come into force, such as notifying authorities of incidents, implementing risk management plans, meeting labeling and information requirements.  
For large operators (handling 1500+ tonnes/year), certification of compliance with Annex I requirements is required.
- **From December 2028:** Specific responsibilities extend to maritime transport actors.

## Relationship with OCS Europe certification

The **Regulation builds on** the principles of Operation Clean Sweep (OCS) and the OCS Europe Standard, with **direct references** to the OCS principles and requirements.

Certification to the OCS Europe Standard is expected to be an appropriate measure for meeting the certification requirements outlined in Article 5 of Regulation (EU) 2025/2365



# Why BSI

BSI is an **approved OCS Europe Certification Body** with extensive experience in auditing environmental management systems globally.

Our auditors combine technical expertise with practical experience in sustainability and compliance, so the certification process is thorough and efficient.

By integrating OCS Europe certification with standards such as ISO 14001, BSI helps organizations embed pellet loss prevention into a broader, structured management system strengthening their overall approach to sustainability.

## Take the next step

Prepare your organization for the future of plastic pellet management.

**Start your OCS Europe certification journey with BSI today.**



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