

# SAFE WORKPLACE

Employee health and safety are key concerns for Datwyler. This is why the management assigned a high level of importance to this topic in the materiality analysis and placed it in the 'Strategic focus' category accordingly.

Datwyler is pursuing a vision of accident- and injury-free production plants and distribution centres. This is why the Group and those responsible under the Code of Conduct are committed to ensuring a safe and healthy working environment and providing employees with regular training. This applies to the technical planning of workplaces, facilities, and processes, and also to safety management and people's individual behaviour as they go about their day-to-day work.

## Accident-related absences within 'good practice' standards

Given that the Sealing Solutions division is involved in the industrial manufacture of elastomer seals, the risk of accidents is higher than at the Technical Components division, which operates as a high-service distributor. This difference in the potential risk was also evident in the 2016 reporting year, with the trade-based side of the business recording no days of absence due to workplace accidents. The equivalent

figure for the Sealing Solutions division was 1'744 days' absence. Expressed per full-time equivalent, this figure equates to 0.25 days' absence for the year as a whole at Group level. This figure is exactly equal to the 'Good Practice' figure quoted by SUVA, the Swiss Accident Insurance Fund. A bigger concern than accident-related absence is absence due to illness. Days of absence due to illness for the Sealing Solutions division amounted to 33'301 in the reporting year, with the Technical Components division clocking up 10'754 days. At Group level, this equates to 6.25 days' illness per full-time equivalent. This figure is negatively affected by longer periods of absence. The data covers all Datwyler Group employees at all sites, including temporary staff.

## Audit and production system at Sealing Solutions

At the Sealing Solutions division, an overall Environment Health and Safety (EHS) Manager is responsible for coordinating issues relating to workplace safety. This person is supported by a dedicated EHS officer at each plant. Regular audits at the 18 production plants help raise awareness among the management and employees. The overall EHS Manager also records the findings from audits and individual accidents in a central database so all plants can learn from each other. With the introduction of the integrated Datwyler Production System in spring 2017, workplace safety will become an integral dimension of the drive for operational excellence. The other five dimensions are people, safety, quality, delivery and costs. The Production System enables Datwyler to develop uniform production processes for all plants in every continent (see also p. 12 of the 'Sustainable quality products' text).

### KEY POINTS IN BRIEF

- **Regular** audits and training courses help raise awareness of workplace safety among the management and employees.
- **In** the reporting year, Datwyler recorded 6.25 days' absence per full-time equivalent due to illness and 0.25 days' absence per full-time equivalent due to workplace accidents.



There are clear safety regulations for workplaces with potential risks.