

LEADING QUALITY PRODUCTS

The Datwyler Group stands for more than just its products. Across all parts of the business, the focus is on constantly improving the processes. The resulting expertise, which is growing all the time, is passed on to customers accordingly.

Top-quality standards and reliability represent significant success factors which clients really value in terms of their collaboration with Datwyler. This is also reflected in the corporate value of 'We excel in what we do'. The companies within the Datwyler Group are continuously investing in even better materials and process technologies, production equipment and testing methods.

Quality assurance through standardised processes

Corporate processes are based on the new production system at the Sealing Solutions division (see below) and the internationally recognised quality assurance systems. For example, all plants making products for the automotive industry are certified in accordance with ISO/TS 16949. The health care plants, with the exception of the US plant in Pennsauken, have ISO 15378 certification (Primary packaging materials for medicinal products). Automatic camera inspections and state-of-the-art clean room technologies, among other things, ensure impeccable quality for the 30 billion plus manufactured components. In addition, the effects of all products on the health and safety of users are examined. Line functions involved in procurement and production are supported by a global quality assurance function with some 18 employees and by a local team for each plant.

30 billion
manufactured components a year.

Statutory information obligations as minimum standards

Almost all Datwyler Group products are subject to statutory information obligations in the countries where they are used. Chemicals legislation and the EU REACH and RoHS regulations regarding the physical composition of products are of particular relevance. REACH (EU Regulation 1907/2006) governs the registration, assessment and approval of chemical substances within the European Union. REACH is important to both Datwyler divisions. RoHS (EC Directive 2002/95/EC) prohibits certain substances in the manufacture and processing of electrical and electronic devices and components and is relevant to the Technical Components division. Datwyler high-service distributors are responsible for ensuring imported products comply with national laws and standards – while the range of over 250'000 products keeps changing and growing. They do this by issuing specifications and safety data sheets to suppliers and through product inspections. With Teco Asia, Datwyler has a procurement organisation – based in the Chinese city of Shenzhen – with around 35 of its own specialist employees. Again in the 2018 reporting year, the Datwyler Group did not record any incidents where provisions of conduct relating to the impact of products on the health and safety of users were not complied with.



The Datwyler distributors assume responsibility for ensuring that the electronic components in the markets served are in compliance with national laws and norms.



In the development of new products, Datwyler utilises diverse simulation technologies to optimise functionality and the amount of materials needed.

Proactive chemical compliance management

The Datwyler Sealing Solutions division meets a variety of chemical law requirements at its production locations as well as additional industry and customer-specific rules. Standardised and transparent procedures for selecting raw materials and other materials make sure of this. Manufacturing elastomer products requires the use of various chemicals such as polymers, fillers, curing agents, and antioxidants. Datwyler examines the effects of all substances used on the health and safety of employees and users as well as on the environment. With its systematic chemical compliance management, the company goes above and beyond the legal requirements, thereby setting leading standards worldwide in the elastomer industry. By using all globally available information on the substances used, Datwyler proactively identifies substances of concern that are particularly hazardous to health and harmful to the environment. New studies (for example, by the REACH chemical legislation in Europe) can cause substances that were previously considered unproblematic to be reevaluated. This might even result in these substances having to be seen as substances of concern in the future. As soon as there are any indications of new risks, Datwyler prohibits the use of these substances internally for the development and production of new elastomer products. In existing products, Datwyler has started replacing substances of concern in coordination with the customer. As one of the few manufacturers of elastomer products, Datwyler consistently and uniformly implements the findings of the systematic chemical compliance management at all plants worldwide. We do this even if the national laws still permit the use of certain substances of concern. Examples of substances of concern that have been replaced early and voluntarily are mineral oil and phthalate softeners or bisphenol A. Proactive worldwide chemical management offers several advantages: We increase the occupational safety of our employees and reduce environmental impact in the manufacturing, use, and later disposal of our products. In addition, our global customers benefit from particularly safe elastomer compounds

12'000
packages a day containing
electronic components.

for their products from all Datwyler plants. And in the long term, there will be less of a need for costly reformulations of elastomer compounds.

A vision of integrated product development

With a view to picking up on trends in technology and ensuring the business remains innovative, Datwyler also works with higher education institutions, international standardisation committees and independent testing bodies. And in future, Datwyler is keen to place more emphasis on 'Ecodesign' when developing products. This is particularly true of the Sealing Solutions division and includes developing environmentally friendly elastomer compounds, optimising design to save on materials, reducing process-related waste and using reusable or recyclable packaging and boxes. In the distribution business, the focus is on optimising packaging materials.

KEY POINTS IN BRIEF

- **Corporate** processes are based on the internationally recognised quality assurance systems and the new production system at the Sealing Solutions division.
- **Thanks** to standardised processes and safety data sheets, Datwyler ensures its products comply with national laws and standards.
- **With** its proactive chemical compliance management, the company goes above and beyond the legal requirements.
- **Objectives:** Datwyler will be looking to promote 'Ecodesign' at the Sealing Solutions division and optimise packaging materials at the Technical Components division.