

Safety First

The IVPS E-Magazine

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IVPS

Interessenverbund Persönliche
Schutzrüstung e.V.



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Safe. First-rate. Informed.

Welcome to the first edition of the **IVPS Safety First** e-magazine. Safety First... I was drawn to the title straightaway. In a time of great uncertainty and an incredible pandemic that makes us all too aware of the lack of certainty in our world, it's all about one thing – safety.

Keeping people safe and protected has become more important than ever before. It's the number one priority at the moment and has vividly brought home to us just how significant it is in today's world.

Established in 1992, IVPS (Association of Personal Protective Equipment) has always focused on safety – for people, for workers in virtually any job and dangerous situation.

IVPS is an alliance of companies and organisations who produce or supply personal protective equipment and it covers a variety of PPE segments: from respiratory protection, eye and ear protection, hand and foot protection through to fall protection and protective clothing for specific situations. In these pandemic times, our sector has not only proved that protecting people is of the utmost importance to us but has also achieved truly amazing things. And we can be very proud of that.

About me: Martin Leusmann, Managing Director of the UVEX SAFETY GROUP and a member of the IVPS Board of Directors since the end of 2016 and the chairperson of the IVPS Board of Directors since November 2021. My main objective in both positions is to communicate the high quality of occupational safety in Germany and of the products offered by German manufacturers as well as to represent and safeguard the interests of our sector to the national legislator as well as to the European Commission, national and European authorities, etc. The 30 companies in IVPS and its dedicated Board of Directors support these goals.

We created this magazine to show our readers the complex and invaluable world of PPE manufacturers and to find supporters for our association who not only value dialogue and service, but also want to benefit from them.

Take a look inside and discover the topics we have chosen to share in our very first magazine. You will find more information on our website: IVPS.de, and at our headquarter in Cologne, Germany.

Happy reading!

Martin Leusmann



Product News



„Skyvest“ – Airbag vest for low heights

New on the market: the Skyvest from Skylotec. It has been designed to reduce injuries in the event of a fall from a low height. The Skyvest is equipped with an intelligent airbag system that protects all essential parts of the body and works without the use of cables. The vest provides maximum safety for activities at heights between 1.70 and 3.20 metres.



Colourful masks – Colour up your Life!

MSK was the first manufacturer in Germany to launch colourful masks that could also be custom printed. These face coverings with a nose clip can now add colour to customers' lives as well.



The new saVior – New name, new design, new standard

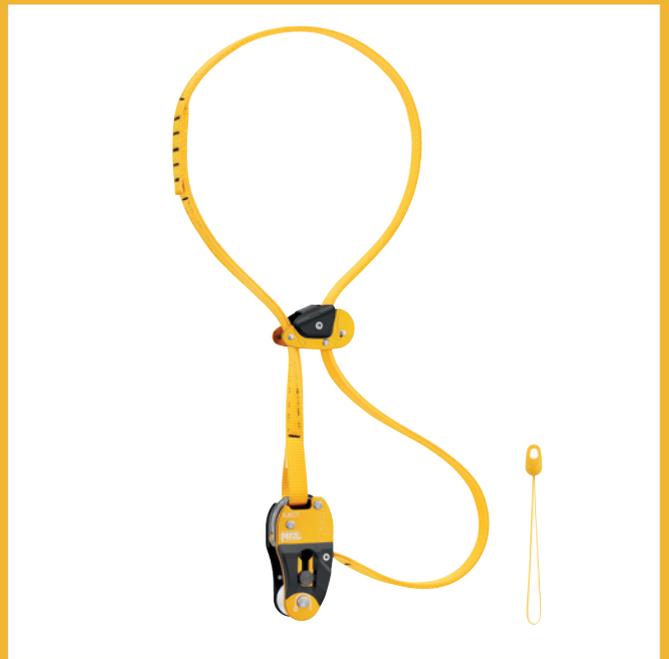
After the EN 469:2020 was updated, existing protective suits with the standard EN 469:2005 also had to be adapted. This led to the development of a new LHD model: saVior.

As the successor of the popular V-Force protective suit, it is based on the successful cut and features of this bestseller, while its design and specific functional elements have been adapted to comply with the new standard.



The new Multimask Pro with a click adaptor

PM Atemschutz has developed a new generation of the e-breathe Multimask Pro with a face seal that can quickly and easily be clicked into the frame of the mask. The innovative concept of the e-breathe Multimask Pro is based on a modular face shield, which can be operated with a powered air-purifying respirator (PAPR) or compressed air. The Multimask Pro addresses a broad spectrum of applications and requirements.



EJECT – Improved tree care

Designed for tree care, the EJECT friction saver by PETZL allows the work rope to be set up without damaging the tree, even in narrow forks. It offers multiple setup configurations on one or two branches and has an adjuster that allows the length of the friction save to be adapted precisely. Rope ascents and movement along the tree are optimised thanks to the high efficiency pulley, which facilitates rope gliding at the anchor. The included retrieval ball makes the system easily retrievable from the ground.



High-vis Green collection – Sustainable & trendsetting

The Fristads Green High Visibility collections fulfil the growing demand for high-visibility clothing in the transportation and construction industries. They essentially allow anyone who needs additional visibility at work to choose workwear that is functional, comfortable and sustainable. The new high-vis clothing comes with an Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) that discloses the entire water and electricity consumption, waste, fuel consumption and global warming potential as a result of manufacturing every single item of clothing.

SMEs can move mountains

SKYLOTEC stands for
innovation in PFPE

This edition of our magazine sees our IVPS editorial team visit SKYLOTEC, one of our IVPS member companies, in Neuwied, Germany. A modern and inviting building awaits us. We are here to meet the managing director, Dr Kai Rinklake, who wants to give us an insight into his company and to talk about the innovative strength of a medium-sized PPE manufacturer.



IVPS magazine: Dr Rinklake, could you briefly explain who SKYLOTEC is and what makes your company stand out?

Rinklake: As an independent family-run company, SKYLOTEC is a global leader in all areas where height safety is important. We supply innovative products and services for personal fall protection equipment and safety systems for sport activities and industrial use. SKYLOTEC employs around 900 people worldwide and has its own production facilities in Germany, Hungary, Italy, Romania, Slovenia and Sweden as well as subsidiaries around the world.

IVPS magazine: During our tour of your premises we met friendly, open-minded employees and saw signs conveying the messages and values of your corporate philosophy. Why so conspicuous?

Rinklake: Because we want to make these values visible to everybody and want to be always conscious of them. For example, let's say you're having personal problems and you read an inspirational text or quote that helps you cope better. The more you read it, the better you will feel and the more ingrained it will become.

IVPS magazine: Nice comparison. What are your values that you want to see instilled in everybody's mindset?

Rinklake: In a nutshell, we are
 SOLID
 ENERGETIC
 FAMILIAR
 LEADING
 INFORMED
 EXPRESSIVE

We obviously also added a small explanatory sentence on our signs.

IVPS magazine: Dr Rinklake, what does innovation mean for you?

Rinklake: Well, you first need creativity, which I define as the intellectual activity of mainly individuals, to come up with a novel idea and to picture it in your mind's eye. Innovation is the next step, namely turning it into something tangible. Something with a practical user value that pays into the success of a company. Innovation demands implementation, an applicable result and this requires a team effort. Hardly an innovation today is so lacking in complexity that a single engineer, programmer or marketing expert can make a success of their idea by themselves.

IVPS magazine: So, to put it bluntly, SMEs and innovation

do not rule each other out per se? But large companies have many more resources.

Rinklake: SMEs are well-positioned to create and implement innovations to some extent. On the surface it seems as though very large organisations, corporations with larger budgets and a broader expertise are in a better position to deliver innovations. However, the level of bureaucracy behind it all often stands in the way. I see us as a speedboat that can easily keep up with a powerful tanker.

IVPS magazine: Did you implement any innovative concepts during the pandemic?

Rinklake: Yes, we very quickly recognised the signs of the time and developed a new product range – respiratory protection – here in Neuwied, with its own laboratory and machinery. We invested in five modern production facilities to ensure we could continue producing medical face masks and masks for respiratory protection beyond the pandemic. Thanks to our PPE expertise, we were quickly able to set up production in Germany and supply customers with high-quality products and with short delivery routes.

IVPS magazine: Just one final question. Do you have a mantra that you say every morning before starting your day?

Rinklake: Every morning is definitely different, but this one comes to mind right now: "TODAY is the first day of the rest of my life." Once you are conscious of this, you will also realise that every day is a fresh start, an opportunity to come up with a new idea and to make it successful as there is no time to lose.

Thank you very much, Dr Kai Rinklake.



PPE Compact



Impact of the new European Market Surveillance Regulation (EU) 2019/1020 (MSR) on the PPE industry:

The new MSR drawn up by the European legislator forms a central legal basis for a number of product legislations, including all CE guidelines/regulations, and states the obligations of economic operators and the enforcement powers of market surveillance authorities regarding the distribution of non-compliant products. It includes a newly defined economic operator – the fulfilment service provider – and broadens the term “placing on the market” for online sales.

Applicability to PPE products:

The PPE Regulation 2016/425 already regulates the fundamental obligations of PPE manufacturers (Article 8)

and also specifies the powers of market surveillance authorities (Articles 38 and 41). Nonetheless, PPE products are also subject to the new MSR. Annex I 62 of the MSR stipulates the applicability of the MSR to the PPE Regulation. In this respect, the MSR repeats many provisions for PPE manufacturers and PPE products described in the PPE Regulation. Some parts of the MSR are indeed slightly more specific.

MSR start date:

The new Market Surveillance Regulation came into force on 16th July 2021.

Practical impact of the new MSR for the PPE industry:

In addition to the existing provisions in the PPE Regulation, the new MSR is of great importance for PPE products offered for sale online:

➔ **Market surveillance authorities can take measures against online platforms**

Previously, when a non-EU manufacturer offered a non-compliant product on an EU platform, it was usually not able to take legal measures against the platform operator. They were not an economic operator as they did not distribute the product themselves, but rather only offered their platform and in certain cases specific services. But Article 3(13) of the MSR now also regards fulfilment service providers as economic operators. According to Article 3(11) of the MSR, the fulfilment service provider is then responsible for non-compliant products when it offers at least two of the four defined commercial services (warehousing, packaging, addressing and dispatching, without having ownership of the products involved). The aim is to ensure that products sold directly to end users cannot evade market surveillance authorities.

➔ **The point in time when a product is placed on the market is decisive for e-business**

The point in time when a product is placed on the market determines the product safety regulations it has to comply with. This is when an economic operator makes a product available for the first time on the EU market. PPE products are offered for sale on an online portal before this point in time. In this respect, the new MSR has brought forward this point in time for distance selling. A product offered for sale online shall be deemed to be placed on the market if the offer is targeted at end users in the EU, according to Article 6 of the MSR. This means that it does not need to have already been sent. This gives market surveillance authorities the power to take measures before a product is made available, e. g. prohibit distribution. However, PPE manufacturers who also sell their products online can benefit from the point in time they place a compliant product on the market, e. g. when a new standard or law is announced.

➔ **Domino effect from measures taken by national authorities**

If a market surveillance authority of one member state decides to e. g. prohibit the distribution of a product in their country, this measure has an impact on all other member states (see Article 11(9) and Article 16(7) of the MSR). Therefore, PPE manufacturers need to keep more of an eye on the entire EU market to be able to defend complaints about their products in one EU country in order to not risk measures for the entire EU.

➔ **Suspension of release for free circulation**

The new MSR now gives customs authorities more specific options to retain a product they believe to

not be compliant and to request the release for free circulation by the relevant market surveillance authorities (Article 26 of the MSR). In this respect, customs authorities will check the existing CE marking of PPE products and the postal address of the economic operator in the EU.

➔ **Penalties**

The new MSR states in Article 41 that member states need to lay down the rules on penalties applicable to infringements of the MSR and of Union harmonisation legislation listed in Annex II. The PPE Regulation is not included in Annex II as Article 45 of the PPE Regulation already stipulates this task. In this respect, the PPE Implementing Act has been in force in Germany since 2019 and provides for penalties should the PPE Regulation be infringed. It has determined administrative offences in the amount of €10,000 or €100,000 for infringements of PPE Regulation 2016/425.

The EU Commission has published a [User's Guide](#) to the MSR.



Thomas Lange, Attorney of law, Vice-Chairman and Managing Director of the IVPS e.V.

Good To Know

Exhibited

A+A – the leading international Trade Fair for Safety and Health at Work takes place at the Messe Düsseldorf exhibition centre every two years and presents the latest solutions and innovations in protective equipment.

Safe

ZLS Munich – Central Authority of the German Federal States for Safety is an important point of contact for manufacturers. ZLS assesses the certification bodies and is the point of contact for the interpretation of the PPE regulation. The “PPE guideline representative” can be found at ZLS.

Monitored

Need to know: the EU Market Surveillance Regulation. Please also read “PPE Compact” on page 9 of this brochure.

Compiled

You can access the EU Commission’s database of notified bodies here where you will find all approved bodies for PPE.

Regulated

The key legal basis for distributing PPE in the EU: The PPE Regulation (EU) 2016/425.

Standardised

You can get involved in the DIN Standards Committee for Personal Protective Equipment (NPS).

Throughout Europe

The EU Commission provides information on the legal framework for businesses intending to make PPE products available on the EU market. Moreover, the EU Commission’s website has many helpful guidance documents on the following subjects: harmonised standards, notified bodies, PPE regulation guidelines. The website also has contact information on European and national institutions.

Clarified

The guide to the application of the PPE regulation explains the content of Regulation (EU) 2016/425.

Clear

Here you will find information about ESF (European Safety Federation), the European umbrella organisation for manufacturers and distributors of PPE in Europe.

Classified

ECLASS e. V. is an organisation that deals with the classification and description of products. IVPS is a member of ECLASS and presides in the work group “Occupational Safety”.

Protected

VDSI – Association for Safety, Health and Environmental Protection at Work represents the interests of safety engineers. Its aim is to make working life healthy and safe.

Basi – Federal Association for Occupational Safety and Health shares the same objective.



Our Members

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