

Safety First

The IVPS E-Magazine



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The end of 2023 is nigh!

Welcome to the third edition of our **Safety First** e-magazine where we share the latest key industry-specific news with you. Moreover, you can read about our work at IVPS (Interessenverbund Persönliche Schutzausrüstung e.V.) and gain an insight into one of our member companies. I actually had the honour of welcoming the editorial team to UVEX and introducing our company – and what a pleasure it was to spend time with them.

We look back at some exciting months during which we were able to invest all of our energy and resources on focusing on our business to make the best of this year. In fact, we have just completed an important last step in 2023 and I hope I speak for many IVPS members when I claim that A+A, the leading international trade fair, was a great success. We have even dedicated an entire page to this fair to provide you with some more information about it.

There's also an update on ECLASS. We've made good progress and have already been able to finish five commodity groups. Our member companies came together in small working groups to improve digitalisation in this field. Thank you to everyone for their commitment. Four commodity groups are now pending. And if you would like to support the team, you can join them at any time.



Have fun reading and catching up on the latest news.
Feel free to also contact us via our homepage.
Wishing you the best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'M. Leusmann'. The signature is stylized and fluid.

Martin Leusmann
Chairman of the IVPS e.V.

Product News



Intelligent and intuitive

The 3M™ Secure Click™ FF-800 Full Facepiece Reusable Respirator helps protect against a wide variety of gases, vapours and particulates when used with approved 3M™ Secure Click™ filters.

- Feel it: easier breathing and greater comfort with the quad-flow gas and vapour filter/combination filter systems.
- Check it: easy, one-touch seal check.
- Hear it: quick and simple cartridge/filter connection.
- Say it: speaking diaphragm designed to help provide easy communication.



Primus Kids – first aid for children

Children usually suffer a respiratory arrest as a result of the respiratory function being directly interrupted, caused by an obstructed airway or severe poisoning. This is why it's recommended to start reanimating kids with mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and not a chest compression. For exactly this purpose, EKASTU Safety developed the Primus Kids single-use rescue breathing device specifically for children aged between 3 and 12.



Safety. Flexibility. Comfort.

Easy to use and with robust technology, the light BariAir blower filtering respirator by BartelsRieger provides safety whenever in use. A battery-operated blower feeds filtered ambient air directly into the facepiece, completely doing away with the usual breathing resistance common with filter devices.



The safety belt for your ankles

The BetterGuard by ELTEN is a safety harness for your feet when wearing vocational shoes and safety shoes with the SIPS safety class. The unique technology works like a safety belt in a car – but in this case for your ankle. The system greatly reduces the risk of twisting your ankle.



Reactive
LIGHTING

Powerful. Lightweight. Rechargeable.

The SWIFT® RL head torch by PETZL has been designed for professional use in maintenance, inspections and technical rescue. It offers

- a brightness of 1100 lumens while weighing only 110 g
- longer burn time
- greater visual comfort and less manual operation with the REACTIVE LIGHTING® mode
- a five-level gauge for the battery charge level



EU Ecolabel for hand cleanser

The Peter Greven Physiaderm (PGP) skin protection manufacturer has been certified with the EU Ecolabel for its Greven Soft U Eco hand cleanser for heavy to extreme dirt. The hand cleanser is available in a 2-litre collapsible bottle.



Climb up safely regardless of physical strength

SKYLOTEC has expanded its range of motor-driven power ascenders with the ActSafe ICX. The lightweight device has a compact design, making it easy to use and transport. Users can climb up and down safely without having to depend on their physical strength.



Protection for both your head and eyes

The EVO®VISTA® multifunctional helmet by JSP comes with a fully retractable optical class 1 integrated face shield or overspec, depending on the required level of safety and performance. The state-of-the-art technology used for the fully adjustable swivel arms allows the user to move the face shield and visor outwardly and over their prescription glasses, unlike many similar systems where the helmet has to be adapted.



Sustainability meets performance

The uvex phynomic XG planet cut protection gloves are made of more than 50% sustainable material and are produced at the company's own CO₂-neutral site in Lüneburg, Germany. Moreover, the assembly gloves designed by the uvex safety group come with numerous features:

- aqua-polymer Xtra-Grip coating for the best oil grip in its class
- outstanding touch sensitivity
- extremely breathable thanks to the open-pore foam coating
- perfect fit thanks to the 'slim-fit' design
- free from harmful substances in accordance with OEKO-TEX® Standard 100
- touchscreen compatibility (smartphones, screens)



One helmet, many options

The newly developed polycarbonate visor is SCHUBERTH's next step in the expansion of their Cross®Line range. The visor provides protection for the eyes and face from thermal, chemical and mechanical hazards in a wide variety of working environments. Thanks to the integrated MFA multifunctional adapter, the visor can be attached to and dismantled from a range of different helmets without any tools.

A man with curly hair and a beard, wearing blue UVEX overalls and gloves, stands in a factory. He is holding a power tool. The background shows industrial machinery and a yellow overhead crane.

Leading the way in quality, safety and sustainability

UVEX – Embracing innovation and tradition for success

We're off to South Germany. The motivated editorial team (specifically Tanja Croonen and Mirja Schindewolf) are looking forward to their trip to the tranquil town of Fürth where they intend to pay a visit to UVEX, an IVPS company. We are welcomed wonderfully by Simone Rösch on the evening before our interview and get to enjoy a lovely summer evening and great dinner in the old town of Fürth, while dipping our toes in the UVEX world. The next morning starts with an exciting tour through the production site, after which we sit down with Martin Leusmann and put our questions to him.



IVPS-Magazine: Mr Leusmann, could you briefly introduce yourself and explain what you do at UVEX?

Martin Leusmann: I am Martin Leusmann and for the last seven years I have been the managing director at UVEX Safety Group, in charge of international sales and digitalisation. The IVPS members among the readers have probably already heard of me. At UVEX, I'm responsible for devising and implementing European market development concepts. Working with global distributors and customers has made it increasingly important to create concepts for all of Europe. As for my private life, I'm married with two children and, unsurprisingly, enjoy being outdoors in my free time.

UVEX has several product areas. What is the significance of the PPE segment in relation to the company's history and for the future?

Martin Leusmann: In order to be able to answer this question properly, allow me to briefly take you through our history. UVEX was founded by Philipp Winter as an 'optical industrial institute' in 1926. The first products were safety sunglasses and later safety eyewear as PPE – products that still have the greatest significance today. Over the years and by expanding, the UVEX Group has become a global company that ranks among the best in the world in its industry and is even a market leader in some segments. We develop, produce and distribute

innovative and quality products, which protect and support people during sports, leisure activities and in their working life. Our mission is to protect people: from head to toe, 24 hours a day, seven days a week and 365 days a year.

The last 40 years have seen a constant increase in the significance of PPE. Revenue is divided into $\frac{3}{4}$ Safety (PPE) and $\frac{1}{4}$ Sports. This clearly shows the importance of the PPE segment for UVEX.

We deliver PPE from head to toe, from helmets and glasses to shoes. Yes, our competitors are also experts, but we present ourselves as a high-quality system provider who can offer their customers a coordinated product range.

And the PPE segment continues to provide us with high growth potential that we tap into with innovations and classic products.

How exactly do the UVEX sports and UVEX safety segments complement each other? Could you give us an example?

Martin Leusmann: Yes, I'd be glad to. Image transfer and brand awareness transfer is how they primarily complement each other. UVEX enjoys widespread recognition and an excellent image in the field of sports. You could say that the sports segment sustains the



brand image and the PPE segment benefits from this awareness. This is why we bring professional athletes to customer events and deploy them in the safety sector or generate synergies in design, material and coatings. We often hold joint meetings with sports and safety, which is lucrative for both groups.

UVEX stands for quality. Are there any issues with competitors offering cheaper PPE from the Far East?

Martin Leusmann: That is undoubtedly a major concern. But we prefer to focus on our producer responsibility, on REACH and on certifications. Not only do we guarantee standards, but we always exceed them. We play this to the market and offer our customers long-lasting, safe and sustainable products.

Which political or social developments do you think that the PPE sector needs?

Martin Leusmann: Digital manufacturer information is very dear to my heart and long overdue. At the moment, the PPE sector is pretty conservative, but there's a clear need for change and for a reduction in the mountains of paper, if not simply in the pursuit of sustainability.

What does innovation mean for UVEX and how do you foster it?

Martin Leusmann: Growth comes from innovation and service expansion, which we foster constantly with our own sites and our own development department for all product groups. We use synergies and discuss new trends in materials and production processes at our innovation and technology meetings, which take place several times a year.

How important is Germany for UVEX? Do you produce here?

Martin Leusmann: Germany is an important production site. Roughly 60% of all our products are produced in Germany; also 60% of the employees work in Germany. We manufacture, for example, our gloves in Lüneburg, glasses in Fürth and helmets in Lederdorn. We also have sites in Italy, Sweden and Eastern Europe.



Mr Leusmann, as a manager you are always in demand and have to be on top of everything. How do you find your inner balance and relax in turbulent times?

Martin Leusmann: All in all, I'm an active, very down-to-earth person. Yoga helps me to unwind, hiking to recharge my batteries in nature. But I don't think that any of that would help if I didn't have a positive attitude to work. I enjoy my job and responsibilities and love coming to work.

PPE Compact

New version of PPE guidelines brings changes

The EU Commission has published a new version of the PPE guidelines (3rd edition – 23/10/2023) as an important interpretative document for the PPE regulation (EU) 2016/425. Key changes include:



Form of manufacturer's instructions and information

It has been debated for many years whether manufacturer's instructions and information could be made available to consumers in electronic form. Tonnes of paper are used to produce the manufacturer's instructions and information in many languages and to accompany the PPE, often resulting in these thick booklets landing in the rubbish bin and not really fulfilling their actual function. A lot of money is spent unnecessarily, not to mention the damaging effect on the environment.

For a long time, the European Commission was of the opinion that the PPE regulation 2016/425 was to be interpreted as only the paper form of the manufacturer's instructions and information being compliant with the legal requirements. This interpretation was also found in the PPE guidelines. But now for the U-turn: according to the Commission, the PPE regulation neither mentions in Article 8 (7) nor in Annex II, point 1.4 anything about the form, which should accompany the PPE. The European Commission is now of the opinion that an electronic form is also possible.

The reference to the paper form of the manufacturer's instructions and information in the explanatory notes to Annex II, point 1.4 has been deleted. This means that, in the opinion of the Commission, forms other than

paper are no longer excluded as long as they accompany the PPE.

This is a first big step forward and the result of great lobbying by many associations – including IVPS – headed by ESF in the PPE Expert Group, of which the author of this information is also a member.

Nevertheless, we feel compelled to point out that the guidelines are not legally binding and in practice the member states and especially the regulatory authorities may act to the contrary. We will find out for Germany at the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK) and the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (BMAS) to what extent they intend to implement the changes in the PPE guidelines and especially which electronic form will be accepted. We must still clarify e.g. whether adding a QR code is within the meaning of the regulation in terms of accompanying the PPE. The road to electronic manufacturer's instructions and information is now open. However, it needs to come soon and with legal certainty.

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

Good To Know!

Chemistry Competence Centre

Comment on PFAS submitted



The use of perfluorinated compounds, including the C6 chemical for water-, oil- and dirt-resistant equipment as well as Teflon, PTFE, is to be restricted. In collaboration with the Confederation of the German Textile and Fashion Industry (Gesamtverband t+m), our cooperation partner GermanFashion compiled and submitted a comment as part of the ongoing consultation process. A wide range of uses by GermanFashion members has been entered into a database of essential uses.

The 'Submitted restrictions under consideration – ECHA (europa.eu)' consultation for a comprehensive PFAS restriction, which is not only of immense importance for our sector, but also for industry as a whole, has recently been closed. We as an association as well as our member companies have closely followed this topic in the last few months in order to represent the interests of our sector.

The submission contains:

- a comprehensive professional comment
- a technical/political background paper on the use of PFAS in the textile industry
- the comment by the Confederation of the German Textile and Fashion Industry assessing the proposed classification of PFHxA in Category 1B reproductive toxicity
- an extensive Confederation of the database on the use of PFAS in the textile industry

If you are interested in more information, please contact [Mirja Schindewolf](#).



A closer look: PPE as per modules B + C2

Thomas Lange and Wolfgang Quednau bring readers up to date in their [expert article](#) on the EU Commission's reassessment and how it complies with PPE regulation (EU) 2016/425.

Harmonised

The EU Commission has published a list of harmonised standards for personal protective equipment in its [implementing decision of 2nd May 2023](#).

Standardised: PPE product data exchange

The second phase of the project is underway. More commodity groups within the ECLASS standard are being classified and features are being structured, with the aim for the PPE sector to speak the same language when exchanging product data. Contact [Mirja Schindewolf](#) if you would like to join us in the IVPS workshops.

Progressive

The EU Commission has published a new version of the [PPE guidelines](#). The reference to the paper form of the manufacturer's instructions and information in the explanatory notes to Annex II, point 1.4 have been deleted. This means that, in the opinion of the Commission, forms other than paper are no longer excluded as long as they accompany the PPE. Even though the guidelines are not legally binding, this is a step in the right direction.

Qualified

You need to have the right qualifications to be able to assess the fit of respiratory devices. The DGUV (German Social Accident Insurance) has defined precisely what the [qualification of the person inspecting the fit of facepieces](#) has to be.

Well-trained

GermanFashion (IVPS cooperation partner) is once again offering a training course in 2024 to become a PPE expert (IHK – Chamber of Commerce and Industry). Nine modules will equip the participants with compact and practical knowledge to pass their final exam at the IHK with flying colours. Bring [expertise to your company!](#)

Sustainable

The entire lifecycle of PPE, from production to disposal, is crucial for a sustainable product. The VDSI (Association of Health, Safety and Environmental Protection) gives practical [tips on how to](#) acquire as well as select criteria for sustainable PPE.

Protection and comfort combined

The primary function of personal protective equipment is to protect the wearer from external influences. However, more and more comfort parameters are playing an increasingly important role today in the EU. A scientific method to ascertain the holistic thermophysiological comfort of PPE was developed as part of a [research project](#).

A+A 2023 – People Matter.

Focus on digitalisation and sustainability – A+A 2023 sets standards for safe and healthy work

A+A 2023 (Trade Fair for Occupational Safety and Health), one of the most important trade fairs for our industry, took place in Düsseldorf from 24th to 27th October 2023 and was a great success for IVPS members. 2,200 exhibiting companies from 58 nations presented their products and innovations in 12 halls covering more than 80,000 square metres. Roughly 62,000 trade visitors from 140 countries travelled to Düsseldorf to learn more about the relevant topics regarding the work environment at this leading trade fair.

Success factors: highly relevant topics, complete line-up of ranges and innovative content

This time, two of the most important megatrends of our time were placed centre stage: digitalisation and sustainability.

The innovations in the field of digitalisation of the work environment, which were presented for the first time at the trade fair, proved particularly noteworthy. Smart wearables and PPE, order apps for hazardous materials management, AI-based health coaches as well as virtual reality applications and exoskeletons are examples of technologies that are leading the world of work into a digital and sustainable direction. These developments not only support occupational safety, but also help to increase efficiency and create healthier work environments.

Stefan Brück, CEO of Uvex Safety Group GmbH & Co KG and the new Chairman of the A+A Advisory Board, is also convinced of A+A's high relevance and reach: 'As an exhibitor, we are particularly pleased with the international attendance and high quality of the visitors.'

Top-class, international congresses at A+A 2023

The 38th Basi International Congress on Occupational Safety and Health, attracting around 3,000 congress delegates, picked up on future topics such as artificial intelligence and the consequences of climate change. As a leading international specialist event, it presented national and global political advances and prevention strategies such as 'Vision Zero' as well as occupational science findings from application-oriented research. At the WearRAcon Europe conference (the European edition of the WearRAcon conference in the USA), which took place for the first time at A+A 2023, R&D experts as well as companies presented and discussed innovations and trends in the field of exoskeleton technology.

The next A+A will be held from 4th to 7th November 2025.



Our Members

3M Science.
Applied to Life.™

Dräger

A+M

**BARTELS
RIEGER**

BORNACK

ejendals
PROTECTING HANDS AND FEET

EKASTU
Safety

ELTEN

JSP

GermanFashion
Modeverband Deutschland e.V.

Hase
Safety gloves
Original since 1937

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HULTAFORS GROUP

INTERSPIRO
Keeps You Breathing

isotemp®
HEINRICH VORNDAMME OHG

KANSAS®

KIND
ARBEITSSICHERHEIT

Kroschke

LHD
GASE, PROTECTION, FASHION

MSA
The Safety Company

MSK Production GmbH

MOLDEX

PETZL®

PGP

PM Atemschutz
WIR SCHAFFEN LÖSUNGEN.

SC Johnson
PROFESSIONAL
A family company™

SCHUBERTH

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**sauer
med**

uvex

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Persönliche
Schutzausrüstung e.V.

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