

User report

High demand: Growing number of individual solutions

Considerable cost reductions with Efaflex door light grids and laser scanners

The most important prerequisite for a smooth production process is high-quality intelligent logistics. In this context, suppliers and manufacturers are particularly challenged by customer-specific solutions. Linde Material Handling in Aschaffenburg were requiring patent remedies for two problems. With their TLG door light grid and the EFA-SCAN® laser scanner, Efaflex offered the solutions.

"Airlocks require systems which are able to identify forklifts when they are in between two doors," Andreas Baumann explains. Mr Baumann is responsible for project control and retrofitting, and he decides on new acquisitions at Linde Material Handling. "Also, many forklifts have crashed into the doors." With unintended consequences: when forklifts crash into a door, their forks usually damage the door only in two areas. However, new forklifts coming from production are not yet equipped with forks. Thus the door is damaged by the complete forklift. The damage causes immense costs for the company.

After the invitation to tender, Linde decided to order Efaflex doors. "The door light grid already solved the main problem," Andreas Baumann states. Combined with induction loops, the safety system offers much more protection and reduces repair costs. Linde Material Handling uses the patented EFA-SCAN® laser scanner for special level control tasks, and not for door area surveillance, as is usual. "Every forklift must enter this building," Andreas Baumann explains. "However, high forklifts may only use special doors provided for them. As soon as the forklift is moving towards the wrong door, the laser scanner warns the driver with flashlights and a loud sound."

Since 1998, Linde Material Handling has installed about 100 Efaflex doors in their production halls. Every new building is equipped with EFAFLEX high-speed doors made in Bruckberg. In case of 45 to 50 opening cycles per day, old doors are replaced by EFAFLEX products. "The door coil significantly reduces repair costs compared to other door suppliers," Baumann says. Linde Material Handling simply cannot afford door failures. The worst case scenario after door failure would be a production stop. "In any case, production would be delayed," Baumann explains. "For just-in-sequence-production, it is very important that we absolutely comply with the production schedule because all parts must be supplied to the next conveyor belt within a specified time limit."

Linde Material Handling produces 171 forklifts per day. With its head office in Aschaffenburg, Linde is among the world leading manufacturers of forklifts and warehouse equipment, and is, at the same time, one of the most important producers of hydrostatic drives which are mainly used for machines in construction, agriculture and forestry and in Linde forklifts.

The Linde MH Group production units include Material Handling in Aschaffenburg, Aschaffenburg-Nilkheim and Kahl/Main, Fenwick-Linde in Cenon-sur-Vienne (France), Merthyr Tydfil (Great Britain) and Linde in Xiamen (China). US-specific industrial trucks are produced at Linde Lift Truck Corporation in Summerville/South Carolina (USA). The foundry unit in Weilbach is considered to be the most productive foundry worldwide.

Linde's four superior guiding themes – customer focus, communication, innovative products and economic efficiency – set the focus and the priorities for the future. This requires reliable and approved suppliers and partners. Andreas Baumann comments: "We know which companies we can rely on."

Press contact
at EFAFLEX:
Mr. Alexander Beck
0049 8765 – 82126
alexander.beck@efaflex.com

Press coordination
Link Communications,
Mrs. Ariane Müller
0049 38293 – 434149
info@link-communications.de