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ISO 14001 is the environmentally conscious son

Accoat AS in Kvistgaard is at the forefront in regards the environment. Already 10 years Accoat was certified in environmental quality standards.

Written by *Henrik Helmer Petersen*

These days it is not who are surprised or get radiantly happy because certain products get qualified based on a certified quality system as the ISO 9001. This situation was different just 10-15 years ago but today the quality standards are almost taken for granted.

"Despite the above mentioned there are a lot of our customers both in Denmark and abroad that appreciate and acknowledge that Accoat has been certified in the quality standard on environment the ISO 140001. We have had this standard since 1999 and it shows that Accoat is at the forefront on environmental matters. At the time being everybody talks about the environment, climate and change but Accoat has been certified within environmental quality standards for over a whole decade ago. I am sure that this benefits us"

This is how Jens Lundsgaard formulates it. Mr. Lundsgaard is Quality Manager at Accoat. Accoat is a company that develops and manufactures surface solutions (coatings) to a vast range of industries all over the world. Commonly known is also that Accoat is doing research on the coatings of the future.

70 employees

Accoat has been in business for the last 40 years and there are about 70 employees. Physically Accoat covers an area of 9000 square metres consisting of offices, production halls and storage buildings. Accoat is located in the industrial Area in Kvistgaard (Northen Zealand of Denmark).

Jens Lundsgaard emphasizes that it would not do without the ISO 9001. As he says:

"There is none who demands that we have these internationally recognized quality standards but customers and business partners expect it! In regards the ISO 9001 it also contributes to the high quality standard at Accoat. I would think that we as a company would loose market shares to competitors if Accoat was not certified in the ISO quality system."

ISO 9001

"Internally as a production and development company we must also note that the ISO 9001 is an advantage due to that processes are optimized. Everything has been put down and we know exactly what we do. Herby we minimize mistakes and if they are any they are only done once. This means that being certified also keeps a tight rein on expenses" says Jens Lundsgaard and continues: "Additionally there is the continuous quality control this is also a part of the ISO 9001"

Continuous improvements

“It is a constant demand that we improve ourselves and what we do. The auditing company regularly renews the quality standard due to that everything is in place and due to the fact that Acccoat meets the criteria set forth in the quality standard” says Jens Lundsgaard.

ISO 14001

“This quality standard has the same high demands as the ISO 9001. This means that everything has meticulous procedures when handling, for example, iron, metal, raw materials, chemicals, smoke and waste water. The procedures contributes to that Acccoat has high quality standards. We have been certified ISO 14001 since 1999” says Jens Lundsgaard.

Next generation

While the ISO 9001 has become ‘a grown up, respected gentleman’, the ISO 140001 is sort of the ‘next generation’. This meaning that the ISO 14001 has become ‘the environmentally conscious son’ that companies all over the world has great interest in. Many companies are now being certified with the ISO 14001 but Acccoat has had this quality standard for over a decade.

“At Acccoat, we are convinced that the quality standard is a gain. Internally, again, this is an advantage due to the optimization of systems and the meticulous procedures that proscribes the way that we handle everything. Furthermore, seen more externally, the quality standards render Acccoat a good image towards the neighbourhood, the customers and the business partners. This is obviously a gain” notes Jens Lundsgaard.

Translated by Acccoat. Please contact Nadja Susanne Lund, nsl@accoat.dk if questions on the translation.