

Case Study | Kyocera AVX Klingenberg near Dresden



Rent clothes in the pool and assign them with a dispensing system

When procuring workwear, decision-makers have to pay attention to a lot: safety, CI-compliant appearance, wearing comfort, efficiency – and costs. An example of how this can work is shown by a case at Kyocera AVX at the Klingenberg site. It was created through the cooperation of three regional companies.

The competence center for temperature, pressure and liquid quality sensors at Kyocera AVX Klingenberg near Dresden will benefit from the jointly developed solution. The company develops and produces sensors and control units for the global automotive industry. "We have been implementing sophisticated development projects for automotive manufacturers and system partners for over 25 years – the subsequent series production is largely carried out directly at our plant," explains Kevin Stein, Head of Purchasing there. Of the approximately 500 employees at the site, some areas require simple workwear, but the around 300 people in production in particular have specific requirements for the electrostatic dissipation of clothing. In addition to the basic personal equipment, the company must also keep a change of clothes in stock for each person in the company and ensure hygienic and professional reprocessing to maintain the technical features. This meant a high logistical effort, which was initially bundled and restructured for all needs in cooperation with a regional service provider for rental textiles. Since the beginning of 2024, Steyer Textilservice GmbH from nearby Halsbrücke in Saxony, part of the nationwide DBL – Deutsche Berufskleider-Leasing GmbH network, has been equipping Kyocera employees with the desired protective clothing in the rental service.

"ESD workwear is a product protective clothing that optimally dissipates the electrostatic charge caused by conductive fibres in the textile and thus protects the product," explains Frank Schwabe from DBL Steyer. "We provide for around 300 people in accordance with EN 61340-5-1 (EPA; Protection of electronic components against electrostatic phenomena). Among them are polo shirts, T-shirts and coats. In addition, for a further 90 or so wearers, such as technicians in the machine sector, Workwear from our BPlus Green collection. Here we also offer sweatshirts and warming fleece jackets."

Efficient deployment

This all-in-one principle, which includes both standardized protective clothing and modern workwear as well as its care, is well received by companies such as Kyocera AVX, according to the textile service provider. In addition, in this specific case, there was a need for solutions for the central inventory management of the clothing used.

Until now, the company rented the clothing on a personal basis. Storage was decentralised in assigned lockers. However, changes in the workforce led to an increase in the number of clothing in circulation and the number of lockers required also exceeded the capacity at the site. In addition, practice has shown that some employees do not return the workwear when the employment relationship ends. The aim of the new solution was to make the number of clothing used much more transparent and efficient – in other words, to use only pool clothing instead of personal workwear and to control it accordingly through a traceable system. All this without sacrificing quality, safety and comfort for employees.

"In addition to providing and caring for the clothing, we also take care of the pick-up and delivery service, delivering and filling to the lockers of the companies on request. For this purpose, we often provide our own, classic cabinet and hanging systems," Schwabe describes it. "But here the customer was now asking for an automated distribution of the

desired pool clothing and thus a different solution." In order to react flexibly and solution-oriented in the interests of the customer, it quickly became clear to the DBL expert that he wanted to bring in another partner.

Automated laundry service

A third regional company came into play – KEMAS GmbH from Oberlungwitz in Saxony. The specialist for RFID-based handover automation supplies solutions for key management and fleet management, among other things. "We also offer process-oriented self-service solutions for the transfer of textiles," says Falk Ness, Sales Manager at KEMAS. "Here with our texLog cabinet solution." These special laundry dispensing cabinets and return systems were also interesting for Kyocera AVX. But here, too, there was a challenge to overcome in advance: The basic requirement for the laundry dispenser is clothing equipped with UHF RFID transponders. But the anti-static clothing used was a novelty for KEMAS. "ESD clothing and our RFID technology, in which electromagnetic waves are built up to read out the chips, sounds counterproductive at first," explains Ness. But the provider found a practical solution.



This is how it now works in practice: In the case of contingent pool clothing provided by the DBL, Kyocera employees can remove a predefined amount of clothing from the laundry dispensing system. After the textiles have been removed, the contents of the cabinet are updated and with it the employee contingent. A fully traceable laundry cycle also includes a return system. The temporary assignment between carrier and textiles is removed after shedding and the employee's contingent is relieved. The textile service provider takes over the UHF RFID-tagged and counted pool clothing and cares for it professionally so that it is in use for a long time.

„Our requirements to rent the clothes in the pool and still assign them personally for use required a lot of detailed clarifications," says Kevin Stein of Kyocera AVX. "The professional preparation of special clothing is also a quality-relevant issue for us. All in all, this project, which is very important for our company, has required many months of intensive cooperation with our partners and internal departments. Today, we are very satisfied with the result, the efficiency and the flexibility with which our requirements were implemented by DBL and KEMAS." (ys)

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