

User report

One particle is too much

HEXAL production site relies on doors from EFAFLEX for high efficiency of clean-room technology

Clean rooms necessitate a maximum of technical equipment. Even a single particle is too much. Everything has to be suitable, from the planning of rooms via the execution right up to servicing. The requirement profile for the quality of clean rooms and clean room components is constantly increasing. An extremely high impermeability is required with doors. That is the reason why the HEXAL pharmaceutical company decided to install clean room doors from EFAFLEX at the production facility in Holzkirchen.

“We utilised the first EFAFLEX door in our enterprise in 2003”, reports Julia Gigl, project manager in the pharmaceutical company’s supply engineering department. “At that time, other manufacturers were not able to provide doors of this quality.” Due to the good experiences which the supply engineering department gained with this door, all other doors were subsequently replaced by EFAFLEX doors. Other doors were newly installed where the corridors were very long and a partitioning was sensible. The EFA-SRT®-CR doors must do approximately 85,000 opening cycles per year. The doors are utilised in the areas of pharmaceutical solids production and development as well as the production of plasters containing active pharmaceutical ingredients. “Our doors must not malfunction”, explains Julia Gigl. “If a door were to break down, nothing more can be produced in open conditions. That is why we have decided in favour of the reliability of the EFAFLEX high-speed doors. For an absolute clean production we require the pressure differences between clean room and anteroom.”

Even the merest impurities in the ambient air can lead to expensive production losses in the pharmaceutical industry. “A constant room pressure always has to prevail in our clean rooms and the locks in front of them. The pressure loss within 15 minutes may not be greater than 1 millibar per minute”, explains the project manager. If that were not the case, large quantities of micro-fine dirt particles would penetrate into the clean room every time the door opens. The filter load would considerably increase as a result and with that the financial expenditure for the trouble-free implementation of the most modern production methods.

In order to avoid this, the doors to the controlled production zones and their locks must be impermeable. The EFAFLEX high-speed roller doors for the clean room segment achieve very high permeability values due to their closed door leaf guide. Pressure gradients in the range of 15 Pa cause an air loss of less than 10 m³/h with a door size of 2,300 x 2,350 mm. The EFA-SRT®-CR door types meet all current equipment component requirements for clean rooms.

As project manager Julia Gigl attaches the utmost importance to the impeccable functioning of doors. In addition to their excellent running characteristics they must also be neat and easy to clean. The powerful and airtight high-speed roller doors have a smooth surface structure and no protruding edges, so no dirt particles are able to settle on the surfaces. The frames and curtain claddings are produced in mounting and service-friendly clip technique. Optics, surface feel and technique benefit remarkably from largely refraining from conventional screw connections.

HEXAL is one of the largest German pharmaceutical companies with about 4,300 employees as well as six branch establishments in the Federal Republic. Just like the Bavarian door specialist EFAFLEX, the group firmly avows to the domestic location. Founded in 1986, HEXAL is the leading provider of cost-effective and high-quality generic drugs based on over 300 proven active pharmaceutical ingredients. The enterprise is represented in all major therapeutic fields with its broad range of products. The emphases lie on cardiovascular medications, therapeutic pain agents and gastrointestinal preparations.

But medicinal products are not a universal remedy. That is why HEXAL also helps where high-tech medicine encounters its limits. For years the company has already been promoting selected social and humanitarian projects in the fields of health and medicine –exactly where HEXAL is at home as a pharmaceutical producer and bears a very special responsibility!

Social commitment is bundled in the HEXAL Foundation. This non-profit organisation supports long-term initiatives and projects with the aim to improve the quality of life of sick, disabled and disadvantaged people, above all children. It ensures that help arrives quickly and without red tape where it is needed. The health and well-being of employees as well as a modern, efficient equipment of production rooms are important for a sustainable development of the company.

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