



Nine million EPAL Euro pallets produced under new quality assurance

By the end of the third week of February the European Pallet Association e.V. (EPAL), based in Düsseldorf, operator of the largest open pallet pool in the world, had already recorded the production of the nine millionth Euro pallet under the quality controlling of the new partner for independent quality assurance, Bureau Veritas Industry Services GmbH.

Bureau Veritas has been commissioned by EPAL - with effect from the 1st January 2013 - to carry out the global quality testing of EPAL cargo carriers. In the past SGS was responsible for the audit process.

"Our primary objective was a smooth and seamless transition with respect to the audit activities" explains Martin Leibrandt, CEO of EPAL. "The fact that nine million Euro pallets have already been produced under the quality assurance of Bureau Veritas is a clear sign that we have achieved this objective. The feedback from the licence holders and users of EPAL cargo carriers has also been accordingly positive."

In December 2012 the inspectors employed by Bureau Veritas for quality controlling activities received training for their new role in cooperation with EPAL, within the framework of comprehensive workshops.

EPAL made the change to Bureau Veritas in order to further improve the controlling and therefore also the quality of EPAL cargo carriers, and in doing so to better fulfil the expectations of the users in relation to the safety and sustainability of EPAL cargo carriers. In doing so, EPAL remains the only pool operator for cargo carriers to depend on external and independent quality assurance through ongoing and unannounced quality controls.

In 2012 the licence holders of EPAL produced approx. 67.5 million EPAL Euro pallets and carried out around 24 million repairs - and the trend continues to rise.

You can receive further information on this subject from

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EPAL European Pallet Association is the European umbrella organisation established in 1991 for the licensed manufacturers and repairers of EPAL/EUR pallets and box pallets. EPAL is globally responsible for the consistent quality of EPAL/EUR cargo carriers and utilises external quality testing for this purpose. EPAL is represented in 14 countries by their own National Committees, who have undertaken to implement the EPAL objectives at national level.