



TR PRESS PACK PRODUCTS

TR FASTENINGS IS RECOGNISED THROUGHOUT THE INDUSTRY FOR WORLD CLASS PRODUCTS & SERVICES

WE MANUFACTURE, STOCK & DISTRIBUTE A VAST RANGE OF INDUSTRIAL FASTENERS & COMPONENTS

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TR Press Release

TR Fastenings commits to automotive quality with VDA 6.3 auditor certifications



2017



Global fastenings manufacturer and distributor TR Fastenings (TR) has responded to a growing trend in the automotive market by training members of its quality team to be fully certified VDA 6.3 auditors. The certification means the team can now assess suppliers and supplier products against the standard, which is increasingly being used throughout the automotive sector.

TR is a full service provider to the automotive industry, supplying over 50 billion fastener components to over 5000 companies globally, largely tier 1 businesses supplying major automotive OEMs.

In recent years, TR has noticed an increased focus amongst its automotive customers on the German VDA 6.3 standard, which looks more at the quality of specific products and components than the management of overall systems or businesses. In response, TR has invested in specific training for its supplier quality managers, resulting in them being fully certified to assess products and suppliers against VDA requirements.

Maddy Webb, Global Customer Quality Manager at TR Fastenings, comments:

“Here at TR we pride ourselves in being agents of change, and keeping firmly on top of industry and sector developments. As soon as we began to notice this shift in focus towards VDA 6.3 as a preferred standard for automotive OEMs and Tier 1 suppliers, we decided to act. It’s our responsibility to pass awareness of trends like this on to our partners further down the supply chain, and do all we can to enable our customers to achieve the highest possible levels of quality and performance.”

The auditors at TR will be responsible for assessing suppliers’ products, documentation and processes to ensure that VDA standards are being adhered to. In addition, they and the rest of the TR team remain committed to ensuring that dialogues about customer and industry requirements are being held at all appropriate levels and acted upon accordingly.

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X-Ray Fluorescence machine ensures compliance with RoHS legislation

As part of TR Fastenings (TR)'s continuous commitment to environmental legal compliance, the firm uses a world-class X-Ray Fluorescence spectrometer to conduct checks. This sophisticated machine enables TR to go beyond basic testing to ensure consistent legal compliance. The spectrometer checks incoming products for traces of hazardous elements, meaning customers can rest assured that their products comply with the latest Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS) legislation. Revisions to RoHS became law in 2013, updating regulations which first came into force in 2005. These restrict the levels of five substances – lead, hexavalent chromium, mercury, polybrominated biphenyls (PBB), and polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PDBE) – to no more than 1000 parts per million and restrict a sixth substance, cadmium, to 100 ppm.

Of all these substances, hexavalent chromium is most likely to show low-level traces in products featuring plating finishes, such as fasteners. Hexavalent chromium is also traceable in textile dyes, paints, inks, plastics, wood preservation, and anti-corrosion products. More broadly, RoHS testing is required in products as diverse as toys, stationery, furniture, packaging, batteries, clothing, shoes, jewellery, and ornaments. TR has stocked materials and products which comply with RoHS since 2004, a year before the regulations were introduced. In 2012 TR went a step further by establishing an in-house RoHS compliance testing facility, which now vets suppliers of more than 80,000 different components each year.

As part of this ongoing testing, TR upgraded its facilities in 2016 with the spectrometer to aid screening and hazardous element analysis. In principle this works like other solid state X-ray detectors, measuring the energy of incoming photons by the amount of ionization produced in the detector material, although in this case the detector material is high purity silicon.

TR's spectrometer is a Genius 3000 model made in the USA by market-leaders Skyray Instrument Inc. This is a hand-held device with a built-in HD camera, ideal for large articles which cannot be tested on desktop instruments. The machine's three core technologies - a low-power integrated miniature X-ray tube, a large-area beryllium window electric-cooling silicon drift detector (SDD), and miniature digital signal multi-channel processor – significantly increase detection precision. The SDD is the best product of its kind on the market. By checking incoming products in this way, TR is not only ensuring its own compliance with RoHS legislation but also taking care of this particular aspect of customers' legal due diligence and due care requirements.



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