Testimonial

Automotive industry

Koyo Steering Systems Dijon • St-Etienne

Frequency and severity of industrial accidents reduced to 25% of the national average

KSDSE-KOYO has steered in the right direction to protect its employees

For KSDSE, health and safety at work are essential components of a global quality policy. Preventing accidents to human resources is a competitiveness factor. KSDSE factories achieve an accident frequency and severity record of less than 25% of the French national average. Ansell's advice and the effectiveness of its protective gloves contributes to this achievement.

As the European leader in car steering systems, KOYO is developing and manufacturing technology for the third millennium. The company has led the way particularly in energy-saving electrical steering systems, already widely used in modern small vehicles such as the Citroën C2 and C3, etc.

The challenge: to influence behaviour

Protecting its workforce is a key factor in the company's profitability and its continued profit growth. *"Today, our workplace accidents are no longer related to machinery safety problems, but to inappropriate behaviour by members of the workforce: too much haste, lack of attention, not wearing protective equipment and failure to follow safety instructions"*, explains Cyrille Magnin, KSDSE's Accident Prevention Manager. *"So, just as the operator must not forget to wear safety goggles during compressed air blowing operations, he must remember to wear suitable protective gloves when deburring, to avoid cuts"*. With an annual budget of about €225,000, protective gloves are KSDSE's biggest item of IPE (individual protection equipment) expenditure. Finding the best buy in terms of quality and price was a vital economic necessity, all the more so because KSDSE is determined to provide a maximum of individual protective equipment.

Cyrille Magnin, KSDSE's Accident Prevention Manager:
"Ansell's advice and protective gloves are helping us get closer to our main target of 'no accidents'".

Benefits for the customer

- IPE analysis and advice from Ansell (SafetyNet)
- Increased productivity through better performance and good acceptance of protective gloves
- Significant reduction in direct and indirect safety costs.

Customer company profile

French car component manufacturer KSDSE (Koyo Steering Dijon Saint Etienne), formerly owned by PSA group and now a subsidiary of international group Koyo, produces steering systems at its two sites in Dijon and Chevigny Saint-Sauveur for the world's major car manufacturers.

KSDSE recorded a turnover of €273 million and employed some 1,242 people in 2003, including nearly 1,000 manual workers and operators, who manufactured and assembled more than 3 million power steering systems (83% hydraulic and 16% electric) in that one year.

Ansell

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The solution: SafetyNet, the best way to make the best choice

KSDSE wanted more than a simple "glove seller". The company was looking for a supplier capable of providing not only IPE solutions but also an analysis of requirements and advice that would guarantee it the best and most suitable equipment at the best prices. *"We found this expertise at Ansell Healthcare"*, Mr. Magnin told us. *"With SafetyNet, its computerised system, Ansell complements its highly competent advisory staff with a rigorous method offering high added value"*. KSDSE appreciates SafetyNet's high quality approach, precise analysis of the industrial environment and traceability.

"For IPE to be used consistently, it must not only perform its prime function of protection, it must also be ergonomic, comfortable and attractive at the same time", Mr. Magnin emphasised. *"The correct glove, in the right size, must feel like a second skin and not a handicap"*. KSDSE now offers its employees no less than 20 different protective gloves, each designed for a particular task: non-permeable for work in soluble oils, non-fluffy for dry assembly, etc. For example, gloves coated with polyurethane on a polyamide backing have gradually been replaced by Ansell's HyFlex solution - judged to be better (by staff, the Accident Prevention Department and the Committee on Health, Safety and Working Conditions) at considerably lower cost.

The benefits: advice, productivity and cost-savings

"We view Ansell as a 'consultant supplier', a real protection specialist, a provider of quality which meets our demands", explained Mr. Magnin. KSDSE draws several benefits from this:

- Direct contact between user and producer, which has become essential given the technical nature of individual protection equipment.
- Product development according to KSDSE's specific requests (e.g. following remarks by certain operators, Ansell has developed a HyFlex glove which is less tight around the wrist)
- Improved employee acceptance through better safety, ergonomics, comfort and suitability of protection for each task.
- Reduction in the frequency and severity of occupational accidents and, consequently, the associated employer contributions payable under French law.

Workplace Accidents (2003)	KSDSE	National Average	Metallurgy Average
Frequency	7.47	25.4	29.2
Seriousness	0.24	1.17	1.13

- Additional financial gain generated by the longer life of Ansell gloves.

Ansell Products and Services used

- HyFlex® 11-800 and 11-900, for all types of assembly applications (80 to 90,000 pairs per year)
- Sol-Knit®, for machining (22,000 pairs per year)
- Sol-Vex®, for machining (11,000 pairs per year)
- NitraSafe® Foam, for deburring
- Safe+: SafetyNet audit carried out on the Chevigny site

Ansell

Ansell Limited is a world leader in the field of protective products. With operations in America, Europe and Asia, Ansell employs more than 11,000 people around the world and is a major player in the natural latex and synthetic polymer gloves markets and in condoms. Ansell's operations cover three sectors: Occupational Healthcare with protective gloves for industry, Professional Healthcare with surgical and examination gloves for health professionals, and Consumer Healthcare with condoms and household gloves.
For more information concerning Ansell and its products, please visit the company's website at: http://www.anselleurope.com

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