

Signal technology now conforms to the new machinery directive

With its new safety-related visual and audible alarm products, Pfannenber provides support for the planning reliability of machine and plant construction companies

Hamburg, September 2009. Pfannenber, the specialist for signal technology, announces the immediate addition to its product portfolio of visual and audible signaling equipment which has been developed in conformity to the new EN ISO 13849-1 and DIN IEC 62061 standards. The safety-related sounders from the DS series and flashing beacons from the Quadro and PMF series will be unveiled at the international SPS/IPC/DRIVES exhibition 2009 in Nuremberg.

On January 1, 2010, two new standards will come into force for the construction and development of machinery; these have been harmonized under the new EU Machinery Directive and are EN ISO 13849-1 and DIN IEC 62061. EN ISO 13849-1 will supersede the EN 954-1 standard from the old Machinery Directive 98/37/EC, which for more than ten years has defined the basic requirements on the realization, documentation and safety of machinery. On January 1, 2010, the new EU Machinery Directive 2006/42/EC will come into effect, thereby revoking its predecessor. The new directive brings new mandatory safety standards. For mechanical and plant engineers this will result in changes to product certification: probability considerations will henceforth also play a role in the determination of component safety. In future, the deterministic view promulgated by EN954-1 in respect of the construction of safety-related machine components will become less significant.

Visible and audible alarm devices from Pfannenber, which come equipped with the required safety characteristics, will meet the different requirements of various safety levels. They range from simple stand-alone devices with a safety function right up to devices with complex functionality for more demanding safety environments. In general they are self-monitoring and thus able to perform self-diagnostic tests. The safety-related Pfannenber signaling devices come in the tried-and-tested robust housings of their predecessors and can quickly and safely be integrated into the safety concept of the entire machine. With the new product series, Pfannenber gives further support to machinery and plant manufacturers by making the technical safety parameters of the alarm appliances available to them. **Doing this Pfannenber allows a standard conform design either of the machine or the whole plant.** The new products mean that the machine manufacturer will be able to have the complete machine certified more easily and in a shorter time. The machine constructor will benefit from improved safety planning right from the initial design stage, so that both injury to persons and, secondarily, economic damage may be avoided.

"In many cases, purely constructional measures don't go far enough to minimize risk. If the vestigial risk associated with a machine is to be kept as low as possible, then reliable alarm equipment is needed to give an audible or visual hazard warning signal to the machine operator," explains Volker Matthies, product manager at Pfannenber GmbH. Such equipment comes into play, for example, as soon as a machine starts up or is in mute mode, in which cases the safety functions are bypassed. But process and plant technologies also require

safety-related alarm appliances. They are used, for example, to alert the workers in the case of gas or chemical leaks.

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About Pfannenberg

Pfannenberg GmbH is a medium-sized company which provides innovative and high-quality electro-technology to the industry. Based in Hamburg and with further locations in England, France, Italy, the US, Singapore, China and Russia, the company has now become a global player in this industrial sector. The product portfolio includes components and system solutions for electrical enclosures, audible and visual signaling technology as well as other, client-specific solutions. A particular highlight in Pfannenberg's portfolio is the designed illuminations which are commissioned by architects, designers, and urban and spatial planners (www.art-illumination.com).

For more detailed information on Pfannenberg GmbH please see <http://www.pfannenberg.com>

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