

# “We Scrutinize Every Process”

Rhenus IHG has more and more business sites certified in line with the ISO 14001 Environmental Management Standard

Reducing emissions, handling resources sensibly and minimizing risks – those who wish to obtain certification according to the ISO 14001 International Environmental Management Standard have to agree to uphold these principles. The Freight Logistics business area has already received the “eco seal” for a number of its bases and other branches are set to follow suit.



ISO 14001 lays down what is required in a company's environmental management system. For example, the company must have its own environmental policy, environmental goals and an environmental program. The goals that have been set must be reviewed regularly and the management system should guarantee ongoing improvements. "In practice, this means that we have to scrutinize the environmental relevance of any processes," Johannes Silkenbeumer, Quality and Environmental Manager at Rhenus IHG in Hilden, emphasizes. The business site there already sports the ISO 14001 seal of approval. The same is true of the business sites in Unna, Duisburg, Dresden and Nuremberg. The headquarters of Rhenus Revival in Frankfurt/Main already has its environmental credentials and the local Rhenus IHG business site is due to follow in 2008. The branches at Munich and Gothenburg are other "candidates."

## Full Speed Ahead for Low Emission Trucks

One of the most important tools for environmental and climate protection at Rhenus IHG is the use of trucks with low emissions. "Companies that we employ on a permanent basis must have trucks satisfying Euro 4 standards or higher," says Silkenbeumer. The Duisburg site goes even further than this. As part of its certification, it stated that its goal was to carry out at least half of its orders using Euro 5 trucks – these vehicles already meet the strict emissions thresholds, which will apply to all new vehicles from the fall of 2009.

But even with low emission trucks, each kilometer that is not driven means less pollution in the environment. This is why Rhenus IHG manages processes using modern position finding and communications technology. Trucks that are used for local distribution from Hilden are equipped with GPS transponders. This means that schedulers know at any time where the vehicles are located and can pass on an order that has just been received to the driver "in the best position." He receives the order on the display of his on-board computer. The system minimizes the overall miles traveled by the fleet, shortens down times and customers are delighted by the faster service.

## Full Utilization through Hub Concept

"We have been able to reduce the number of vehicles in use by seven percent," Silkenbeumer concludes. This result not only makes ecological sense, but Rhenus IHG is also meeting a goal that is of great importance in economic



terms: making ideal use of the shipping space. This task is always a factor if the volume of freight is not enough for direct shipments with fully loaded vehicles. As a member of System Alliance, Rhenus IHG can also offer an elegant solution for handling part loads efficiently all over Europe. The main transshipment center of System Alliance in Niederaula in the German state of Hessen serves as a collection point for international consignments from members countries based all over Germany. The consignments are consolidated at the hub and, having been combined, are sent on their journey. The final part of the journey to the consignee in the destination country can also be organized efficiently, possibly as part of a round trip and this prevents trucks from traveling empty. This plays a part in reducing costs and conserving the environment.

But those who wish to subject their operations to an "eco check," do not just have to consider the major issues. The permanent improvement process in ISO 14001 continually uncovers savings potential, which mainly involves small details: "For example, we managed to reduce the consumption of film for securing loads by ten percent last year," Johannes Silkenbeumer reports. But even these minor successes provide major relief to the environment when they are added together.

