**Global Health and Safety**

**Freudenberg Sealing Technologies certifies its manufacturing plants to international ISO 45001 standards**

**Weinheim (Germany), February 16, 2021. Freudenberg-NOK Sealing Technologies’ Troy and Milan, Ohio facilities have become the company’s first North American locations to earn international ISO 45001 health and safety certifications. Freudenberg-NOK runs business operations for Freudenberg Sealing Technologies in the Americas. The certifications represent a heightened, systematic approach to the prevention of workplace accidents and illnesses at a time when many manufacturers are still working through production and safety challenges associated with the coronavirus pandemic.**

Freudenberg Sealing Technologies will require all of its North American facilities to achieve ISO 45001 certification going forward, with an additional six facilities in the U.S. and Mexico scheduled to begin the certification process this year. The company’s facilities in Europe have already achieved ISO 45001 certification.

The current North American certifications are part of a company Health, Safety, and Environment (HSE) alignment strategy that will insure all productions sites are ISO 45001-compliant within the next three years. Such a Matrix Model Certification Process allows the company to share best practices and synergies between sites that help streamline the certification process and lower overall training and implementation costs.

**A Tough Audit Process**

Achieving ISO 45001 certification is a major undertaking, Freudenberg Sealing Technologies’ HSE team points out. In the case of Troy and Milan, cross-functional employee teams shared programs and processes, performed internal audits at both locations and embarked on a strenuous process of risk assessment of virtually every operation taking place at the sites.

“The risk assessments were the biggest challenge,” said John Batchik, Vice President, Corporate Quality and HSE for Freudenberg Sealing Technologies in the Americas. “Troy and Milan associates identified every industrial operation performed at their locations, analyzed each step of those operations to assess what could go wrong and then developed mitigation plans. Participation from our shop floor associates was essential to this process.”

**The ISO Advantage**

Global ISO 45001 certification provides several important advantages to customers and employees. In addition to providing the company with a consistent set of safety and health protocols at every location, ISO 45001 establishes a management system that captures and codifies best practices and operational knowledge that will outlast individual employees and be available to orient new workers.

“Freudenberg Sealing Technologies has always been committed to strong health and safety protocols in its facilities, although the standards varied between the North America, Europe, and Asia,” Batchik said. “Adoption of the ISO 45001 health and safety standards in our North American facilities allows us to manage our operations consistently through an accessible, transparent management system.”

Customers and employees will both benefit from standardized health and safety practices, he added.

“Early adoption by the company is a demonstration of Freudenberg Sealing Technologies’ commitment to the health and safety of its employees and customers,” Batchik said. “ISO 45001 will only become more important in the future, and we are committed to a global system of standards that protect our employees and customers no matter where they are located in the world.”

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***Image:*** *FST\_ISOCertification\_TroyMilan.jpg / Copyright: Freudenberg Sealing Technologies 2021*

***Caption:*** *Freudenberg Sealing Technologies’ Troy, Ohio manufacturing plant became the company’s first North American facility to achieve ISO 45001 certification. The company is adopting the global health and safety standards. Troy Greenbelt Michelle Collett (left) and Chris Rampulla conduct an audit on a forming press at the plant.*

**About Freudenberg Sealing Technologies**

Freudenberg Sealing Technologies is a longstanding technology expert and market leader for sophisticated and novel applications in sealing technology and electric mobility solutions worldwide. With its unique materials and technology expertise, the company is a proven supplier for demanding products and applications, as well as a development and service partner to customers in the automotive industries and in general industries. In 2018, Freudenberg Sealing Technologies generated sales of about €2.3 billion and employed approximately 15,000 people. More information at [www.fst.com](http://www.fst.com)

The company is part to the global Freudenberg Group which has four business areas: Seals and Vibration Control Technology, Nonwovens and Filtration, Household Products as well as Specialties and Others. In 2018, the Group generated sales of approximately 9.4 billion and employed more than 49,000 associates in around 60 countries. More information is available at [www.freudenberg.com](http://www.freudenberg.com).

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