

HAYS REVIEWS AIR EXHAUST SYSTEMS IN ASIA

Wilfried Kolb, Engineer



First Korea, then in China: freelance engineer and Hays Business Partner Wilfried Kolb reviewed planning, design and construction of exhaust air/exhaust air treatment systems.

Objective



Through a large German supervisory agency, we were asked to assess the quality and safety of the exhaust air systems of several Asian production facilities. The end customer for this project, turned out to be one of the world's largest manufacturers of electronic communications technology components. The objective of our freelance Hays specialist was to identify existing errors, develop solutions to eliminate these faults and to identify improvement potentials for follow-up projects of the end customer

Highlights



During his varied deployment in Asia, Wilfried Kolb found himself facing a variety of challenges: The project in Korea comprised a complete new construction while in China an existing plant was being expanded. Both projects were under immense time constraints, so troubleshooting was carried out using planning documents that were still being processed. „Many activities were taking place at the same time. The fact that the construction project was only slightly ahead of the actual construction activities required a maximum of flexibility and precision on the part of us all.“, says Wilfried Kolb. The task of clear communication was also more demanding than usual: In extreme cases, documentation and reports (including reports on any errors detected) had to be translated from German via English into Korean and Chinese. This made the accurate and unambiguous description of errors an imperative so that any possible mistranslations could be avoided from the start.

Realisation



According to our agreed schedule with the customer, we sent Business Partner Wilfried Kolb to Korea for twelve weeks, then to China for seven months to identify potential errors in planning, design and assembly. While on site, Wilfried Kolb worked as part of an international project team composed of engineers and translators on the review of the entire production system. In pursuing this work, each engineer specialised on a specific area of the system. Our Freelance expert was responsible for ensuring compliance with all specifications, standards, and guidelines with regard to exhaust air and exhaust air cleaning systems. As part of his construction monitoring, Wilfried Kolb inspected the construction site almost daily, photographing shortfalls and deviations in quality and documenting these in NCRs (Non Conformity Report). Together with the other members of his team, he analysed the causes of errors and developed approaches until both the project team and the customer were in agreement with the proposed fix. Before giving the green light for production, Wilfried Kolb scheduled and monitored the agreed measures so that in the end all relevant specifications could be met.

Conclusion



In particular, the various on-site stakeholders often made the whole project very challenging for the Hays specialist: „It was not always easy to find a solution that equally met the required standards and national regulations of the respective countries, but also the demands of the customers – i.e. their concerns around economic efficiency“, says Wilfried Kolb. „In the end, however, it was a great success. Not just in terms of providing the customers with the required solutions for the existing project, but also in being able to show effective improvements for the future. Personally, it was a unique opportunity for me to get to know what daily working life is like in two Asian countries. This made a big impression on me and is an experience I will never forget.“