

Flexitech Europe

Assessing particle contamination

The major instructing parties in the automobile sector require that their subcontractors implement measures making it possible to assess particle contamination of parts delivered to their customers. Flexitech Europe called on the experts from Cetim's Quality, Safety and Environment division in order to provide a rapid response to this request.



explains Christian Aberlenc, in charge of "Trade-Expertise" at Flexitech.

Assistance and advices

The action performed by Cetim went along with a mission of advisory and training in order to help Flexitech to understand the origin of the pollutants and to build up, later, its own laboratory for particulate analysis. "We are today in a phase of knowledge capitalization, says Christian

OUR CUSTOMER

Corporate name
Flexitech Europe
(Freudenberg)

Activity
Design and manufacture
of flexible hoses for
brakes

Workforce
280 people

Sales turnover
50 million euro

Established in Saint-André-le-Puy, thirty kilometers away from Saint-Étienne, Flexitech Europe (Freudenberg Group) designs and manufactures brake hoses for cars and mopeds. In order to answer quickly to the requests of its main customers from the automotive industry and to prepare his setting in conformity to the customer's specifications, in connection with future standard ISO 16232 on particulate cleanliness, it entrusted to Cetim the task of particles counting in its brake hoses.

This action which included rinsing of the parts, particles

Cetim's asset

Cetim owns laboratory equipments for counting, examination and identification of the particles (e.g. scanning electron microscope).



It proposes its services and skills on the field of cleaning and degreasing as well as on methods and tools to evaluate the contamination and the cleanliness of machine parts.

extraction and counting by granulometry level, lasted six months during which the experts of Cetim also helped Flexitech to build up its library of contaminants. "This phase was essential, not only to fulfill in due time our customers' needs, but also to get trained with this kind of analysis",

Aberlenc. *We collect the analysis results to determine the origin of pollutants before beginning taking measures to reduce or eliminate them. In parallel, we study, indeed, the creation within the company of an analysis laboratory in direct connexion with the production.*"