

**Qualitätsverband Kunststoffherzeugnisse e.V.**

## **2008 Annual Report**

General Meeting on 30 April 2009 in Potsdam

Bonifatius EICHWALD, Board of Directors of QKE e.V.

Stefan FRIEDRICH, Board of Directors of QKE e.V.

Gerald FEIGENBUTZ, Managing Board

### General Meeting in Weimar, March 2008

The General Meeting focused on the realignment of the association, which coincided with the re-election of the entire Board of Directors. Klaus Jensen, Chairman since 1988, Dr Ralph Hegler and Hans Sinda (Vice Chairman) stood down after many years of successful work on behalf of the association and handed over the reins to Jürgen Haug (Dimex GmbH), Bonifatius Eichwald (VEKA AG) and Stefan Friedrich (profine GmbH, at Renolit AG since January 2009).

What was the intention behind the realignment? As the strongest group within QKE e.V. in terms of numbers, the aim was to develop the representation of the interests of the Gütegemeinschaft Kunststoff-Fenstersysteme (Quality Assurance Association for Plastic Window Systems) in the direction of those of a trade association. To this end, there was a need to revitalise PR work so that the Quality Assurance Association with its self-imposed commitment to an uncompromisingly high level of quality is recognised in trade circles and in the wider public.

### Development of member numbers during 2008

GG Kunststoff-Fenstersysteme:	89 members
GG Dränrohre (Quality Assurance Association for Drainpipes):	3 members
GG Flaschenkästen (Quality Assurance Association for Bottle Cases):	6 members

### PR work

At this point, we would like to thank the *BAUELEMENTE BAU* journal in Stuttgart, which has been providing us with one page for regular reports since July 2008. In a total of eight articles, we have commented on issues such as

- ▶ Quality as the key to success;
- ▶ Effects of rising prices of raw materials;
- ▶ Quality assurance under scrutiny;

to name but a few examples.

In addition, we also publish articles in other journals such as *GLASWELT*, on the issue of “*Gluing glazing*” and “*The quality seal – guarantee of confidence and reliability*”, and *WINDOW MARKET WIN*.

## **“Showing foresight – planning the future”**

The aim of this image brochure was to give the Quality Assurance Association “a face”. This brochure was the work of a working group formed from among the members which gave itself the task of elucidating the value added of quality assurance with clear messages and highlighting the global significance of the sector for plastic windows. Initially produced in a bilingual edition with German and English, a Turkish edition has now been published and a Polish translation is underway. Further translations are required particularly for countries or regions where our member companies are operating.

## **Events**

Fensterbau Frontale, held from 24 to 27 March 2008 in Nuremberg, opened the series of major events for us. Together with AgPU, EPPA, pro-K and Rewindo, we invited the member companies of the Quality Assurance Association, the press and professional representatives, in order to inform them about our work in relation to the product “plastic windows” and enter into open dialogue with them. This joint appearance was widely welcomed, encouraging us to hold this event again at Fensterbau Frontale in future.

## **Value added through quality: RAL sets the standard**

Under this motto, the Gütegemeinschaften Fenster + Haustüren, Fugendichtstoffe, Kunststoff-Fenstersysteme, Mehrscheibenisoliervlas, Schlösser und Beschläge (Windows + House Doors, Joint Sealants, Plastic Window Systems, Insulating Glass Units and Locks and Fittings Quality Assurance Associations) and Professor Haas from Heilbronn University turned to their own members to show what value added is generated through quality assurance. Aside from the costs of avoiding errors, this includes the market-boosting effects of a quality seal. The plan now is to repeat this event on a larger scale for “end customers”, in other words planners, architects and public authorities.

### Quality assurance under internal scrutiny

With a common consensus that quality assurance is an integral part of the assessment of the suitability of plastic windows for long-term use, it must “undergo an internal review” within the context of the basic concept of a quality circle, with questions such as:

- ▶ “Are our test methods still up to the minute?” or “is the trend moving towards greater online control?” or “how can synergies be harnessed, through combined audits for example?”
- ▶ Around 40 delegates from all areas of the Quality Assurance Association convened at the Süddeutsches Kunststoffzentrum in Würzburg to discuss these questions and set the course for the future.

### First point of reference for quality in construction, Redevelop and save with RAL quality seal

Together with 24 other quality assurance associations, we took part in this joint project organised by RAL at BAU 2009 in Munich. This was not only about “waving the flag” but also using the opportunity of direct discussions to draw attention to features such as durability, suitability for long-term use and reliability of plastic windows.

### Istanbul WINDOW, March 2009

At the request of the Turkish member companies, we took part in this important trade fair with a series of talks to explain the difference between RAL quality assurance and the CE mark. In addition, we used the opportunity to point out the rules governing the issue of a quality seal. We particularly explored the role of monitoring by external bodies in the certification process and therefore the role of the Süddeutsches Kunststoffzentrum (SKZ).

### Quality assurance for drainpipes and bottle cases

Monitoring of Fränische Rohrwerke, Hegler Plastik GmbH and Pipelife. Stocktaking of plastic cases in accordance with 94/62/EC.

## Financial results

The accounts for the 2008 financial year were audited by the BDO Deutsche Treuhand, Bonn, in accordance with the principles for unions and associations. The accounts were audited by the cash auditor appointed by the General Meeting.

Additional expenditure over the budgeted expenditure was generated in particular by the review of the RAL-GZ 716/1 quality directive, which was updated after 10 years. In addition to registration, typesetting and translation costs, the main expenditure this incurred was from protecting the quality seal under a trademark. In the context of the PR work, additional costs were generated by a new edition of the system specifications and publication of the image brochure in multiple languages. The additional expenditure was discussed with and approved by the Board of Directors.

<b>All sums in EUR</b>	<b>2008 budget</b>	<b>2008 results</b>	<b>2009 draft budget</b>
Members contributions	494,820	553,143.49	479.445
Investment income	20,000	25,748.36	20,000
Other income		2,740.26	
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>514,820</b>	<b>581,632.11</b>	<b>499,445</b>
Staff costs	327,092	335,066.53	264,000
Fees	9,600	7,488.30	6,000
Overheads	19,200	17,310.81	18,000
Conferences, meetings, trips	33,000	40,846.33	40,000
Postage, telephone	8,000	7,387.71	7,000
Office materials, journals	8,000	12,036.35	12,000
Contributions to other organisations	25,000	24,769.79	25,000
Quality assurance costs (RAL)	7,800	43,866.56	20,000
Other material costs (of which depreciations in 2008: EUR 3,478.26)	18,300	25,846.20	25,000
PR work	22,600	35,987.45	45,000
Inventory	1,000	667.49	500
Research projects, projects			25,000
Interest and similar expenses	300	424.61	400
Taxes on income	4,000	5258.91	5,000
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>483,892</b>	<b>556,957.04</b>	<b>492,900</b>
<b>Net profit for the year</b>	<b>30,928</b>	<b>24,655.07</b>	<b>6,545</b>

The draft budget for 2009 plans to reduce expenditure by making savings on staff costs. PR work and the update and expansion of the quality directives will continue to be focal points. The redesigning of our website is currently underway. The aim is to design a clearer and more functional site with a download area for members and information that is available to the public. In addition, the QKE e.V. is due to take part in a joint project to draw up environmental product declarations that has been planned in conjunction with the VFF (Association of Window and Façade Manufacturers), **BF** and **BV S+B** associations under the auspices of the **ift** as part of a public sponsorship. Additional costs for legal advice and PR work have also been planned as part of the completion of the “**long-load cartridge project**”.

## Quality assurance at Gütegemeinschaft Kunststoff-Fenstersysteme

A review of the quality directives was due after 10 years. Two wall thicknesses for the visible surfaces of the main profiles were included in line with the European “profile standard” EN 12608. In addition, the RAL accreditation process resulted in the quality association being able to award the quality seal from now on instead of a test mark.

## Committees and working groups

Quality Committee	Sub-committee	Working groups	Expert groups
		Heat absorption of clad profiles	
	C I: Profiles	Profiles, films, adhesives	Compatibilities (to be compiled)
	C II: Seals	Frame materials	Fibre-reinforced materials
		Surfaces	Paintwork (reg. in process)
Quality Committee	C III: System	Gluings of glazing	<b>EKV</b> : gluing
		Restrictions vs. RAL-GZ 695	
	Quality assurance	RAL/NF	CSTB/RAL audit
	<b>EPD</b>	GKFP/EPPA	

## Key issues of sub-committees, working groups & expert groups

### New edition of Section III

Definition of scope of validity with regulations governing the system description, test procedures and the choice of test pieces. Restrictions compared to RAL-GZ 695. Evidence required: RAL window system passport for quality-assured profiles.

### Update of EN 12608

H. Friedrich is the convenor for the working group responsible for producing the new edition of this standard. The ball drop test and the natural weathering (Bandol) required particular discussion.

### Gluing glazing

The directive for glued glazing has to go through the RAL accreditation process; accreditation is expected shortly.

### Fibre-reinforced frame materials

The design has been approved by the Quality Committee; RAL accreditation process can be started.

### Painted surfaces

The design has yet to be approved by the Quality Committee; RAL accreditation process can be started once this has happened.

### Films and adhesives

The proposed procedure for monitoring of the formulations by external bodies involved a link to the ISO 9001 monitoring audit with a fingerprint comparison (current verses recorded formulation).

### Environmental product declarations

The Quality Assurance Association has joined the EPPA project.

### Long-load cartridges

Progress report on the project during the General Meeting.

### CSTB/RAL collaboration:

Operating costs can be reduced by combining the audits of external bodies in accordance with RAL and NF. In principle, CSTB and GKFP are in agreement and are preparing an LOI. The test audits are planned for the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2009.

### Technical Commission

By amalgamating with the Technical Committee of pro-K, synergies in the exchange of information are used and the amount of time required is halved.

### Development of GKFP member numbers

**GKFS: Entwicklung Mitglieder = GKFS: Development of member numbers**

Komponenten = Components

Rohstoffe = Raw materials

Profile = Profiles

*The Board of Directors of QKE e.V. would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the committees for their involvement and their commitment to quality assurance.*

[Seal:  
Quality seal RAL  
Plastic products]

## Contact

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