



PRESS RELEASE

Environmental protection Europe-wide:

EMAS certifications for Eckes-Granini completed in Europe

Nieder-Olm, February 2016. Certified for enhanced sustainability and environmental protection along the entire value chain: Just as the past year came to an end, the international Eckes-Granini Group achieved its ambitious goal of having all of its national organizations with plants in Europe certified in accordance with the Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS). The plant in Sweden was the last to be audited for compliance with EMAS, the world's most demanding sustainable environmental management system.

Sustainable thinking and management: from tree to bottle

“Having planned and implemented this extensive transnational project, we have once again affirmed our high standards in matters of environmental and climate protection,” emphasizes Dr. Karl Neuhäuser, Director Quality & Sustainability at the Eckes-Granini Group. He also sees this as an important step forward within the context of the comprehensive sustainability programme, to which the Group is continually adding new components. In addition to activities along the value chain, the members of the international sustainability team led by Dr. Neuhäuser also focus attention on matters of relevance to products and people.

<http://www.eckes-granini.com/de/nachhaltigkeit/nachhaltigkeit.php>

Prior to certification in Sweden, the four plants in France, Lithuania, Finland and Hungary underwent extensive audits conducted by independent external auditors and published statements on sustainability and environmental management. Eckes-Granini has been working in accordance with the EMAS guidelines in Germany for over 20 years. “We are very pleased that we can now apply these high standards at our other production sites in Europe,”

notes Reiner Pfuhl, who as Director, Supply Chain at Eckes-Granini Deutschland, has been closely involved in the successfully completed project from the outset.

With EMAS for enhanced environmental protection and quality

EMAS, the abbreviation for “Eco-Management and Audit Scheme”, stands for the ongoing efforts of business organizations like Eckes-Granini to achieve continuous improvement in their environmental performance. A unique feature of this certification process is the specification of legally binding objectives in an environmental management statement published every three years. In addition, progress towards the achievement of these objectives is monitored annually by independent environmental auditors.

Another important aspect is the active involvement of employees and suppliers in the process of achieving these goals. “Thus every one of our employees is automatically an environmental-protection manager,” explains Reiner Pfuhl. At Eckes-Granini, systematic environmental management involves more than reducing energy consumption or saving on packing material – in the truest sense of the word, it embodies a holistic sustainability concept in which such matters as raw material production and purchasing, production, warehousing and transport are taken into account along with social aspects such as working conditions for employees of Eckes-Granini and its suppliers.

The Eckes-Granini Group GmbH is an international corporate group specialized in non-alcoholic fruit beverages under the umbrella of Eckes AG. With the international premium brand granini as well as strong local brands, including Brämhults, Elmenhorster, Joker, hohes C, Marli, Pago, SIÓ und YO Syrup, the Group holds a leading position in the European fruit beverage market. The Eckes-Granini Group operates (through fully-owned subsidiaries and strategic partner) in Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Romania and Bulgaria, the Czech and Slovak Republics, Scandinavia, Spain and Switzerland, and employs a staff of 1,640 people. Eckes-Granini markets its products in both the retail food trade and the out-of-home sector in over 70 different countries.

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