

Self-assessment of ESWA AG



Our service goal

ESWA AG is one of four production companies in the Frike Group. It covers the washing powder and laundry additive area of applications.

Our goal is: Thanks to our comprehensive outsourcing system, customers can largely dispense with the development, inspection, manufacture, packaging, warehousing and logistics of their products themselves. Duplication is eliminated.

Our clear target is to relieve customers of the majority of process-related working stages. This enables customers to focus on their core business to a greater degree.



Location

ESWA is located at Rotzbergstr. 1, 6362 Stansstad in the canton of Nidwalden. Motorway exit: Stansstad on the Lucerne - Gotthard section of the A1 motorway.

Access to the company is good. The company's premises are approximately 2 kilometres from the motorway. The company premises consist of approximately 3,400 m² of usable surface area for production. Of this, around 250 m² is occupied by offices and the laboratory. ESWA AG was formed in 2001. It was previously known under the name of Elbus AG (Unilever subsidiary). The premises are rented.

A company of the FRIKE group



Organization / Personnel

ESWA AG is a joint stock company that was formed in 2001. The shares are owned by Fritz Keller AG.

As Fritz Keller AG continues to handle certain central administrative duties, such as, for example, human resources, bookkeeping, sales and marketing etc., a very flat hierarchy was chosen for ESWA AG. This provides customers with short and efficient clarification routes, which results in speedy reaction times.



The company is headed by the works manager and vigorously supported by internal sales staff, the laboratory as well as its technical service staff.

With a network of computer systems specially designed for QA and production, all companies have rapid access to central data.

The high level of mobility of individual senior managers ensures that this can be accessed at any time even on customers' premises. Problems can thus be efficiently solved and information on details can be given immediately.

Environmental situation

ESWA has a certificated environmental management system according to ISO norm 14001. This means that production stages and processes are precisely monitored and improved on a continuous basis. This aspect receives particular attention in the case of new developments to ensure full compliance with Switzerland's strict environmental laws.

Within the Fritz Keller AG Group, ESWA AG is responsible for the management and maintenance of the IMS system. (Database-supported quality management system).



Purchasing / Logistics

We maintain international contacts with suppliers of raw materials and packaging. This allows our customers to leave selection and procurement to us. Alongside our wide range of raw materials and packaging, solutions can also be found for special requests. We purchase quantities ranging from minor amounts through to tanker-size volumes. Coordination within the Fritz Keller Group allows the company to purchase top-quality raw materials and packaging at appropriate market prices.

Quality assurance / Laboratory

The company has process-oriented certification to ISO 9001. The flow of raw materials and packaging is controlled by barcode, assuring complete traceability to the relevant delivery. This means that the corresponding batches can be easily identified and traced just by pushing a button on our sophisticated QA computer system.



All QA data is stored specifically for each article and is immediately accessible for most members of staff should customers have any queries. If any discrepancies arise, this helps us not only to provide data and facts immediately and without any complications but also to take the corresponding measures.

The quality assurance laboratory is headed by the laboratory manager and not by the works manager, which ensures that quality assurance meets the requirement for separate areas of authority. The laboratory is equipped so that all analyses and data required can be produced on the spot. The laboratory at Fritz Keller AG is available for special instrumental analyses. This has all the important instruments that are standard in our branch of business (HPLC, IR, UV, GC, etc.). When highly specific analyses are required, there is a wide range of contacts with different service laboratories.

Production plant

Batch sizes range from 1,000 kg to 3,000 kg. Most of the plant is made of V4A-grade steel. Synthetic materials are used for highly corrosive products. Various pieces of equipment are designed to protect against explosions.

Process mixers

For liquid products

Process mixers in various sizes for liquid to paste products	1 x 3,000 kg 1 x 1,500 kg 1 x 1,000 kg
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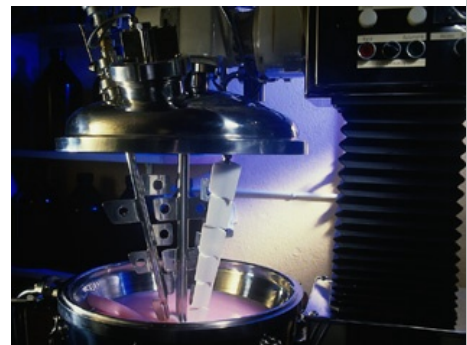
* Heating, cooling, homogenizing and evacuating.

For powder-type products

Continuous powder mixers (dry mix)	Capacity	2 tons/hr.**
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** These mixers are fully automatic, i.e. this plant can be used to produce major volumes speedily and precisely under computer control (with mixing report).

The powder mixers and their filling plant have separate aspiration, i.e. we can dispose of any dust that occur separately or return it to the products.



Production capacities in the liquid sector are currently running at 10 - 30 tons per day/shift. This figure is dependent on the product, the process and, to some degree, on filling capacity, etc.

In the powder sector, we have a capacity of up to 30 tons per day. This is also dependent on the product concerned. Of course, capacities can also be boosted at short notice by the use of additional members of staff and extended shifts.

Filling plant

The filling facilities are designed to package anything from small series (>1,000 units) through to medium-sized series (>100,000 units). The production plant is designed to be highly flexible. I.e. we can put together a suitable production line for almost all orders. The plant is designed to handle both labelled and printed cans as well as special shapes. We also have machines for boxing, cellophane wrapping and shrinking.



Powder fillers

Powder fillers, boxes, Cestindue A 71	60 units/min	500 g - 2,000 g
Powder fillers, boxes, Günther & Walker	6 - 8 units/min.	4,000 g - 2,000 g
Powder fillers, folding boxes, Hermix XA	55 units/min.	200 g - 500 g
Bag-filling plant, Gericke	1 bag/min.	- 50 kg
Powder and liquid fillers, sachet	50 units/min.	6 g - 100 g
Powder and liquid fillers, duplex sachet	50 units/min.	6 g - 100 g

Liquid fillers

Liquid fillers, 6 stations, Masterfill, machine, explosion protected	50 units/min.	100 ml - 1,000 ml
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Storage tanks, storage areas and warehousing

We have a large raw material storage tank system with storage capacities of up to 100 m³ for powder as well as 100 m³ for liquid products. Naturally, we also have many interim storage tanks (of approximately 60 m³) for semi-finished products or customer products.

The area occupied by warehousing and handling amounts to approximately 1,000 m², part of which uses a pallet-rack system. For larger warehousing requirements, we use our central warehouse at Cosmina AG (cf. self-assessment for Cosmina AG).



Final remarks

All of the above-mentioned possibilities allow us to offer each customer an individually tailored package. All of these possibilities can be fitted together on a modular basis to meet customers' specific requirements. The system can also be changed and modified in the shortest possible time with maximum benefits for the customers.

ESWA AG, 14 April 2002, André Keller