

Wire manufacturer receives ISO 9001 certification

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High carbon steel wire manufacturer Wire Supplies & Manufacturing has received ISO 9001 certification.

The certification approval process took about a year to complete and was finally awarded in December at the first attempt.

"We wanted to attain this certification as this will enable the company to significantly grow its export volumes and product output. Further, Wire Supplies & Manufacturing MD **Willie Barnard** has insisted that even during bad economic times, customers needed to be assured that the company will not compromise on quality standards," says Wire Supplies & Manufacturing technical manager **Wayne Thompson**.

The company reports that it wants to grow its production to 5 000 t/m of steel wire, up from the current 3 500 t/m.

"We were already exporting 45% of our production stock prior to receiving the ISO 9001 certification and will now be able to increase our export volumes in specialised high added value products, after having received the international TÜV Rheinland ISO 9001 certification," he adds.

The company reports that for many years it has had a quality system in place and this led to its good reputation in the market. "We

only needed to be benchmarked by an association like TÜV Rheinland for international standards," says Thompson.

TÜV Rheinland's specialists assess management systems according to international and national standards. This means that companies and organisations, manufacturers and service providers have advantages in global and local competition if they have TÜV's certification.

Further, the company reports that it plans to diversify its product range by adding more products to its existing range.

Meanwhile, the company reports that, 18 months ago, it formed the Wire Supplies Screening Services division, which manufactures woven mesh screens for applications such as ore dressing. It expects to export its first batch of screens to Europe in March. "In April, we will commission a high-speed line for cutting welding electrodes," he adds.

This year, the company's strategic aim is to acquire warehouse and storage facilities and it hopes to complete the process by May. "We have budgeted over R20-million over the next three years for the company's expansion project. The expansion entails having more space and will also result in hiring more employees," he adds.



SIGNIFICANT CERTIFICATION

The company reports that it can now access new markets and increase export production with the international TÜV ISO 9001 certification

Meanwhile, the company reports that 18 months ago, it invested millions of rands in a prestressed concrete wire line machine, which manufactures specialised steel wire that is used in prestressed construction products, as well as the strength member in prestressed railway sleepers.

The machine was sourced from Italy. "Training for operators of the machine was provided internally in conjunction with the original-equipment manufacturer," he explains.

Wire Supplies & Manufacturing says that it sources locally produced steel rod and processes it into product such as steel wire for mattress manufacture, wire for welding electrodes, prestressed concrete wire, high carbon weaving wire, steel wool wire and wire for general engineering applications.

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