

High-tech doors in one of the most cutting-edge privately owned breweries in Europe

The C. & A. VELTINS brewery in Grevenstein incorporates machine safety doors from EFAFLEX in its highly sensitive processes.

It's almost 200 years old. But today the C. & A. VELTINS brewery in Grevenstein numbers among the most cutting-edge privately owned breweries in Europe. When you enter the traditional Sauerland brewery, it is hard to miss that all signals are pointing towards growth and innovation. As if controlled by an invisible hand, the gondolas of a monorail overhead conveyor move in a never-ending sequence through the hall in front of the empties high-bay warehouse. Some bring empties in crates of 40, others are loaded with full containers. Where the crates come from or go to remains hidden from view. This is because the EFA-SRT-MS machine safety doors from EFAFLEX only open for brief moments for the crates to pass through and then completely automatically close again immediately, so that people cannot come into contact with the transport systems.

"In 2019, we were looking for a manufacturer who produced reliable high-speed doors for a renovation. The machine safety doors from EFAFLEX met our requirements perfectly here," explains Martin Findeklee. He was responsible for all project planning for the new systems in logistics. "The doors needed to be very fast. They also needed to handle a very high number of opening cycles in a day for filling of up to 80,000 bottles per hour, 24 hours a day, with multiple filling systems. Some doors open and close every 40 seconds." Others already have well above 100,000 opening cycles behind them in two years. "The doors meet all of our expectations perfectly." And they must. Because in the worst case, the entire system would grind to a halt if one of the doors failed. Installation of the new machine safety doors in the existing building was by no means an easy process. The installation situation was very restricted, and the doors had to be precisely aligned with the vertical and horizontal clearance of the Euro pallets loaded

with reusable crates. "Despite all that, installation went very well," Martin Findeklee emphasizes.

Successful installation even under difficult conditions

Over the course of two years, another completely new five-storey building has now gone up at the brewery site. There is space for two filling lines there, among other things. The situation here is similar to the one before the empties warehouse. Using conveyor technology, the pallets with the crates are pushed through the machine safety doors from EFAFLEX onto vertical conveyors so that the bottles can reach the filling system. There, they travel to the appropriate level. In each case, the fully automated system controls which pallets go into production depending on the conveyor technology occupancy rate. "The doors for the lifts in which the pallets are moved up to 25 metres upwards or downwards could not be attached to the hall floor in some places. The EFAFLEX fitters screwed them onto special metal plates in the shaft".

Protection for people, machines and logistics lines

Due to their space-saving, self-contained design, the machine safety doors from EFAFLEX can be adapted perfectly to the required protective devices. They stand out due to their extraordinary resilience and stability. The standard EFA-SRT-MS door curtain is fully transparent and equipped with warning stripes as a standard. Coloured, highly tear-resistant and transversely stable curtains are also readily available. All curtain versions are free from substances that interfere with the lacquering process. The interplay between a high-performance frequency inverter controller and a functionally adapted drive enables the high cycle rate of up to seven cycles per minute in production processes. The doors are designed so that a weight counterbalance mechanism is not necessary, which enables a slimline design of the side door cases. This significantly reduces the maintenance work and spare parts required. A transparent covering provides a clear view of the integrated safety limit switch of cat. 4 / PI "e" in accordance with DIN EN ISO 13849-1. Thanks to the optional floor supports, the safety devices can be installed as a stand-alone system. Uneven ground is compensated by levelling screws.

VELTINS company information

Clemens Veltins took over a small rural brewery in Grevenstein in 1852. Beer had been being brewed there in accordance with the German Purity Law since 1824. Almost 200 years later, the C. & A. VELTINS brewery still produces fresh VELTINS pilsner, as one of the most cutting-edge and largest privately owned breweries in Germany. These being the Grevensteiner speciality country style beer and Pülleken pale beer. Other varieties and the V+ beer mix range are part of the C. & A. VELTINS brewery beverage portfolio.

By now, the Veltins family have run the company for five generations. The owners have turned the traditional brewery into one of the best-known and most popular breweries in Europe with a passion for the art of brewing, willingness to innovate, and entrepreneurial courage and foresightedness. Characterised by the highest quality standards, the premium beer is still brewed today with exclusively high-quality ingredients – malt, hops, yeast and pure exceptionally soft spring water – strictly in accordance with the 1516 purity law.

EFAFLEX company information

EFAFLEX manufactures high-speed doors for industrial applications. Founded in 1974, the company is used by customers from the world of industry, trades, food manufacturing and the chemical and pharmaceutical sectors. EFAFLEX is the only manufacturer of high-speed industrial doors to have been registered in the world market leader index and is therefore one of the 461 top companies in Germany, Austria and Switzerland. The family-owned business has more than 1,400 employees worldwide. With its headquarters in Bruckberg, Bavaria, EFAFLEX is firmly established as the largest employer in the region. Furthermore, with ten subsidiaries on five continents, the company is opening up international markets. More than 60 percent of EFAFLEX's revenue is generated abroad.

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