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Success Story

Rieger Behälterbau, Bietigheim-Bissingen

«We are always up-to-date and have a good transparency. All in all, we are very satisfied with the Kaba solution. The system runs smoothly.»

Oliver Stumpf
Controlling and project manager

www.rieger-behaelterbau.de

Consistent SAP solution saves time and effort and increases data quality

Rieger Behälterbau GmbH was founded in 1952 by Herbert Rieger and developed from a cooperage to a tank and system construction company for the beverage, food, pharmaceutical and chemical industries. Herbert Rieger is from an old cooper family and followed in his father's footsteps. New challenges and entrepreneurial foresight were contributing factors in the development, over time, from traditional wooden barrel production to a modern company producing stainless steel tanks of all types. In 1993, another production site was opened in Pécs, Hungary, so that Rieger Behälterbau had a good starting position for developing the Eastern European market. Today, 180 employees are working at the production sites in Ingersheim, Bietigheim-Bissingen und Pècs. The company produces all types of stainless steel tanks for the beverage and food industry as well as for chemical and pharmaceutical sectors. Highly-motivated and trained employees guarantee a smooth construction and production process and good service. Rieger Behälterbau produces customized pressure and vacuum vessels, bowl tanks, short heating tanks, CIP tanks, storage tanks, (pressure) fermenters, reactors and columns among other. The company sees itself as a full-line provider and offers everything from idea and concept to realization.

The company manufactures tanks with any transportable diameter of up to approx. 6,200 mm and a wall thickness of max. 25 mm on its 6,000 sqm production site in Bietigheim-Bissingen. A modern machine park guarantees an economic production with constantly high quality. A comprehensive stock of stainless steel, with a large number of different materials, dimensions and surface qualities, reduces lead times for material procurement and allows for short delivery times. An SAP system has been used in the company since 2007. As a new feature, time and shop floor data collection were implemented in 2008. This task is fulfilled by the subsystem B-COMM ERP *for SAP ERP* made by Kaba. It is integrated seamlessly in the SAP system via defined interfaces; data maintenance is realized in the SAP system only. This was a concept that convinced Rieger Behälterbau.

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«We did not want any isolated solution, no additional system», says Oliver Stumpf, project manager at Rieger Behälterbau. After several visits to reference companies, Rieger Behälterbau chose the market leader Kaba that has more than 1,300 SAP customers and works in close cooperation with SAP. The working times of all employees are recorded on Kaba terminals B-Net 93 20 and B-Net 95 60 and validated online against the master data. Data processing and calculation of new time balances is realized in the SAP module HR based on the working time and break regulation stored there. In a second step, Rieger Behälterbau introduced electronic shop floor data collection. «We want the system to provide us automatically with shop floor data that we have been recording manually with considerable effort», says Oliver Stumpf explaining the objective. All operations of the work orders are now registered by the employees on the Kaba terminals.

Any rework as well as operation of several machines is also recorded. These data are then transferred to the SAP module PP, where they are analyzed. The automated recording of supplier lot numbers for each order was of especial importance to the company. «We are comitted to ensure the retraceability of the used materials», says Oliver Stumpf. Kaba developed, together with the SAP system company AfO, a customized feedback solution that allows reporting the material lot number and entering quantities and units for each operation. Feedback is realized by means of a defined feedback function on the Kaba terminal. The entries are made using LEGIC readers or wireless barcode scanners. The recorded material feedback is sent via standard IDOC communication from B-COMM ERP and SAP standard IDOC type MATCHARG to SAP and then booked. This solution allows implementing the customer-specific requirement of a lot number feedback for each production order. The Kaba sub-system has proven in practice. «Production data are now registered automatically. This saves a lot of time», Oliver Stumpf sums up. «As opposed to the past, data quality has improved, errors are almost excluded. We are always up-to-date and have a good transparency. All in all, we are very satisfied with the Kaba solution. The system runs smoothly. Soon, we will also implement it at one of our subsidiaries.»