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NEW EU REGULATION ON PERSONAL PROTECTION

Jokamuovi gets approvals among the very first

Jokamuovi Oy, the only protective glove manufacturer in the northern part of Europe, has completed a process during which it renewed its product type certifications. The background for the process lies in the new European Union regulation on personal protective equipment, thus repealing the previous directive from 1989. All current certifications will expire as the result of the change. The new regulation applies to all companies manufacturing or selling personal protective equipment (PPE) within the EU. So, there is a remarkable influence over the PPE industry.

The company CEO *Mrs. Karoliina Sulkakoski* explains that Jokamuovi started the certification process as soon it became possible.

- We already knew that this will be a time-consuming project. We also predicted that the new regulation would cause pressure among the manufacturers towards the end of the allowable transition period. Especially the product testing would be a real bottle neck since there is a very limited number of services available.

Jokamuovi's protective gloves were tested in England. Mechanical durability, cold resistance as well as durability against a number of chemicals and micro organisms were investigated within the test period. The test methods and ratings are determined in the EN standards set in the new regulation. The Finnish Institution of Occupational Health is the organization that finally decides about the certifications.

- We are probably the first protective glove manufacturer in Europe to receive the new certifications. And we are pretty happy about it, Sulkakoski tells.

Among other business areas, Jokamuovi Oy manufacturers protective gloves for oil, gas, mining and timber industry. Speaking in general, the customer is usually quite well aware of the safety requirements and company demands. Sulkakoski states that being in time with the new certifications is paying off.

- We are known for our product quality and durability. In this perspective, this brightens our company image further. The message to customers is that we have already taken care of this.

Jokamuovi Oy, established in 1960, is known for its JokaSafe protective gloves aimed for industrial markets and specific individual use. The company exports globally about 65 % of the total sales. Jokamuovi is one of the few European players in the business, and the only manufacturer in the northern Europe. The products are made in Evijärvi, western Finland.

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