

RETAIL RELIES ON COVID-19 PROTECTION SYSTEMS FROM ITAB HARR

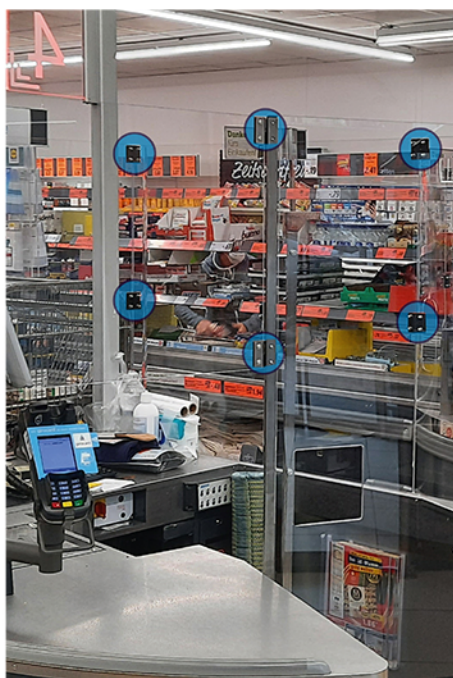
200,000 EMKA hinges secure hygienic protective walls for cash desks

Compliance with hygiene measures is a top priority in the Corona pandemic - especially in the retail sector, where flexible hygiene protective walls have been protecting customers and employees in the checkout area since the beginning of the pandemic. The manufacturer of checkout counters, ITAB Harr, has now retrofitted acrylic glass systems for hygiene protection in all its customers' stores, including the Schwarz Group. The company relies on detachable 180° screw-on hinges from EMKA to install the protective walls. 200,000 pieces were installed at the end of August at around 14,000 cash desks in German stores of Europe's largest discounter.

The Corona pandemic has changed the shopping experience in supermarkets. Many new rules, recommendations and regulations for hygiene-conscious and safe shopping were created. The measures range from entrance restrictions to distance markings on the floor to hygienic protection walls attached to the checkout desks. Especially the hygienic protection walls protect customers and employees from being infected with Sars-CoV-2 by droplet infection. This was also the requirement for Europe's largest discounter stores in Germany: the company described the need for appropriate hygiene protection walls to its partner ITAB Harr, a manufacturer of checkout counters and shop-fitting solutions. When looking for a connecting element for the solution presented, a system of several acrylic glass elements, the hinge and closure experts from EMKA were chosen. The world market leader for closure solutions has been working with ITAB Harr for many years.

Solution convinces through easy disassembly

The main requirement of the EMKA solution concept was an easy disassembly of the system. On the one hand, the hinges should securely connect the individual segments of the acrylic glass hygienic protection walls, on the other hand, they should be easy to unhinge - if possible, also by the cashier - for example in a low-in-



connecting elements. A total of 14 hinges per hygiene protection wall are now used at one checkout unit. They ensure that the system is extremely easy to disassemble and that employees can easily detach individual segments if necessary.

About EMKA

The EMKA GROUP is the world market leader for closures, hinges, and seals used in switch and control cabinets. For more than 40 years the company has been operating in the sector industry (switch and control cabinets, mould making, HVACR, mechanical engineering) and transport (railway, caravans) with conventional and electronic closure solutions. The total product range comprises 30,000 articles, which are developed, manufactured, finished and assembled at ten production sites in Germany, France, England, Spain, Bosnia, Serbia, China and India. In one of the two new plants in Bosnia, the company produces around 900 moulds for injection moulding and die casting every year - both for internal use and for external customers. With 2,100 employees EMKA serves over 34,000 customers in 52 countries. In 2018, the company achieved turnover of over 285 million euros.

EMKA is an expert in stainless steel casting and in injection moulding of zinc and high performance plastics and extruding rubber and plastic profiles. A unique production depth is also ensured by the company's own punching, bending, turning, milling, surface coating or powder coating as well as the final assembly of the products of the modular program. For the realization of individual customer solutions EMKA has an experienced team of designers, developers and engineers at its disposal. The company sets standards in quality, production depth, delivery performance and innovations. EMKA: Ingenious Locking Technology.

fection period such as summer. The detachable 180° screw-on hinges 1056-U55 and 1056-U56, consisting of two hinge halves in die-cast zinc, a black polyamide disk and a hinge pin made of stainless steel, were convincing. These hinges have already been used in the respective stores before at the entrance door of the cash desks and have therefore proven themselves in use for many years.

200,000 hinges delivered in shortest time

After the first inquiry and order placement in June 2020 EMKA convinced with short reaction times and high production depth: The major order for 200,000 hinges was completed in only ten weeks, including the production at the Bosnian site in Goražde and delivery. Already since the end of August, 14,000 cash desks in the discounter stores have been equipped with the hygienic protection walls with EMKA hinges as



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