NEW ISO STANDARDS IN PLACE

Akabori, Japan

Last quarter, Ogura had a transition inspection from ISO9001: 2015 to IATF16949: 2016 which was carried out by four inspectors from Lloyd’s Register of Quality Assurance. The inspection included all 33 departments, focusing on achieving higher quality and cost reduction, making Quality Management System (QMS) essential for any business activities.

There were many additional topics including introduction to risks and opportunities, improvement of performance starting with KPI, evaluation of customers’ requirements in regards to IATF, emergency response plan, the competence of internal auditors and second party auditors. In order to make everybody understand these changes, a team was created, which consists of quality operation employees from each plant.

As a result of a very thorough inspection, the inspectors made comments on eliminating the barrier between departments for better communication.

The corrective measures that will be made should serve as an opportunity for improvement. The QMS system will be even better and will be used as a tool to reach the plant’s goals.

PURCHASING POLICY BRIEFING

Akabori, Japan

Last quarter, the annual Policy Briefing, held at the Akabori Plant was attended by a record number of 244 people from 195 suppliers. At the beginning of the briefing, it was announced that Ogura received the “Excellent Contribution Company Award” from the local government. Managing Director, Mr. Kato, explained trends in new product development and the Deputy Plant Manager explained QCD and also explained the current purchasing policy.

The General Manager, Nakajima, concluded the briefing with the following remarks: “We need to review our manufacturing basic technology to be able to continue to automate. On our side, we are going to enhance our shop floor management by making all employees recognize the importance of the principle "report, communication, consultation" and in return we hope that our suppliers offer us similar improvements to achieve cost reduction.

COME SEE US AT THE LOUISVILLE GIE EXPO OCT. 17th-19th BOOTH # 2104
Wayne had spent numerous years in management with independent distributors in North Florida and Southern Alabama before purchasing Innovative Industrial Motion (Clifford Sales) with Bob Jones in 1989. Wayne started his career with Pensacola Mill Supplies in Pensacola, FL and progressed through the ranks. Among other things, Wayne has vast knowledge of the forest products industry. Wayne resides in Hernando, MS a suburb outside of Memphis, TN. Wayne is dedicated to continuously improving our operations and growing our sales. Wayne enjoys playing golf and spending time with his family.

Ogura Sales Rep Profile

Wayne Collinsworth
Innovative Industrial Motion

Prior to the IATF audit from Lloyd’s, a Training Seminar for Internal Auditors took place to cover the transition from ISO 9001: 2015 to IATF 16949: 2016.

Mr. Kadota from ISO Consulting Services and Mr. Narita from Mitsuba Environmental Solutions lead the seminar in order to prepare for the internal IATF audit.

68 employees took part in the seminar, led by the managers of each department. The lecturers outlined the changes of each standard, explained what was required of internal auditors, and summarized internal audit checklists and case studies. Core training tools like APQP, FMEA, and SPC helped deepen employees’ knowledge of QMS.

The content of the seminar was essential because in this current revision of IATF standards, Ogura must guarantee the following: fulfillment of customers’ requirements; understanding of the process approach and core tools which include a concept based on risk; the knowledge of the internal auditor and the competence of the outside party auditor.

This year Ogura, again, competed in the Pirelli Super Taikyu Series 2018. The first round was at the Suzuka Circuit. The second was at the Sportsland SUGO and the third one at the Fuji Speedway. The 24 Hours race at the Fuji Speedway was held for the first time in 50 years and gathered much attention.

There were six drivers for this race including President Yasuhiro Ogura, who took turns driving during the 24 Hours race and competed in this race for the first time.

Fortunately, no major problems occurred with the car in the 24-hour long race and the team finished in 3rd place in the ST-4 class.

Motor Sports Pirelli Super Taikyu Series

Pirelli race car drivers (Mr. Ogura on far right)
What makes for a pleasant shopping experience – is it superior customer service or individual care? Perhaps it’s bright lighting and organized aisles and shelves? Easy checkout? Or maybe, it’s one you hadn’t thought about – the floors. A clean, bright, polished floor does wonders for your shopping experience. It can make a venue seem hygienic and provide more light as opposed to a dull, worn floor surface.

The commercial floor care industry is valued at over 78 billion dollars in the US alone. Leading the way in supply of equipment to this industry is Onyx Solutions, a Division of Lehr. As a majority of the floor care applications are indoors, traditionally gasoline engines are converted to run on propane for health and respiratory reasons. Onyx Environmental Solutions began its debut into the world of propane powered machinery with their invention of the first “Low Polluting Propane Mower”. With a patent for this system, the Onyx team began their relentless pursuit to be the leader in the innovation and development of new applications for propane powered engines.

The Onyx Environmental Solutions floor care division manufactures a complete line of propane powered floor burnishing, stripping and polishing equipment. Leading the way in the latest advancements to the floor burnisher, Onyx has introduced the X Series. The X Series features performance and environmental specifications that make it one of the most efficient burnishers on the market. Capable of burnishing 34,000 sq. ft. per hour with 27” heads, the X Series produces 53% less emissions than the closest competitor.

Integral to the X Series is the Ogura GT1.5 clutch, which electrically engages and disengages the rotating heads, which physically polish the floor. As with any new product introduction, Onyx was intent on improving all aspects of the machine. Developed integrally with and based off the GT1.5 clutch/brake design, which was already proven to be reliable even in the worst Lawn & Garden applications, Onyx chose the GT1.5 clutch to power the heads. Matching the clutch envelope precisely, the Ogura GT1.5 features a one-piece design which makes installation simpler and faster.

Further improving performance is a more efficient flux path within the clutch which provides more torque in the same package size. During month’s long reliability testing, another benefit Onyx discovered was the quiet operation. The GT1.5 engages smoothly and quietly, eliminating the chatter and “bell ringing” that was associated with the previous device. Finally, all of these advantages are in addition to a cost effective price.

The GT1.5 clutch may be the newest addition to the Ogura General Purpose clutch line, but continues the tradition of Ogura superior quality and performance. Rated at 125 ft./lb. of torque, the GT1.5 is available in 12 and 24VDC, 1” and 1 1/8” bores with a wide variety of pulleys or flange outputs. Together, Onyx and Ogura are making the floor care industry safer and more efficient.●
OGURA SUPPORTS UMATT

Manitoba, Canada

Last quarter, Ogura Industrial supported the University of Manitoba in the 21st annual American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE) in the International ¼ Scale Tractor Student Design Competition. This year, UMATT made a new electronically variable transmission (EVT). The Ogura clutch was used connecting the engine to the planetary gearbox and differential. Overall, the team finished in 4th place and 2nd place in durability. They improved their standing in all six aspects of the competition over 2017.

Ogura is proud to help support the next generation of engineers at UMATT and at other colleges and universities across North America.

LAWNMOWER RACING UPDATE

At the end of August, Chuck Miller had some tough races at the Bowles Farm Race in Clements, Maryland. There was a lot of competition and Chuck collided with another driver in one of the earlier heats which put him back at the end of the pack for the main race, but even with the poor starting position, he was able to work his way up and finish in 3rd place for the first race. On the second day, he was able to get a great start and hold the 1st position throughout the race.

In mid-August, at the Illinois State Fair, it was an extra special occasion because both Bobby Cleveland and Chuck Miller had Ogura sponsored mowers in the BP class. In the main feature race, Chuck finished 1st and Bobby finished 2nd in the BP class. However, on the second day, Bobby crashed and went into a hay bail. Chuck and another driver bumped wheels which pushed Chuck back, finishing 4th in that race.

The Nationals are September 22nd in Jonesboro, AR and currently Chuck is sitting in 2nd overall in the points competition and is well positioned for another run at the national championship. The results will be reported in next quarter’s newsletter, but will also be shared once it happens on Ogura’s social media channels.

NEW MULTIPLE DISC CLUTCH ANIMATION

Somerset, NJ

Ogura Industrial has created a new animation showing how electromagnetic multiple disc clutches work. The animation shows an exploded view of the component parts in the clutch and how they interact with each other. In electromagnetic multiple disc clutches, torque is generated by attracting both the armature and the multiple series of discs to each other to engage a drive cup, attached to a driven component.

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Ogura in the News