

Armacell granted Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) status

Simplified customs procedures; accelerated movement of goods

Münster, 19 April 2013. – Faster and more reliable: since January 2013, Armacell GmbH and Armacell Logistics GmbH have been certified as Authorised Economic Operators (AEO) by the German customs authorities. An Authorised Economic Operator has a special status: the company is regarded as being particularly reliable and trustworthy and as such enjoys special benefits concerning customs clearance. The European Union's AEO-F certificate combines customs simplifications with security and safety and is the most demanding type of AEO certification. This means that Armacell can handle customs formalities faster and more efficiently from now on. Customers benefit from more reliable delivery processes. As the largest Armacell production facilities and the international Armacell holding company are located in Münster, the majority of Armacell products sold on the European market are distributed through this site.

Faster and more efficient delivery service

The introduction of the Authorised Economic Operator is a key element in the EU security concept. In order to obtain the certificate, companies must meet comprehensive conditions. These include compliance with customs requirements, reliability, financial solvency and fulfilment of the relevant legal and safety regulations. Authorised Economic Operators enjoy a number of privileges and the AEO certificate also leads to indirect benefits due to improvements in safety and security standards within the company.

The advantages at a glance:

- customs simplifications
- easing in customs security and safety controls and priority clearance
- fewer physical and document-based controls and
- higher transparency through internal control system: traceability of flows of goods, increased transport security (reduced theft, losses), fewer delays in dispatch; improved security between supply chain partners.

With the AEO certificate Armacell has created the conditions for an even faster, more efficient delivery service for its customers, particularly those outside the European Union.

Further advantages of international recognition

The status of an Authorised Economic Operator is valid in all member states of the EU and does not expire. However, the certification is continuously reviewed by the customs authorities and therefore requires permanent monitoring. Further benefits are likely to arise soon after the AEO certificate is recognised internationally. Negotiations are currently being held with Switzerland, the USA and Asian countries such as China in order to achieve harmonisation and mutual recognition of the security standards. The long-term objective is for contracting parties to grant status holders the same benefits as those granted to status holders in the respective other country.

Armacell is a manufacturer of engineered foams and the world leader in the market for flexible technical insulation materials. In the financial year 2011, the company had a gross annual turnover of around 448 million euros. The group of companies has approximately 2,440 employees and 19 factories in 13 countries. It is headquartered in Münster, Germany. Apart from ARMAFLEX, the leading brand in the field of flexible technical insulation, the company also produces thermoplastic insulation materials, covering systems, fire protection and noise control products, special foams for a multitude of industrial applications and foam cores which are used as composite materials. Further information on the company can be found at www.armacell.com.

Caption: The AEO certificate documents the high degree of reliability and trustworthiness within the Armacell supply chain (Photo: Armacell)