

DaimlerChrysler Makes New Discoveries in the World of Safety

DaimlerChrysler collects safety-relevant product data with the Datalogic Dragon™ M hand-held laser scanners. Simultaneous RF transmissions from 150 readers to the corresponding PCs.



DAIMLERCHRYSLER

DaimlerChrysler has the most impressive product range and the most valuable brands in the automotive industry, with a product portfolio that ranges from small cars to sports cars and luxury sedans, and from versatile vans to heavy duty trucks or comfortable coaches. The highly modern plant in Sindelfingen, Germany, employs approximately 41,000 people and produces 470,000 Mercedes-Benz passenger cars per year. According to German legislation, manufacturers, suppliers, importers and dealers of cars are liable for damages due to defective products. Therefore, all product data, such as supplier information or production details, have to be recorded, and product parts must be identifiable to be able to associate them with the respective supplier, so that this way the supply chain is concluded and complete traceability is guaranteed.

In DaimlerChrysler safety-relevant components are registered after installation. In this way, the unequivocal allocation of parts with the respective car can be ensured and the parts liability documented. To achieve this, all parts, for example driver and passenger airbags and upfront sensors, are labelled with a bar code.

To optimise the work processes in production a new system was required to record the components that are installed. However, in some cases these components are difficult to access and to make things more complicated an operator workstation ranges over 20 metres, making it necessary to install a flexible system which does not interfere with the production cycle. An additional requirement was that several scanners should be in use simultaneously without interfering with each other. To render the solution simple and quick and open

Customer
DaimlerChrysler

Industry
Manufacturing

Application
Work in Progress

Country
Germany

Datalogic Business Solution
Work in Progress

Datalogic Product
Dragon™ Mobile

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Dieter Oster
Project Manager for DaimlerChrysler in Sindelfingen

to future extensions, DaimlerChrysler asked for an integrable solution. “Due to the complexity of the tasks posed, Datalogic, with its extensive product portfolio quickly crystallised as a competent partner for our challenges,” states Dieter Oster, Project Manager for DaimlerChrysler in Sindelfingen.

It was decided that the industrial hand-held reader, Dragon™, from Datalogic, fulfils the requirements in the plant at Sindelfingen. This RF reader has a coverage of 50 metres and can be used without problem on the production line. All security-relevant components can be easily scanned while moving or in positions which are difficult to reach, e.g. in the engine compartment or under the seat. The operator can move around the car without a cable interfering, and the production process is not disrupted. According to Dieter Oster the maximum possible flexibility is assured this way. All readers in the plant are standards products and can be used anytime without special adaptations.

Several point-to-point systems installed in one room render the use of several readers at the same time possible. With this system each scanner is assigned to a determined workstation and a distinct address is assigned for each scanner, so that even when all readers send at the same time, the respective data arrives at the right place.

A quick and qualitative secure RF transmission is ensured by means of the CSMA/CA protocol. As soon as the Dragon™ sends the data to the base station, the system carries out a plausibility check. If the entry is successful, then an acknowledgement occurs in the form of a notification on the display and an acoustic tone. “It was important for us that the operator is warned in the case of an implausible entry. The Dragon™ M with its LED display and beeper assure us this,” says the project manager.

In summary, Dieter Oster comments “The solution from Datalogic which has been implemented signifies for DaimlerChrysler a high degree of operator convenience. The ergonomics, high read rate and long operating time support production at the conveyor.”

Now it is possible for DaimlerChrysler not only to complete traceability in the supply chain by associating installed parts with a supplier, but also



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