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PRESS RELEASE

SORTIMO drives workshop vehicle against the wall

Live crash test in front of 130 European journalists and key account customers

SORTIMO showed complete confidence in their products during their recent Forum "Safety and Transportation inside the vehicle" from 25 - 26 April. A vehicle fully equipped with racking systems was driven into a wall at a speed of 50 km/h. The live crash test at the ADAC in Landsberg/Bavaria was watched by 130 European journalists and key account customers - an extraordinary show of openness and transparency.

Peak forces

It has almost become a tradition: SORTIMO testing the safety of their in-vehicle fittings during crash tests. During the **SORTIMO 'Forum Safety and Transportation inside the Vehicle'** from 25 - 26 April 2005, a practice-oriented sled crash test was performed at the ADAC technology center in Landsberg/Bavaria. By means of a so-called sled test according to ECE 44, a head-on collision at a speed of 50 km/h was simulated. The transporter body was mounted on a sled, accelerated to precisely 50 km/h and then brought to a sudden stop. The body was fitted with 150 kg of SORTIMO Globelyst equipment. In order to simulate a live situation, tool cases, boxes and drawers were loaded with sandsacks (approx. 400 kg). The sled was then pulled to its starting position and after the signal, it started on its almost 100 m long way. After a few moments it crashed into a barrier with a loud bang and was slowed down from 50 to Zero within a few milliseconds.

What makes the sled test so special is the fact that the vehicle shell is hardly damaged. Most of the energy from the impact is absorbed within the vehicle equipment while only the small amount of remaining energy passes on to the vehicle shell - thus avoiding damage to its basic structure.

Planned distortion

As could be seen right after impact, the Globelyst equipment held fast and there would have been no danger of injury to the driver. Although the vehicle fittings were distorted in the direction of travel, the load remained in place. Even the sandsacks in the boxes didn't budge.

The three high-speed cameras taking photos of the crash at a frequency of 1000 pictures per second proved:

- During the **first phase** the peak forces were absorbed by the floating safety floor which moved upwards. The remaining motional energy was absorbed and reduced by the in-vehicle equipment and the safety floor by means of distortion.
- During the **second phase** of the crash test the in-vehicle fittings connecting the vehicle equipment with the lateral body absorbed the resulting forces or passed them on to the structure of the vehicle body. The load was safely held in place by SORTIMO Globelyst.

The engineer from the **ADAC Technology Center, Volker Sandner**, gave excellent marks. 'I am really enthusiastic, especially because we did not run any preliminary test'. Lashing, according to the expert, is one of the trouble spots. Sandner emphasized that the distribution of the load as regards the anchoring of the Globelyst equipment was very good.

This **live crash test** was the **highlight of the ,Forum Safety and Transportation inside the Vehicle'**. "There is no other manufacturer showing and publishing a live test like that", says Reinhold Braun, Sortimo's managing director.

And still more

Mr Christian Börner, Deputy Director of the professional association for commercial vehicles, spoke about the 'safety-optimized van'. Vividly he described active and passive safety and then concentrated on load securing equipment – the subject of the Forum.

One of our guests was the winner of the 2003 Innovation Forum – **Mr Sebastian Tyroller, owner of a heating equipment company near Munich**. He told of his one year experience with SORTIMO Globelyst equipment in his van. He emphasized that good organization and target-oriented equipment were indispensable for an efficient customer service. He said that the mobile SORTIMO workshop was an excellent and safe work station with a high image factor. Because well arranged tools in an orderly vehicle never fail to make a good impression.

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