

## Moisture Analyzer Assures Quality Of Iconic Swiss Knife



**Victorinox was founded in 1884 by Karl Elsener. Throughout its 125-year history, the company has remained true to Swiss values. The legendary "Original Swiss Army Knife" is recognized around the world, and thanks to METTLER TOLEDO moisture analyzers, Victorinox can maintain the quality standards they are known for.**

### **Moisture Testing in Plastics Production**

Victorinox produces the "Original Swiss Army Knife" in their Ibach, Switzerland, facility. They use METTLER TOLEDO moisture analyzers for quality control of incoming goods and for at-line process control of the plastic production process. Firstly, they QS incoming plastic granulate to control the moisture content, color and thermal properties. 15 tons of raw materials are stored and up to 1,000 kg batches are dried daily before use.

Secondly, before processing a customer order, they sample from the dryer and test the granulate batch for moisture content. Depending on the result, they either continue drying to meet the moisture content specifications or use the granules for production. Material that passes the moisture content quality control is automatically fed to the injection molding machines that produce the knife handles.

#### **Why Victorinox purchased METTLER TOLEDO**

Victorinox works with six different plastics and each material has its own moisture analysis drying method. Their current production floor is set up so that one person per shift manages the sample preparation, changes the tooling, runs seven injection molding machines

and performs the quality control. It was essential that the moisture analyzer was simple to use for non-experts. Moisture method shortcuts can be easily identified by the material number and this, coupled with the quality and service offering, was why Victorinox decided to purchase METTLER TOLEDO.

#### **The benefit for Victorinox**

Since using METTLER TOLEDO moisture analyzers, Victorinox has been able to guarantee material quality. If there's a problem with injection molding, they can now eliminate the moisture content of the material as a cause. As a result, Victorinox has been able to cut down the number of discarded batches, eliminate product errors and speed up production by as much as 5 to 10%.



Injection mold for Victorinox Swiss army knife handles (Courtesy of Victorinox)



Peter Anderhub, Team Leader Injection Molding

"Our goal is to ensure that the material is of the highest quality before going into the injection molder. METTLER TOLEDO's moisture analyzers ensure this."

#### **Mettler-Toledo AG**

Laboratory and Weighing Technologies  
CH-8606 Greifensee, Switzerland  
Tel. +41-44-944 22 11  
Fax. +41-44-944 31 60

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