

## **Comment from supplier E and NORD-STEIN Hamburg**

When we started our partnership 1997 the situation in China has been total different.

In 1997 the streets have been in a desolate condition which made the transportation and driving difficult and very dangerous.

The workers were sitting somewhere on the field, besides the streets or wherever they found space. Sometimes producers had 25 or more small production places.

Any protection for the body had been not existed. No glasses for the eyes, caring of heavy materials for long distances by hand, no protection against sun in summer, no salary payment in time, no sleeping or cooking places around the work and so on.

When we started we have changed over the last 10 Years a lot of things step by step.

Changes of working conditions in China are going slowly like in former Europe.

No one likes to pay for it. Not the supplier or the European Importers, as well the final users like the communities or private consumer in Europe.

Therefore we like to mention a few things we have succeed.

First we reduced the amount of working places and prepared the areas in a reasonable way so that we could bring raw material closer to the workers to reduce the very tough work and the working conditions became better and safer.

Nowadays you will find nearly all workers with eye protection, umbrellas against the sun during summer. In most places we are offering hot food for lunch and dinner.

We build a house with kitchen for the travel workers to have a sleeping place over night. Salaries are always paid in time and for China in a good level.

If somebody of our workers had to go to hospital we paid the bill.

For 2008 we have made the first talks to develop the health care. Our goal is to have a doctor ones a month for our workers available.

We discussed although with several workers to sign a working contract, but it is difficult because they are not use to it and therefore afraid.

We never should forget how long our Western European system needed to have this standard. There are enough places in Europe which still have big problems to fulfil the smallest level of our norm we like to have.

But everybody of us feels responsible to go one with development.

It takes time and energy and it will cost money.

NORD-STEIN GmbH / Supplier E