

Press Release

Schaeffler Ensures Uniform Quality Standards Worldwide

Germanischer Lloyd certifies testing method for calculating the rating life of rolling bearings

HERZOGENAURACH/SCHWEINFURT, October 21, 2015. Germanischer Lloyd (GL) has awarded Schaeffler the certification "Assessment of the method to investigate rolling bearing rating life". This is the first time that a fundamental procedure has been certified, as opposed to the previously required certification of each individual rating life factor. The newly-developed method describes the full range of calculation and testing procedures that are required in order to determine every reference parameter that influences the rating life. This makes complex individual approvals for new products and series a thing of the past. For Schaeffler customers, the new certification means a significant level of added value: Less time required, lower costs, and proven reliability in high-volume production.

Calculation of rolling bearing rating life – what does this involve, and why is it so important for the user?

In addition to the static load safety factor and design envelope, the calculated rating life is the central parameter for designing rolling bearings. In most applications, the bearings are dimensioned according to the rating life requirements. There are many areas, including the wind power sector, in which certification only takes place if the calculated rating life is above a minimum value that is required by the relevant standards. The demand for energy savings means that downsizing is now sought-after in many applications. It is important here that, even when smaller bearings are used, the rating life requirements are fulfilled with a reliable rating life prediction.

Quality – worldwide and permanent

During the certification process, Germanischer Lloyd was convinced that Schaeffler can permanently ensure the rating life factors that are determined during product development worldwide. It was also proven that the tested material and process quality is valid not just for the test parts but for the entire series – worldwide. All of Schaeffler's rating life test centers – which in addition to Herzogenaurach and Schweinfurt also include Kysuce in Slovakia and Taicang in China, for example – now proudly display the prestigious seal of approval.

Schaeffler manufactures to the same high international standards worldwide. The basis for this is provided by its company-wide quality management system, whose many benefits include a constantly ensured level of material and process quality. State-of-the-art manufacturing technology for precision products represents a significant contribution to “zero-defect manufacturing”. Here, quality monitoring is integrated directly into the manufacturing process as a closed control loop. Regular audits are carried out in all areas to ensure a high standard of quality.

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The Schaeffler Group is a leading global integrated automotive and industrial supplier. The company stands for the highest quality, outstanding technology, and strong innovative ability. The Schaeffler Group makes a key contribution to “Mobility for tomorrow” with high-precision components and systems in engine, transmission, and chassis applications as well as rolling and plain bearing solutions for a large number of industrial applications. The technology company generated sales of approximately EUR 12.1 billion in 2014. With around 84,000 employees, Schaeffler is one of the world's largest family companies and, with approximately 170 locations in 50 countries, has a worldwide network of manufacturing locations, research and development facilities, and sales companies.

The Industrial division supplies components and systems for around 60 industrial sectors via its worldwide organization and its application support service. The range comprises products from miniature bearings only a few millimeters wide to large-size bearings with an outside diameter of several meters.

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Images: Schaeffler



Germanischer Lloyd is a certification body that is recognized worldwide. Certificate number GL-CER-002-2015 for the „Assessment of the method to investigate rolling bearing rating life“ has been awarded to Schaeffler Technologies AG & Co. KG.



Endurance testing of radial bearings: A rating life test stand at Schaeffler's research and development center in Herzogenaurach. The testing method has earned the company Germanischer Lloyd's prestigious seal of approval.

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