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Greater volume for more efficient transport

Long truck improves CO₂ balance

Selters (hds). Emission-free mobility is one of the most intensely debated issues of the present. Representatives of the EU Commission, the European Parliament and the European Council have now agreed on CO₂ regulation for heavy commercial vehicles. The ambitious goal is to reduce CO₂ emissions by 30 percent by 2030. At Schütz, minimizing carbon dioxide in logistics is always on the agenda. One current pilot project is examining the use of a mega truck by the Haaf freight forwarding company to ship IBCs to customers.

Schütz already uses the long truck operated by logistics partner Haaf for shipments between the company's headquarters in Selters and long-standing customer BASF in Ludwigshafen. The Ecoliner of the haulage company, which is headquartered in Römerberg, can hold 112 empty IBCs and thus makes optimum use of the loading space. "IBCs are a commonly used form of packaging. The square shape allows IBCs to be stacked and transported in a way that saves space. Even with these advantages, logistics costs play a major role, which is why we have been working with suppliers and forwarders on the long truck project since 2017", says Angela Giubilaro, Global Category Manager IBCs & HDPE Drums at BASF. After extensive testing, the green light was finally given at the end of 2019 to supply IBCs to the Ludwigshafen plant using a long truck. "When fully loaded, thanks to the larger volume, only half as many trips are required as with conventional trucks, which is very resource-saving. The reduced number of trips not only saves fuel, but also lowers costs and CO₂ emissions within our supply chain", adds Silvia Gröber, who is responsible for IBC purchasing in Europe at BASF.

Fewer trips also mean lower traffic volumes and reduce the risk of traffic jams on the roads. Furthermore, less administration and paperwork are required, as the long

truck can transport the same number of IBCs as two standard trucks, thus eliminating a whole loading process.

Due to the low weight of the empty containers, the long truck is easier on the road structure even when fully loaded. The average empty weight, depending on the type of IBC, is less than ten tons, which is far less than the maximum permissible transport weight of 40 tonnes. The Ecoliner's tractor unit requires comparatively little fuel to transport IBCs from Schütz to BASF – another factor that has a positive impact on the environment. In general, delivery by long trucks make sense for customers with sites that have a large demand for IBCs. The packaging specialist looks forward to implementing this sustainable logistics concept in collaboration with other customers.

As well as sustainability, the long truck also ensures outstanding safety. It is equipped with additional safety features in accordance with legal requirements. These include a rear-view camera, a cornering assistant, flashing side marker lights, a lane keeping assistant and an automatic distance control system. The drivers of these trucks must be experienced and must have completed a special instruction course provided by the manufacturer for this particular type of truck before being allowed to drive an Ecoliner.

Over 70 years of logistics solutions

The Haaf Group was founded in 1949, and since then the group of companies has developed from a localized freight forwarder in the 1970s to become the Europe-wide jumbo specialist, and is now a transport-related contract logistics service provider. The Haaf Group operates 160 company-owned vehicles from eight locations with around 300 employees. In its "Green Logistics" activities, Haaf implements sustainable solutions to protect the environment – which is fully in line with the Schütz company philosophy. Haaf's activities here include the constant renewal of the company's modern fleet, including the use of highly efficient engines and high-performance exhaust technology, regular eco-training, the use of driver assistance systems, and optimised, digitally supported vehicle scheduling.

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Caption: The resource-saving long truck operated by the haulage company transports IBCs from the Schütz factory in Selters to BASF in Ludwigshafen.
Photo: SCHÜTZ



Caption: Optimum utilisation of the loading space in long trucks – efficiency that benefits the environment.
Photo: SCHÜTZ



Caption: Thanks to its square shape, the IBC is a sustainable logistics tool.
Photo: SCHÜTZ

Schütz is a leading international producer of high-quality transport packaging (Intermediate Bulk Containers, PE and steel drums). The Group's headquarters are in Selters, Germany. Founded in 1958, Schütz employs over 6000 people at more than 50 production and service sites around the world (including licensees). The four Schütz business units, Packaging Systems, Energy Systems, Industrial Services and Composites, each hold leading positions in their respective markets. The family-run enterprise is an important trendsetter and innovator. The Group's turnover in 2018 was 1.8 billion euros. Schütz offers its customers full system solutions that are tailored to their individual supply chain. With the Schütz Ticket Service, a closed-loop cycle of speedy collection and reconditioning for used Schütz IBCs, Schütz provides all of the world's major industrial nations with a service that fully complies with the Group's sustainability philosophy.

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