# ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT 2024

# BERNDORF BAND GmbH

# Environmental Statement

according to
**REGULATION (EC) No 1221/2009 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL**
**of 25 November 2009**
**on the voluntary participation by organisations in a Community eco-management and audit scheme (EMAS)**
in the current consolidated version 12/07/2023

taking into account
**COMMISSION DECISION (EU) 2021/2053**
**of 8 November 2021**
**on the sectoral reference document on best environmental management practices, environmental performance indicators and benchmarks of excellence for the fabricated metal products manufacturing sector**

of the organisation

## Berndorf Band GmbH

Leobersdorfer Straße 26
2560 Berndorf, Austria

for the site
**Leobersdorfer Straße 26,**
**2560 Berndorf, Austria**

**NACE-Code 28.99**

**EMAS-Reg. No AT-000444**

Berndorf, November 2024

This Environmental Statement is a translation of the validated document "Umwelterklärung 2024 Berndorf Band GmbH". This English version is not validated by the environmental verifier.

# FOREWORD
# BY THE MANAGEMENT

"Being economically strong as an industrial company and at the same time producing in an environmentally friendly way means a demanding transformation of corporate processes. The Berndorf Band Group wants to drive this transformation process forward by further developing its sustainability strategy with investments in research and innovation.

Together with our employees, we want to contribute to preserving the environment for future generations and create awareness for sustainable action. Our high environmental standards are anchored in our corporate philosophy and policy, and treating people and nature with respect constitutes the basis for our actions. Employees as well as suppliers and customers are being involved in the strategic and operational environmental objectives, and the implementation of the achieved objectives is regularly evaluated and adjusted.

We have implemented an environmental management system to drive forward our progress."

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# THE COMPANY
# BERNDORF BAND GMBH

## THE BERNDORF BAND GROUP

The Berndorf Band Group has attained the position of global leader in the production of steel belts and steel belt systems thanks to their over 100 years of experience and sales ranging around 150 million euros.

Operating worldwide and employing a staff of approximately 500, the group consists of the parent company Berndorf Band GmbH, based in Berndorf, Austria, eight subsidiaries in Asia, Europe, and North and South America, and partner companies all over the world.

Technical innovation combined with sustainability and quality – this is what the Berndorf Band Group stands for. For more information, visit
**www.berndorfband-group.com**

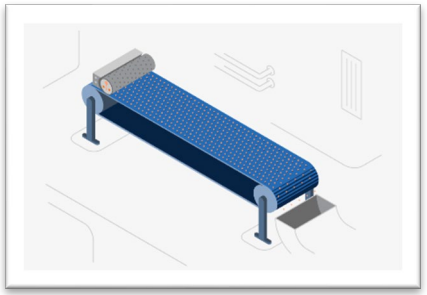
OUR MISSION IS TO CREATE EFFICIENT, ECONOMICAL, AND SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIAL PROCESSES WITH OUR PRODUCTS.

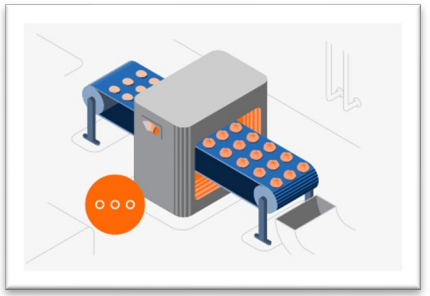
## PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

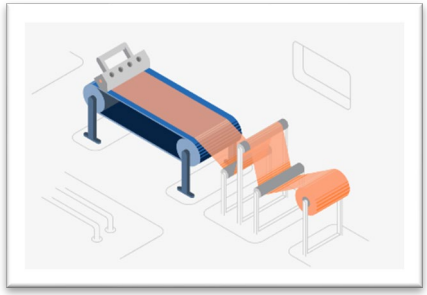
The Berndorf Band Group produces premium-grade steel belts and offers comprehensive solutions for steel belts and steel belt systems that encompass engineering, services, and customer care. Our wide-ranging solutions are incorporated in production and conveying processes found in every industry.

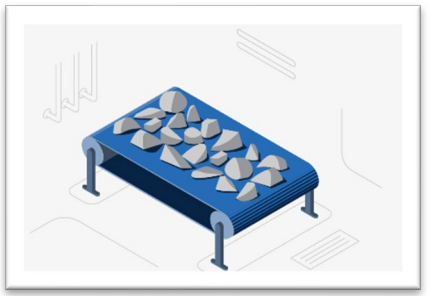
Thanks to our long-time experience and the close cooperation among the companies of the Berndorf Band Group and the constant coordination with our customers, we can make and deliver process systems on a global scale that are both all-inclusive and fully customized.

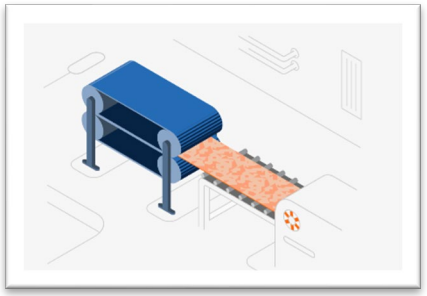
Made from stainless steel, carbon steel or titanium, our belts reflect their supreme quality in every detail – both in terms of their mechanical and physical properties and their geometric characteristics. They have become an important element in continuous industrial processes including pressing, drying, cooling, baking, conveying as well as a host of other applications.

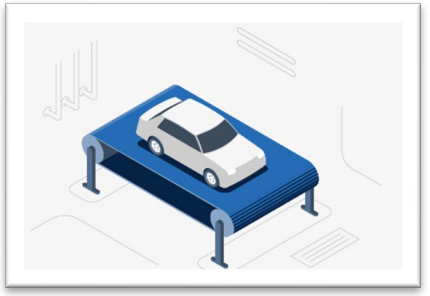






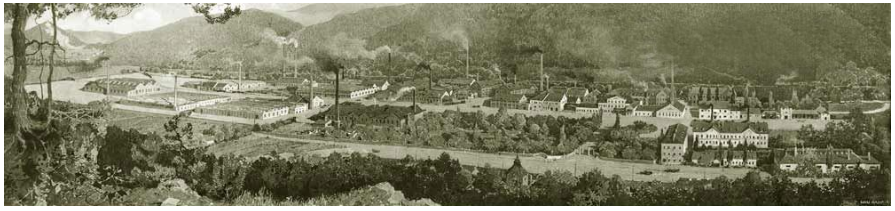






## THE BERNDORF SITE

Berndorf Band GmbH has its headquarters on the Berndorf industrial area in Berndorf, Austria. Berndorf has a long tradition as an industrial location. The industrial enterprise of the same name, today's BERNDORF AG, has existed at this location for about 180 years. Berndorf Band GmbH is one of several subsidiaries of BERNDORF AG.



The industrial area is located in the Triesting valley between the town of Berndorf to the west, St. Veit to the east, the road B18 to the north and the river Triesting to the south. The Leobersdorf – St. Pölten railway line runs along the south side of the river Triesting. An area bordering the industrial area has been designated as "Natura 2000" area particularly worthy of conservation.

The areas and buildings used by Berndorf Band GmbH are the property of Berndorf AG and are rented by Berndorf Band. There are about 20 companies located on the industrial site, with all the infrastructure owned and managed by Berndorf AG, and many facilities, such as roads, parking lots, scrap yards, etc., are shared.


## CORPORATE POLICY, ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

The **corporate policy**, the **quality policy**, the **safety and environmental policy** and the **code of conduct** are structured as two documents, the "Corporate Policy - Berndorf Band Group" and the "Code of Conduct - Berndorf Band Group". However, these two documents are to be understood as one single work, which is reproduced here in *italics*.

***Corporate Policy***
***Berndorf Band Group***

*Berndorf Band Group, a global leader in the production of steel belts and steel belt systems, is a value-based company.*

*The quality of our products (belts and machinery), services, and corporate processes along with our responsibility for the environment, the society, and occupational health and safety are of the utmost importance to us, a stance underscored by our certifications according to ISO 9001, ISO 14001, and EMAS for Berndorf Band GmbH, ISO 9001 and ISO 14001 for Berndorf Band Engineering GmbH, and ISO 9001 for Berndorf Sondermaschinenbau GmbH.*

*The corporate policy defined by the management of the Berndorf Band Group is based on the following principles:*

*VALUES*

*Our values provide the framework for the conduct of our employees.*

## *BERNDORF BAND GROUP – "WINNING TOGETHER"*

*Our motto "Winning Together" underscores our joint strategy across the entire Berndorf Band Group with respect to sales and service of steel belts and belt systems, sustainability, efficient production processes, innovations, and profitable growth.*

## *CUSTOMER ORIENTATION*

*Customer satisfaction is of paramount importance to us, and we strive for continuous improvement in this area. Therefore, customer orientation is an essential part of our responsibility. We are committed to supplying high-quality steel belts, belt systems and services tailored to the needs, requirements, and expectations of our customers.*

## *EFFICIENT ORGANISATION*

*We commit ourselves to continual improvement and development of our technical and organisational processes, our quality and environmental management system, and our environmental performance to meet both our customers' requirements and our own quality standards. Based on our goals and objectives measures and actions are derived, addressed, checked, and updated in the course of annual reviews according to the Plan–Do–Check–Act cycle (PDCA cycle).*

## *MOTIVATED EMPLOYEES*

*Happy and highly motivated employees are eager to fulfil their requirements and to achieve their tasks and objectives. Training and involvement in essential processes is provided to achieve and ensure the necessary competence of personnel and, hence, the entire organisation. As a result of their exemplary behaviour the employees of the Berndorf Band Group contribute to the concept of quality, safety, and environmental protection within the company but also beyond the confines of the company.*

## *LEGAL COMPLIANCE*

*We declare to conduct all our activities and operations, to the best of our knowledge and belief, in full compliance with all applicable laws, regulations, and statutory and regulatory requirements, and we expect a full commitment to legal compliance from all our business partners as well.*

## *CODE OF CONDUCT - BERNDORF BAND GROUP*

*The Berndorf Band Group Code of Conduct is to be understood as an integral part of the Corporate Policy.*

*Berndorf, September 2023*

***Code of Conduct***
***Berndorf Band Group***

*This Berndorf Band Group Code of Conduct reflects our commitment to our responsibility for the environment and the society.*

*It is based, among others, on the ideas of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the OECD Guidelines, and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. It shall be the basis and the framework of all our actions and operations and shall define our standards for ethical and responsible behaviour and legal compliance.*

*We demand full compliance with our Code of Conduct from our employees, and we expect equivalent ethical and responsible business conduct from our business partners and in particular from our suppliers.*
*In the Berndorf Band Group Code of Conduct, we commit ourselves to the following principles:*

*LEGAL COMPLIANCE*
*We declare, to the best of our knowledge and belief, to conduct all our activities and operations in full compliance with all applicable laws, regulations, and statutory and regulatory requirements, and we expect a full commitment to legal compliance from all our business partners.*

*OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY*
*Occupational health and safety are of the highest importance to us. Regular safety-related workplace evaluations are carried out at all our machines and measures are derived where necessary. All production employees are provided with all the personal protective equipment they need and receive regular safety instructions.*

*ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABILITY*
*We are committed to keeping the impact of our activities on the environment as low as possible.*

*Our commitment and dedication to environmental protection, sustainability, and energy efficiency is reflected in our activities within our environmental management system, in our ISO 14001 and EMAS certifications, and in our commitment to legal compliance.*

*The following topics and aspects, among others, are addressed or taken into account in our environmental management:*

- *Energy efficiency, renewable energies*
- *Greenhouse gas emissions and their reduction*
- *Waste management, waste prevention, recycling*

- *Material use, resource management, chemicals management*
- *Water consumption, water management*
- *Emissions, air quality*
- *Land-use, soil sealing, deforestation*
- *Biodiversity*

*Our strategic goal of achieving carbon neutrality in accordance with the Greenhouse Gas Protocol by 2040 underlines our commitment and dedication to environmental protection and sustainability.*

*In the course of our environmental management, we systematically identify our environmental aspects and environmental impacts, and we conduct an assessment of their significance at regular intervals and, if necessary, derive measures and environmental objectives.*

*Our activities and measures in environmental management as well as our environmental objectives are described in detail in our annually issued Environmental Statement in accordance with "EMAS".*

*We expect our business partners to have appropriate environmental management systems or environmental programs in place.*

## *HUMAN RIGHTS, LABOUR RIGHTS*

*We commit ourselves and expect our business partners:*

- *to respect human rights and not to be complicit in human rights violations*
- *not to use, not to tolerate and not to be complicit in child labour and underage labour*
- *not to use, not to conduct, not to tolerate and not to be complicit in human trafficking, forced labour and all forms of modern slavery*
- *not to discriminate against any employee based on race, colour, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, nationality, origin, religion, disability, marital status, union membership, political affiliation*
- *to promote the advancement of women and equality for women*
- *to provide a workplace free of, and not to tolerate, harassment and abuse*
- *to treat all employees fairly and respectfully*
- *to pay employees at least the minimum wage defined by applicable laws and regulations and to provide all legally mandated benefits*
- *to apply working hours and offer vacation time and leave periods and holidays in accordance with applicable laws and regulations*
- *to respect the right of employees to associate freely and join organizations in accordance with applicable laws and regulations*

## *ETHICAL BUSINESS CONDUCT*

*We are committed to conducting our business in accordance with the highest ethical standards. We commit ourselves and expect our business partners:*

- *to respect fair competition and to comply with all competition laws, antitrust laws, trade regulations, or related regulations*
- *to comply with all laws and regulations on anti-corruption and not to engage in, and not to tolerate, any form of bribery, corruption, extortion, fraud, embezzlement, or money laundering*
- *to respect intellectual property, intellectual property rights, copyrights, confidentiality, data protection, and identity protection*
- *to avoid and to report any conflict of interests with respect to our business partners*

## *BERNDORF BAND GROUP MANAGEMENT-SYSTEM*

*Our comprehensive Management System includes, among other things, detailed process descriptions, internal regulations, guidelines, and instructions. This ensures a systematic management of and compliance with all the principles listed above as well as the following topics and aspects.*

- *Processes and Procedures*
- *Duties and Responsibilities*
- *Corporate Strategy*
- *Values*
- *Objectives*
- *Leadership*
- *Legal Compliance*
- *Quality Management*
- *Risk-based Thinking, Risk Management*
- *Occupational Health and Safety*
- *Motivated Employees, Training of Employees*
- *Environmental Protection, Sustainability, Energy Efficiency*
- *Customer Focus, Customer Satisfaction*
- *Intellectual Property Management, Confidentiality, Know-how Protection*
- *Data Protection Guidelines, General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)*
- *Emergency Plans, Emergency Prevention, Fire Protection, Flood Management, Power Blackout Plan Abläufe und Prozesse*

*Compliance with our Management System and to the guidelines, regulations, and instructions stated therein is mandatory for all our employees and is audited in the course of regular internal and external audits.*

*Our Management System is certified according to ISO 9001, ISO 14001, and EMAS for Berndorf Band GmbH, ISO 9001 and ISO 14001 for Berndorf Band Engineering GmbH, and ISO 9001 for Berndorf Sondermaschinenbau GmbH.*

## *WHISTLEBLOWING SYSTEM*

*In case of suspicion or knowledge that this Code of Conduct is being violated, this can and should be reported in our Whistleblowing System.*

*Each report will be processed, with the anonymity of the reporting person, if requested, being systematically guaranteed.*

*Berndorf, September 2023*

*The Management*

*Alexander Leutner, Gernot Binder*

## MANAGEMENT SYSTEM BERNDORF BAND MSBB

The MSBB (“Management System Berndorf Band”) is the representation and depiction of the complete management system of Berndorf Band. It contains all regulations, guidelines, instructions and process descriptions of the quality management, safety management and environmental management and makes them easily available for all employees.

Compliance with the Management System and to the guidelines, regulations, and instructions stated therein is mandatory for all employees and is audited in the course of regular internal and external audits, and line managers are required to ensure compliance with the guidelines in their area of responsibility.


# ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

## OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY MANAGEMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

As a demonstration of the company's commitment to both occupational health and safety as well as to environmental protection, a comprehensive “Safety and Environmental Management System”, (short “SUM” for “Sicherheits- und Umwelt-Management-System”) was introduced at Berndorf Band Group to address both these important issues systematically and effectively. Said Safety and Environmental Management System in turn is fully integrated in the overarching Management System Berndorf Band (MSBB).

In order to be prepared for any emergency situations, and to be able to follow the optimal chain of actions, there are emergency plans available in the MSBB for various risk and emergency situations, such as flood, fire, chemical emergencies, and power blackout. The effectiveness of said emergency plans is checked through exercises at regular intervals.

## FUNCTIONS AND ROLES IN THE SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

### SUM TEAM

The role of the SUM Team is to implement and maintain the Safety and Environmental Management, and to ensure that aspects regarding occupational health and safety as well as environmental protection are taken into account in all processes and activities at Berndorf Band as well as in the corporate objectives

The management report, which is addressed to the top management, includes the legal compliance check, an analysis of data relevant for the Safety and Environmental Management and the environmental performance. Based on this information, the management decides on further measures and actions regarding the Safety and Environmental Management.

### ORGANISATIONAL ROLES

The responsible and authorized persons in the area of the Safety and Environmental Management are listed in an overview diagram in the MSBB document "Organigramm Sicherheit & Umweltschutz" (German for "Organisational Chart Safety & Environmental Protection"). This information ensures that responsibilities and contact persons are known and transparent throughout the organisation.

## CERTIFICATION, REGISTRATION, AUDITS

Berndorf Band GmbH has been certified according to ISO 9001 since 1996 and according to ISO 14001 since 2002 and has been registered according to EMAS Regulation for the Berndorf site since 2002.

That means that the Safety and Environmental Management of Berndorf Band meets all criteria and requirements of ISO 14001 and EMAS.

The compliance of the Safety and Environmental Management system with said standards and regulations, ISO 9001, ISO 14001 and EMAS, in the respective current versions, as well as compliance with applicable legal requirements are checked by internal audits and **internal environmental audits** conducted at regular intervals.

In the annual **verification** by an accredited environmental verifier ("**external audit**"), it is confirmed that the environmental policy, the environmental programme, the environmental management system, the environmental review, the internal environmental audit system and the environmental statement (this document) of Berndorf Band GmbH meet the requirements of the EMAS Regulation.

## LEGAL COMPLIANCE – LEGAL REGISTER

The legal register is a collection of all applicable legal requirements relevant with respect to occupational health and safety and to environmental protection such as environmental law and legislation on water, waste, air pollution, etc.

The legal register provides a comprehensive basis for the regular checks for compliance with said legal requirements. Measures and actions are being processed as tasks in the task management system (see next chapter).

The completeness of the relevant legal requirements included in the legal register is ensured by collaboration with a company specialised in legal services. This service includes providing information about legal changes in the areas of energy, buildings, systems, machines, products, environmental protection, and employee protection as well as support in the form of regular workshops to present this information and to derive measures.

Berndorf Band is, of course, fully committed to legal compliance, and declares, to the best of its knowledge and belief, to conduct all its activities and operations in full compliance with all applicable laws, regulations, and statutory and regulatory requirements. The legal register and the task management are important and valuable systems and instruments for ensuring legal compliance.

## TASK MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Measures and actions to be carried out in the course of the Safety and Environmental Management are being managed via the Task Management System, "AMBB" (short for "Aufgaben-Management Berndorf Band").

The AMBB is used to manage a wide range of tasks for all employees. The attached information to each task includes the person responsible, the due date, associated legal requirements (law, regulation, etc.), description of the task, description of the measure/action taken, etc., and it is easily possible to view the status and the degree of completion of each task at the push of a button.

# ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS AND IMPACTS

Upon the most important tasks of an organisation's environmental management system is the **identification** of all direct and indirect **environmental aspects** and **environmental impacts** and the subsequent **assessment** of their **significance**.

**Direct environmental aspects** are associated with activities, products, and services of the organisation itself over which it has direct management control, such as emissions to the atmosphere, waste, wastewater, use of resources, transport, environmental accidents.

**Indirect environmental aspects**, on the other hand, cannot be directly controlled by the organisation, but they can result from the interaction of an organisation with third parties and can to a reasonable degree be influenced by the organisation, such as aspects related to the life cycle of products, (raw material extraction, transport, use, disposal, etc.), environmental performance of contractors or suppliers.

## ASSESSMENT OF THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS AND IMPACTS; ABC-ANALYSIS

The identification of the direct and indirect environmental aspects and impacts of the activities, products and services of Berndorf Band GmbH, considering a life cycle perspective, and the assessment of the significance of the environmental aspects and impacts according to defined criteria is accomplished using an ABC analysis, carried out by qualified and authorised personnel at regular intervals.

Said defined criteria based on which, in the course of said ABC analysis, the assessment of the significance of the direct and indirect environmental aspects and the associated environmental impacts is carried out are listed in the following table.

| Name of Criterion | In this criterion the following elements are being considered: |
|---|---|
| **„Compliance Obligations"** | **thresholds**, **limits**, **compliance obligations**, applicable laws and legislation, requirements, permits, and the like |
| **„Quantitative"** | **frequency** of activities and processes; **quantities**, **consumption**, **extent**, and the like; **comparison to previous year(s)** - improvement/deterioration; indirect environmental aspects: extent of influence over these aspects, extent of consideration of these aspects |
| **„Interested Parties"** | **negative impact on employees or the public** (e.g. neighbours) due to smell, smoke, noise, visual influence, etc.;<br>**condition of the environment**;<br>**potential harm to the environment** including **biodiversity** |
| **„Risk-based Thinking"** | **Risks** and opportunities with respect to its **environmental aspects**, compliance obligations and other identified issues and requirements (the organisation and its context, external and internal issues, needs and expectations of interested parties) that need to be addressed to:<br>• give assurance that the environmental management system can achieve its intended outcomes<br>• prevent or reduce undesired effects, including the potential for external environmental conditions to affect the organization<br>• achieve continual improvement |

The assessment using the ABC analysis results in a classification of all considered items into **categories A, B or C**. It must be noted that said classification into the categories A, B and C is not carried out by an algorithm, but, as mentioned above, the classification into said categories takes place in a group of qualified employees.

CATEGORY A

Environmental aspects which may have significant environmental impacts. There is an urgent need for action. Actions must be planned and implemented, and their effectiveness evaluated. Category A items are often the basis of environmental objectives. If no actions are taken a reasonable justification must be stated.

CATEGORY B

While the environmental aspect is not significant, there is still room for improvement. Consideration should be given to whether actions are needed to avoid potential environmental impacts.

CATEGORY C

There are no or only insignificant environmental impacts. No action is necessary.

The environmental aspects and the criteria for assessing their significance are being made publicly available through this Environmental Statement.

Said identification of the direct and indirect environmental aspects and associated environmental impacts and the assessment of their significance using an ABC analysis is carried out not only for normal operating conditions (see above) but for (potential) **emergencies**, **environmental accidents** and **abnormal operating conditions** (such as start-up and shutdown) as well, using the following criteria:

- „probability of occurrence"
- „importance and potential effect on the environment"
- „importance and potential effect on employees"
- „probability of timely detection"

## DIRECT ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS AND IMPACTS

At Berndorf Band, the following direct environmental aspects and impacts were identified and assessed using an ABC analysis (as explained in detail in the previous chapter).

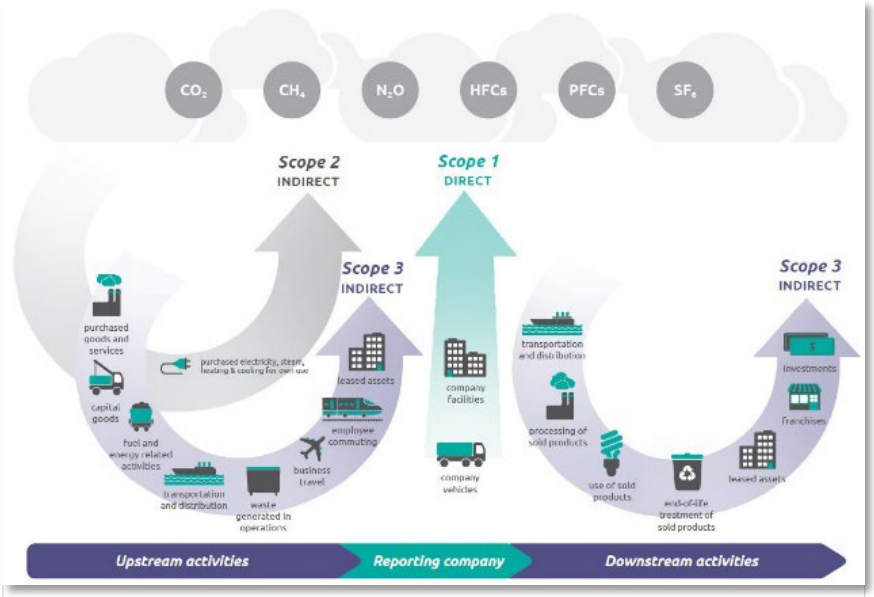
The assessment has shown that there are no or only insignificant environmental impacts as a result of the direct environmental aspects.

### GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS, $CO_2$ EMISSIONS

$CO_2$ emissions and other greenhouse gas emissions (GHG emissions) are among the main causes of climate change.

The Berndorf AG and the management of the Berndorf Band Group launched a comprehensive project with the aim of the Berndorf Band Group achieving **Climate-Neutrality** for the Berndorf site by **2040**.

The "Greenhouse Gas Protocol" ("GHG Protocol" – see ghgprotocol.org) will be used as guideline, according to which a company's direct and indirect GHG emissions are categorized, based on the value chain, into three "scopes", Scope 1, 2 and 3.




Quelle: https://ghgprotocol.org/sites/default/files/standards/Corporate-Value-Chain-Accounting-Reporing-Standard_041613_2.pdf

The following Scope 1, Scope 2, and Scope 3 GHG emissions are caused by Berndorf Band.

### SCOPE 1

Direct GHG emissions from sources that are owned or controlled by Berndorf Band:

- Combustion of natural gas - natural gas is used for the heat treatment of special steel grades in a heat treatment furnace
- Combustion of diesel fuel – diesel fuel is used as fuel for forklift trucks and high pressure cleaners
- Fuel consumption of the vehicle fleet
- Refrigerant leakage from air conditioning systems

At Berndorf Band there are no direct emissions of other greenhouse gases such as $CH_4$, $N_2O$, HFKW, PFC, $NF_3$, and $SF_6$.

### SCOPE 2

Indirect GHG emissions associated with purchased electricity or heat consumed by Berndorf Band:

- $CO_2$ equivalent of purchased electricity
- $CO_2$ equivalent of heating energy – heating energy is provided by Berndorf AG through a local heating network

### SCOPE 3

All other indirect emissions, e.g., from the manufacture and transport of purchased goods, distribution and use of products, waste disposal, commuter traffic, business travel.

Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions will be reported in full in a later chapter in accordance with the GHG Protocol. Scope 3 emissions are not listed here but are already being recorded and documented for 2024 as part of the preparations for the *Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive* (*CSRD*).

## OTHER EMISSIONS INTO AIR

The following facilities, equipment and processes at Berndorf Band may result in emissions into air. These were measured and checked with respect to the respective permissible limit values. The measurements are performed anew in case of changes in the processes and, if deemed necessary, are repeated from time to time even if the processes remain unaltered.

### DUST EMISSIONS FROM VARIOUS PROCESSES

The dust emissions are within the limit values and, according to immission measurements, do not cause any negative effects on the ecosystem.

### GRINDING AND POLISHING

The surfaces of the belts are being worked using grinding machines (dry and wet grinding machines) and polishing

machines. The resulting wear debris and sludge contains chromium and nickel.

**Countermeasure:**

To avoid any negative effects, dust and grinding sludge are filtered off using several adequate filter systems. After filtering, the exhaust air is exhausted through the roof. The proper functioning of the filters is checked by constant monitoring with measuring systems.

### POLISHING AGENT

Highly diluted solutions of nitric acid are used as a component of a polishing agent.

**Countermeasure:**

Said solutions of nitric acid are prepared in rooms where highly effective gas extraction systems are installed.

### LASER WELDING

The belts are being welded using laser welding equipment. The welding fumes produced contain chromium and nickel.

**Countermeasure:**

The welding fumes are extracted from the workplace and the heavy metals are filtered out. The dust measurements show that the dust concentrations emitted by the laser welding system are practically zero.

### PLASMA CUTTING

Fumes contaminated with chromium and nickel are produced in the cutting of the belt edges using a plasma system.

**Countermeasure:**

The produced fumes are extracted directly at the point of origin with a modern filter system.

### ETCHING PROCESS

Textured belts are embossed using an etching process in order to obtain 3-dimensional surface structures. Said etching process produces aerosols and vapours containing small amounts of hydrochloric acid.

**Countermeasure:**

The aerosols and vapours are extracted, neutralized by a gas scrubber and exhausted into the open.

### VEE-ROPE BONDING

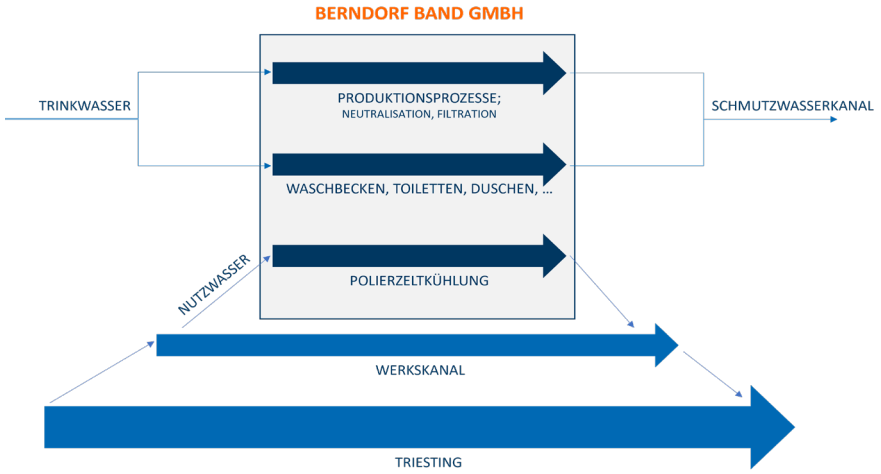
Diluted sulphuric acid is used in the process for the application of Vee-ropes to the belt.

**Countermeasure:**

The machine for the bonding of Vee-ropes to the belts is equipped with an extraction system for acid vapours.

## USE OF WATER

At Berndorf Band, both drinking water and, to a very small extent, process water are used.



## DRINKING WATER

The drinking water is supplied by "Wasserleitungsverband Triestingtal" (water supply association). Drinking water is used on the one hand for everyday needs (washing, bathrooms, etc.) and on the other hand for specific manufacturing processes.

Very pure water is required in the polishing process and, although the water is treated prior to the process, only drinking water is suitable. Since the water is cleaned after the polishing process and fed back into the process, due to the circulation of the polishing water, the consumption of drinking water during the polishing process is quite low.

After neutralisation, precipitation and filtration, all waste water is finally discharged into the wastewater sewer. The waste water from daily needs is also discharged into the sewage system. The waste water therefore is not discharged into the natural river Triesting.

The following table shows the measured values of the main contaminants of the waste water discharged into the sewage system from the main processes that consume drinking water, polishing, Vee-rope bonding and etching. In recent years, there were no cases of exceedance of limit values according to "AEV Oberflächenbehandlung" and all measured values were well within the legal limit values.

| | POLISHING | | | VEE-ROPE BONDING | | | ETCHING | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Parameter | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | limit values[1)] |
| pH-value | 7.50 | 8.32 | 7.92 | 8.43 | 6.60 | N/A | 8.21 | 7.90 | 7.69 | 6.5-10.0 |
| precipitable substances [ml/l] | - | - | - | <0.1 | <0.1 | N/A | 0.6 | 0.1 | <0.1 | 10 |
| filterable substances (0.45 µm) [mg/l] | <5 | <5 | <5 | <5 | <5 | N/A | 25 | <5 | <5 | 150 |
| iron [mg/l] | - | - | - | - | - | N/A | 3.2 | 0.25 | 0.40 | - [2)] |
| total chromium [mg/l] | 0.002 | 0.011 | 0.015 | - | - | N/A | <0.05 | <0.05 | <0.05 | 0.5 |
| nickel [mg/l] | 0.024 | 0.073 | 0.038 | - | - | N/A | <0.05 | 0.06 | 0.018 | 0.5 |
| sulfate [mg/l] [3)] | - [3)] | - [3)] | - [3)] | 16.2 | 580 | N/A | - [3)] | - [3)] | - [3)] | --- [4)] |

[1)] limit values for discharge into a public sewage system according to "AEV Oberflächenbehandlung" (BGBl. II Nr. 44/2002)

[2)] limited by filterable substances

[3)] sulfate occurs only in the process of Vee-rope bonding

[4)] the current version of the "AEV Oberflächenbehandlung" does not state limit values for sulphate

N/A: no measurement data available for 2024 due to the rare execution of this process

The analyses of the water samples were carried out by:
Umweltanalytisches Labor ZT-GmbH, 1200 Vienna, Austria

### PROCESS WATER

The process water is taken from the factory canal, a man-made branch of the river Triesting. At Berndorf Band, process water is only used for cooling of the polishing area. All machines are no longer cooled with process water, since all machines have been switched to air cooling over time. Therefore, the consumption of process water is very low. All cooling water is ultimately returned to the river Triesting via the factory canal.

## WASTE

The topic of industrial waste is extremely important for an organization like Berndorf Band for several reasons. On the one hand, waste can pose problems for the environment and people, and on the other hand, the amount of waste or its avoidance shows how sparingly and efficiently an organisation uses its resources, thereby contributing to the conservation of natural resources.

Berndorf Band has been recording data on all waste volumes since 1997. This offers the opportunity to identify where waste can be avoided and reduced and where there is a need for implementing more environmentally friendly technologies or recycling concepts. Depending on the type of waste, the waste is either sent for recycling (e.g. scrap, paper, cardboard), disposal, thermal disposal (e.g. oily workshop waste, commercial waste similar to household waste) or hazardous waste disposal (e.g. sulphuric acid).

A list of the waste generated annually for the most important types of waste can be found below in the input/output table.

## USE OF LAND

All areas of the premises are owned by Berndorf AG and lie within their responsibility.

According to emission and immission measurements, the activities of Berndorf Band do not result in any contamination of the soil of the Berndorf premises.

As already explained in a previous chapter, Berndorf Band is located on an area that has been an industrial area for quite a long time. Therefore, any increase in the land use by Berndorf Band, for example to expand the production or storage areas, will only have negligible negative impact on the environment, since said expanded areas are or were already part of the industrial area.

Due to over 180 years of industrial activity on the premises, contaminations of the soil cannot be ruled out. In the course of building activities, it may therefore be necessary to have contaminated excavated material properly disposed of by a specialist company.

In recent years, several environmental activities and campaigns have been taken on the premises, such as the settlement of beehives, the planting of trees or the creation of wildflower meadows.

## USE OF ENERGY

The energy resources, such as electrical energy, compressed air, natural gas, and heating energy are purchased from Berndorf AG.

Environmental objectives often relate to the topics of energy and resource consumption.

### ELECTRICAL ENERGY

Various energy-saving measures, awareness-raising campaigns, and the installation of photovoltaic systems on the roofs of several buildings have led to considerable savings and reductions in electricity consumption in recent years.

### COMPRESSED AIR

Compressed air is purchased from Berndorf AG and is frequently used in production processes. Since compressed air is a very expensive form of energy, it is important to reduce the consumption of compressed air, which has been achieved as part of a previous environmental objective a few years ago.

### DIESEL FUEL

Diesel fuel is used as fuel for forklift trucks and for the operation of high pressure cleaners in the production of certain belts.

### NATURAL GAS

Natural gas is used for the operation of the furnace for heat treatment of special steel grades.

### HEATING ENERGY

The heating energy is provided by Berndorf AG through a local heating network. Fossil fuels (natural gas and heating oil) are used for the generation of the heating energy on which Berndorf Band has no influence.

The thermal renovation of the roofs of all Berndorf Band production halls a few years ago has contributed to significant savings in heating energy.

## OPERATING AND WORKING MATERIALS

A comprehensive assessment of the environmental aspects and impacts of operating materials is carried out by means of an ABC analysis, as described in detail in a previous chapter. A few selected important operating supplies are described below. A more comprehensive list can be found in the input/output table.

### ACETONE

Acetone is used at Berndorf Band in a wide variety of procedures during various production steps. As the amounts used are relatively high, efforts are being made to reduce the amounts of acetone and other solvents used.

### ACIDS

Some acids, such as sulfuric acid, nitric acid, or a solution of $FeCl_3$ are used in various production processes. All acids are ultimately either neutralised, precipitated and filtered, or disposed of properly.

### TRAFFIC

Berndorf Band contributes to the traffic volume in a number of ways, for example through:

- delivery of purchased materials to Berndorf Band
- transport of sold products to customers
- commuter traffic of employees (mostly by private car)
- business travel by employees (worldwide)

Inherently, traffic has a variety of effects on the environment, mainly through:

- emissions from traffic: $CO_2$, $SO_x$, $NO_x$ (see chapter Greenhouse Gas Emissions, $CO_2$ Emissions)
- production of vehicles
- construction works for infrastructure
- fragmentation of habitats - transport routes dissect contiguous wildlife habitats

Consequently, Berndorf Band achieves to reduce the amount of transport caused by Berndorf Band as much as possible. Environmental aspects such as noise and exhaust emissions of the vehicles as well as the existence of an environmental management system are important criteria in the selection of the shipping company. With regard to business travel, there are increasing efforts to either switch to train travel instead of air travel or even to replace business travel altogether with online meetings. Most company cars have now been replaced by electric cars.

In some areas, however, the possibilities for Berndorf Band remain limited. For example, many employees rely on private cars for commuting due to the poor connection to public transport.

### LOCAL IMPACTS

Phenomena with local impacts, such as noise, vibrations, odours, and the like, are also evaluated and assessed by means of the ABC analysis. The assessment has shown that these aspects do not result in any significant environmental impacts.

## INDIRECT ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS AND IMPACTS

At Berndorf Band, the following indirect environmental aspects and impacts were identified and assessed using an ABC analysis, taking into account a life cycle perspective of the products.

The assessment has shown that there are no or only insignificant environmental impacts as a result of the indirect environmental aspects.

### BELT MATERIAL

The questions of where the belt materials come from and how environment-friendly they are produced are very important for Berndorf Band. However, since there are only very few suppliers of belt materials, with some types of steel even only one, exerting influence in this regard is only possible to a very limited extent, despite the fact that the

supplier evaluation includes consideration of environmental aspects and impacts.

## PACKAGING

The belts produced by Berndorf Band GmbH are prepared for transport in an elaborate and cost-intensive process in order to avoid any damage during transport. The packaging used, which is mainly made of wood, is usually returned to Berndorf Band for reuse and, in some cases, is used by the customers for storage of belts. Other packaging materials such as paper and plastic are disposed of.

Berndorf Band is a licensed partner of ARA (Altstoff Recycling Austria AG) and thus participates in a collection and recycling system for packaging materials in Austria.

## TRANSPORT

The transport of purchased materials to Berndorf Band and of sold products to customers is carried out by forwarding companies over which there is only limited influence. However, the environmental performance is strongly considered in the process of the evaluation and selection of these service providers.

## USE OF THE BELTS

Berndorf Band belts are not harmful to the environment per se. In any case, Berndorf Band has little to no influence on the production processes in which the belts are used, and influencing the customer's processes is only possible through competent advice. On the other hand, in the area of design of belt systems and belt machines by Berndorf Band Engineering, a subsidiary of Berndorf Band, there is a very strong focus on the design of energy efficient and environmentally friendly machines for customers.

## LIFE CYCLE

With regard to the lifetime of the belts, customers are advised competently whether and when a repair is possible instead of buying a new belt. In any case, extending the lifetime of belts through repair works at the customer's premises contributes to the conservation of resources.

## DISPOSAL

Although the customer can be offered to take back a belt at the end of its lifetime, it is, of course, ultimately up to the customer whether the used belt is disposed of properly. Since a belt is made from valuable and recyclable raw materials, in almost all cases a used belt is being recycled.

## ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE OF CONTRACTORS AND SERVICE PROVIDERS

The supplier assessment includes criteria regarding the environmental performance and occupational health and safety management. In-house service providers are given instructions to operate correctly and safely when working on the company premises. One of Berndorf Band's contractors provides the chrome plating of belts. There is a long-standing business relationship with this trusted partner, and Berndorf Band performs supplier audits in regular intervals to verify that this contractor will comply with all applicable legal requirements relating to the environment and to occupational health and safety.

# DATA ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE – INPUT/OUTPUT

## INPUT/OUTPUT TABLE

The following table shows the main types of input and output, i.e. material inflows, energy consumption, water consumption, and waste.

The most recent year here is 2023 which is the last completed year at the time this environmental statement was issued. For comparison, the data from some previous years are also provided.

| INPUT/OUTPUT | | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Reference Value** | | | | |
| production hours (german: Fertigungsstunden FST) | FST | 83 547 | 86 888 | 73 298 |
| thousand production hours (TFST) | TFST | 83.5 | 86.9 | 73.3 |
| **INPUT - materials** [1)] | | | | |
| sanding paper belts | kg | 19 959 | 19 817 | 20 428 |
| for grinding the steel belts | kg/TFST | 239 | 228 | 279 |
| foils | kg | 32 695 | 32 422 | 27 372 |
| for protection of the surface of the steel belts | kg/TFST | 391 | 373 | 373 |
| paraffin paper | kg | 4 308 | 1 160 | 4 493 |
| for protection of the surface of the steel belts | kg/TFST | 51.6 | 13.4 | 61.3 |
| paper and cardboard | kg | 36 650 | 28 079 | 29 753 |
| for protection of the steel belts during internal and external transport | kg/TFST | 439 | 323 | 406 |
| acetone | kg | 8 362 | 6 318 | 4 549 |
| for various production steps | kg/TFST | 100 | 72.7 | 62.1 |
| acids and bases – | kg | 82 336 | 82 070 | 77 510 |
| sulphuric acid, iron(III) chloride $FeCl_3$, nitric acid; Sodium hydroxide solution | kg/TFST | 986 | 945 | 1057 |
| materials that can be disposed of as waste oil or oil-water mixture – | kg | 18 971 | 17 294 | 19 368 |
| petroleum based oil, cooling lubricant for grinding, hydraulic fluid, etc. | kg/TFST | 227 | 199 | 264 |
| wood | kg | N/A | N/A | 450 000 |
| for packaging of the steel belts | kg/TFST | | | 6 139 |

| continuation of the table | | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **INPUT – energy, water, landie** | | | | |
| natural gas [2)] | m³ | 18 946 | 17 450 | 14 258 |
| for the heat treatment of special steel grades | m³/TFST | 227 | 201 | 195 |
| | MWh | 193 | 178 | 145 |
| | MWh/TFST | 2.31 | 2.04 | 1.98 |
| diesel fuel [3)] | l | 14 590 | 14 267 | 12 429 |
| used as fuel for forklift trucks and for the operation of high pressure cleaners; | l/TFST | 175 | 164 | 170 |
| fuel for the vehicle fleet is not included here | MWh | 143 | 140 | 122 |
| | MWh/TFST | 1.71 | 1.61 | 1.66 |
| electrical energy | MWh | 4 022 | 3 863 | 3 402 |
| | MWh/TFST | 48.1 | 44.5 | 46.4 |
| solid fuels and other energy carriers | | N/R | N/R | N/R |
| drinking water | m³ | 6 006 | 5 377 | 4 101 |
| | m³/TFST | 71.9 | 61.9 | 55.9 |
| process water | m³ | 16 | 0 | 0 |
| | m³/TFST | 0.19 | 0 | 0 |
| compressed air | Tsd m³ | 1 637 | 1 837 | 1 566 |
| | m³/FST | 19.6 | 21.1 | 21.4 |
| use of land | m² | 42 271 | 42 271 | 42 271 |
| | m²/TFST | 506 | 486 | 577 |
| **OUTPUT - waste – non hazardous waste** | | | | |
| industrial waste | kg | 22 362 | 28 330 | 28 105 |
| SN 91101 | kg/TFST | 268 | 326 | 383 |
| industrial waste – plastic foils | kg | 15 200 | 15 400 | 20 020 |
| SN 57119 | kg/TFST | 182 | 177 | 273 |
| industrial waste – sanding paper belts | kg | 10 920 | 6 920 | 12 620 |
| SN 91101 | kg/TFST | 131 | 79.6 | 172 |
| paraffin paper (waxed paper) | kg | 3 640 | 1 440 | 3 280 |
| SN 18702 | kg/TFST | 43.6 | 16.6 | 44.7 |
| paper and cardboard | kg | 53 960 | 55 960 | 52 510 |
| SN 18718 | kg/TFST | 646 | 644 | 716 |
| grinding sludge | kg | 124 000 | 116 860 | 104 960 |
| SN 35507 | kg/TFST | 1 484 | 1 345 | 1 432 |
| blasting sand residues | kg | N/A | N/A | 7 620 |
| SN 31402 | kg/TFST | | | 104 |

| continuation of the table | | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **OUTPUT - waste – non hazardous waste** | | | | |
| polystyrene waste<br>SN 57108 | kg<br>kg/TFST | N/A | N/A | 2 400<br>32.7 |
| scrap metal | kg<br>kg/TFST | 272 479<br>3 261 | 266 832<br>3 071 | 304 900<br>4 160 |
| wood waste<br>SN 17201 | kg<br>kg/TFST | 24 780<br>297 | 19 680<br>226 | 13 620<br>186 |
| **OUTPUT - waste – hazardous waste** | | | | |
| oil-containing solid workshop waste<br>SN 54930 | kg<br>kg/TFST | 10 996<br>132 | 8 658<br>100 | 8 762<br>120 |
| emulsion, oil-water mixture<br>SN 54402, 54408, 54702 | kg<br>kg/TFST | 230 380<br>2 757 | 264 620<br>3 046 | 251 330<br>3 429 |
| waste oil<br>SN 54102 | kg<br>kg/TFST | N/A | N/A | 4 310<br>58.8 |
| acids, inorganic acids, acid mixture; sulphuric acid<br>SN 52102 | kg<br>kg/TFST | 2 300<br>27.5 | 6 820<br>78.5 | 1 640<br>22.4 |
| bases, alkaline mixtures<br>SN 52404 | kg<br>kg/TFST | N/A | N/A | 6 360<br>22.4 |
| waste iron(III) chloride $FeCl_3$ - filter cake<br>SN 51310 | kg<br>kg/TFST | 9 720<br>116 | 8 260<br>95.1 | 5 920<br>80.8 |
| waste iron(III) chloride $FeCl_3$ - liquid<br>SN 52103 | kg<br>kg/TFST | 60 200<br>721 | 54 900<br>632 | 59 860<br>817 |
| metal packaging with hazardous residual contents<br>SN 35106 | kg<br>kg/TFST | N/A | N/A | 1 820<br>24.8 |
| **OUTPUT - other** | | | | |
| e.g. exhaust air, industrial waste heat, noise, radiation, etc. | | N/R | N/R | N/R |

SN: Austrian waste code number

N/A: no comparative data from previous years available due to new or modified data collection or data preparation

N/R: not relevant, not applicable, or not existent

[1] For reasons of confidentiality, no information is provided here on the most intensive resource in terms of quantity, the steels for the production of steel belts.

[2] conversion factor: heating value of natural gas 10.2 kWh/$m^3$ or 0.0102 MWh/$m^3$

[3] factors for calculation: 1 kg diesel corresponds to 11.67 kWh or 0.01167 MWh; density: 0.84 kg/l

## EXPLANATION TO THE REFERENCE VALUE

In the input/output table as well as in the following table of the core environmental performance indicators, all data are stated in two ways.

The first entry in each row represents the annual input/output in the given area, that is figure A according to Annex IV, point C. 2. (b) (i) of the EMAS Regulation.

The second data entry in each row represents the relative number, that is the figure R which is the ratio A/B according to Annex IV, point C. 2. (b) (iii) of the EMAS Regulation.

The reference value is the figure B according to Annex IV, point C. 2. (b) (ii) and (d).

Until a few years ago, as said reference value the annual production output (production volume) of belts supplied was used. However, for several reasons, after consultation with and permission by the environmental verifier and the Austrian Umweltbundesamt (Federal Environment Agency Austria), it was decided to use the annual production hours as reverence value figure B.

## CORE ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

According to Annex IV, point C. 2. (a) of the EMAS Regulation the core environmental performance indicators focus on performance in the following key environmental areas:

- Energy
- Material
- Water
- Waste
- Land use with regard to biodiversity
- Emissions

The following two tables show the core indicators of said key environmental areas, with the core indicators in the key area of emissions being listed in a separate table.

Again, as explained above, each value is given both as absolute number and as relative number with the used reference value being the same as used in the input/output table.

All data in the following two tables are derived from values in the input/output table with the respective sources and calculation methods being stated in the footnotes.

| Key Environmental Area | Core Environmental Performance Indicator | | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **energy** | total direct energy consumption [1] | MWh<br>MWh/TFST | 4 358<br>52.2 | 4 180<br>48.1 | 3 669<br>50.1 |
| | ratio of energy consumed from renewable energy sources in % of electrical energy consumption [2] | % | 100 % | 100 % | 100 % |
| | energy consumed from renewable energy sources [2] | MWh<br>MWh/TFST | 4 022<br>48.1 | 3 863<br>44.5 | 3 402<br>46.4 |
| **material** | annual mass-flow of key materials used [3] | | [3] | [3] | [3] |
| **water** | total annual water use [4] | m³<br>m³/TFST | 6 022<br>72.1 | 5 377<br>61.9 | 4 101<br>55.9 |
| **waste** | total annual generation of waste – broken down by type [5] | | [5] | [5] | [5] |
| | total annual generation of waste | kg<br>kg/TFST | N/A | N/A | 903 308<br>12 324 |
| | total annual generation of hazardous waste [5] | kg<br>kg/TFST | N/A | N/A | 341 553<br>4 660 |
| **land use** | land use with regard to biodiversity [6] | m²<br>m²/TFST | 42 271<br>506 | 42 271<br>486 | 42 271<br>577 |

N/A: no comparative data from previous years available due to new or modified data collection or data preparation

[1] The total direct energy consumption is calculated as the sum of the values for natural gas, diesel fuel, and electrical energy of the input/output table.

[2] Berndorf Band purchases electricity from Berndorf AG. According to the certificate of the electricity supplier, Berndorf AG obtains electricity from 100% renewable energy sources. It has to be noted that these are market-based data, not location-based data. The figures of the energy consumed from renewable energy sources directly represent the consumption of electrical energy.

[3] The annual mass-flow of key materials used (excluding energy carriers and water) according to Annex IV, point C. 2. (c) (ii) of the EMAS Regulation can be seen in detail in the input/output table.

[4] The total annual water use is calculated as the sum of the values of input drinking water and input process water of the input/output table.

[5] The total annual generation of waste, broken down by type, can be seen in detail in the input/output table.

[6] The use of land is the built-up, i.e. sealed, area used by Berndorf Band. Since Berndorf Band, as explained in previous chapters, is located on an area that has been an industrial site

for a very long time, any increase in the land use by Berndorf Band, for example to expand production or storage areas, only has negligible negative impact on biodiversity, since said expanded areas were already part of the industrial area. Therefore, the core indicator for land use with regard to biodiversity is not relevant to Berndorf Band's significant environmental aspects and impacts. Consequently, according to Annex IV, point C. 2. (a) last paragraph of the EMAS Regulation the land use with regard to biodiversity does not have to be stated at all. However, for the sake of completeness, this information is nevertheless provided here.

| Key Environmental Area: Emissions – Core Environmental Performance Indicators | | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Scope 1 emissions: $CO_2$ equivalent from combustion of natural gas [1)] | t<br>t/TFST | 38.6<br>0.46 | 35.6<br>0.41 | 29.1<br>0.40 |
| Scope 1 emissions: $CO_2$ equivalent from combustion of diesel fuel [1)] | t<br>t/TFST | 36.6<br>0.44 | 35.8<br>0.41 | 31.2<br>0.43 |
| Scope 1 emissions: $CO_2$ equivalent from fuel consumption of the vehicle fleet [1), 2), 6)] | t<br>t/TFST | 12.5<br>0.15 | 16.5<br>0.19 | 15.3<br>0.209 |
| Scope 1 emissions: $CO_2$ equivalent of refrigerant leakage from air conditioning systems [3)] | | 0<br>0 | 0<br>0 | 0<br>0 |
| Scope 2 emissions: $CO_2$ equivalent of electrical energy consumption [1), 4)] | t<br>t/TFST | 732<br>8.76 | 703<br>8.09 | 619<br>8.45 |
| Scope 2 emissions: $CO_2$ equivalent of heating energy [1, 5), 6)]<br>(in brackets: heating energy in MWh) | t<br>t/TFST<br>MWh | 1 116<br>13.4<br>(5 569) | 966<br>11.1<br>(4 818) | 961<br>13.1<br>(4 792) |
| total emissions of greenhouse gases $CH_4$, $N_2O$, HFKW, PFC, $NF_3$, $SF_6$ as $CO_2$ equivalent [7)] | | N/R | N/R | N/R |
| total air emissions of $SO_2$, $NO_x$, PM [7)] | | N/R | N/R | N/R |
| total annual emission of greenhouse gases = sum of all values listed above [6)] | t<br>t/TFST | 1 936<br>23.2 | 1 757<br>20.2 | 1 655<br>22.6 |

Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions are being reported in full here. Scope 3 emissions for 2023 are not listed here, in accordance with the Greenhouse Gas Protocol, but are already being recorded and documented for 2024 as part of the preparations for the *Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive* (CSRD).

N/R: not relevant or not existent

[1)] The greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from combustion are calculated using the emission factors which are stated in the following link and are listed in the following table: https://secure.umweltbundesamt.at/co2mon/co2mon.html (retrieved October 8, 2024; state of data: Dec. 2023)
For better comparability, the data for all years are calculated using the current emission factors.

| Energy Source | $CO_2$ equivalent direct emissions | units |
|---|---|---|
| "Stromaufbringung Österreich" (electrical energy in Austria) | 0.182 | $kg_{CO2}/kWh$ |
| natural gas | 2.04 | $kg_{CO2}/m^3$ |
| diesel fuel | 2.51 | $kg_{CO2}/l$ |

2) The data for the fuel consumption of the vehicle fleet (not including personal company cars) is calculated from the kilometres of each vehicle and the respective applicable emission factors.

3) The amount of refrigerants refilled into the air conditioning systems during regular maintenance is duly recorded and entered in the logbooks by the company servicing the systems as part of regular maintenance and inspections.

4) The data are calculated using the emission factor for "Stromaufbringung Österreich" given in the link and table above. According to the certificate of the electricity supplier, Berndorf AG obtains electricity from 100% renewable energy sources. However, as this certificate does not carry the official "Umweltzeichen Grüner Strom" eco-label in accordance with the "UZ 46 - Grüner Strom" directive, the emission factor for the "Umweltzeichen Grüner Strom" must not be used for the calculation, but instead that for "Stromaufbringung Österreich", which is almost 15 times higher.

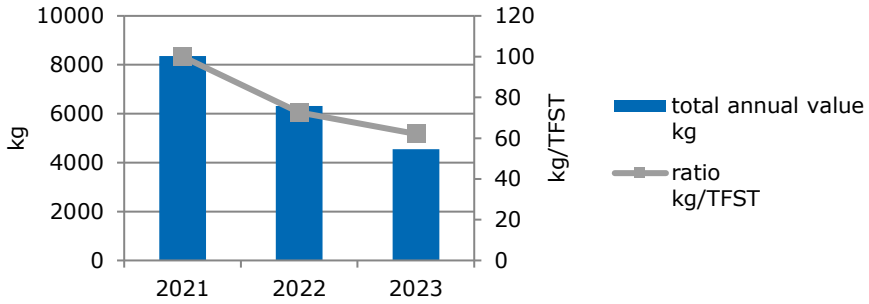
5) The data are calculated from the heating energy stated in brackets in the table and the emission factors for natural gas given in the link and table above. The heating energy of Berndorf Band is calculated based on data provided by Berndorf AG.

6) It should be noted that the comparability of the data provided for 2021 and 2022 with that for 2023 should be treated with caution due to new or modified data collection or data preparation.

7) All other emissions, the declaration of which are required according to Annex IV, point C. 2. (c) (vi) of the EMAS Regulation, namely $CH_4$, $N_2O$, HFCs, PFCs, $NF_3$ and $SF_6$ as well as $SO_2$, $NO_x$ and PM are nonexistent.

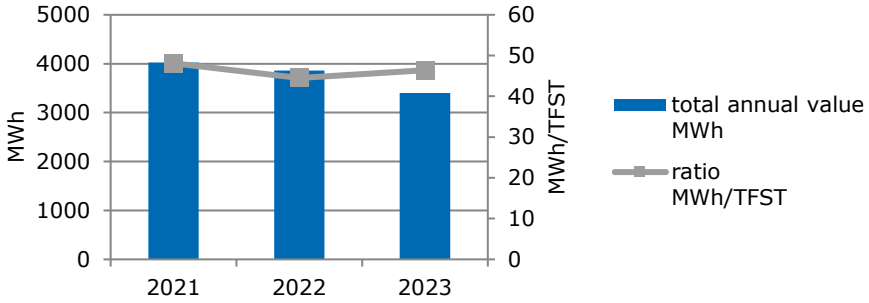
# INFORMATION TO SELECTED DATA

## INPUT – ACETONE



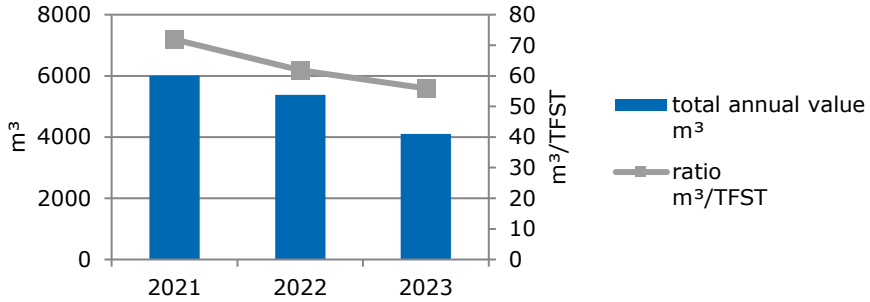

As a consequence of the relatively high consumption of acetone, the reduction of the use of acetone has been the goal of a special project for years. Unfortunately, no completely satisfactory and usable substitute for acetone has been found to date.

## INPUT – ELECTRICAL ENERGY



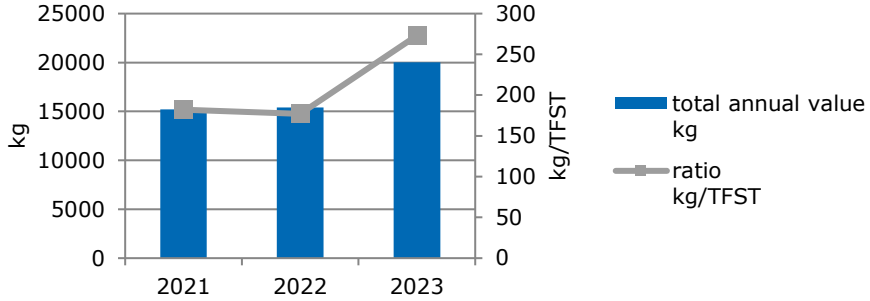

The data for the purchase of electrical energy (electricity consumption) include around 25 % of electrical energy supplied by the photovoltaic systems on the roofs of several buildings.

## INPUT – DRINKING WATER



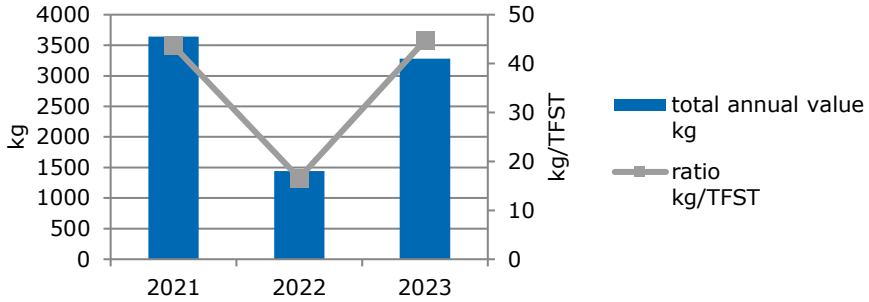

As previously explained in detail, drinking water is used for specific manufacturing processes, including the polishing process. As a result, the consumption of drinking water roughly correlates with the extent of the polishing activity and can therefore fluctuate considerably.

## OUTPUT/WASTE – INDUSTRIAL WASTE – PLASTIC FOILS



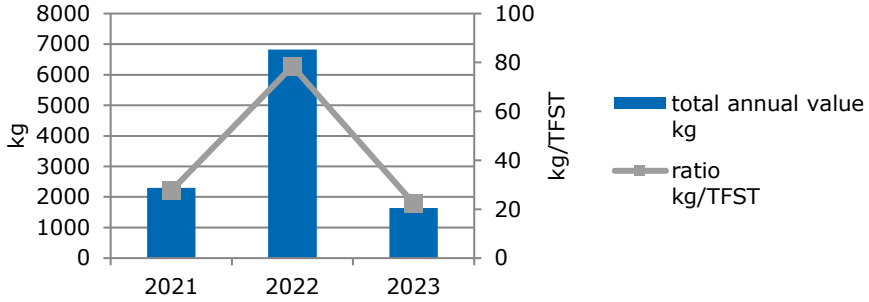

Plastic foils are mainly used for protection of the surface of the steel belts.

## OUTPUT/WASTE – PARAFFIN PAPER (WAXED PAPER)



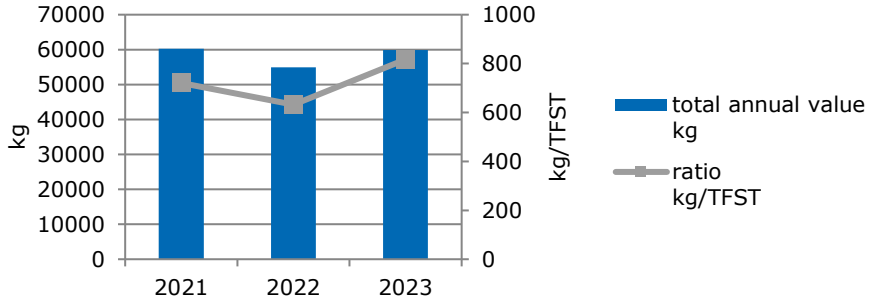

The fluctuations in the amount of disposed paraffin paper are a result of the varying number of disposals per year due to long disposal intervals.

## OUTPUT/WASTE – SULPHURIC ACID



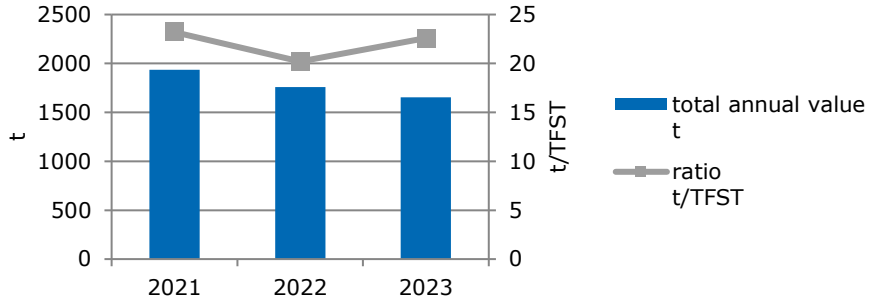

The high consumption of sulfuric acid in 2022 was caused by a flaw in the system design, where due to its hygroscopic properties sulfuric acid was constantly being diluted as it binds water from the air and was therefore no longer usable after a relatively short time. After modification of the system design the problem was solved and the consumption of sulfuric acid was significantly reduced.

## OUTPUT/WASTE – IRON(III) CHLORIDE - LIQUID




The consumption of iron(III) chloride $FeCl_3$ correlates strongly with the mix of types of belts being produced.

## TOTAL EMISSION OF GREENHOUSE GASES




The table of emissions shows that by far the largest contribution to total greenhouse gas emissions is caused by heating and electricity consumption.

# ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM, ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES AND TARGETS

## SUCCESS STORIES – PREVIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES

### IMMISSION MEASUREMENTS USING BIOMONITORING SYSTEMS

A biomonitoring project was carried out and successfully completed in 2019.

The results showed that the measured values are approximately in the range of, and in some cases even below, reference values from uncontaminated regions, which is very gratifying given the fact that the company site is an industrial area after all.

### CHARGING STATIONS FOR ELECTRIC CARS

Starting in 2020, several electric charging stations were installed for company cars and for visitors.

### ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION, PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEMS

An evaluation and analysis of the data on consumption of electrical energy has shown that there is a relatively high base load. It was therefore decided and has already been implemented to install photovoltaic systems on the roofs of several buildings in order to reduce the $CO_2$ equivalent emissions of Berndorf Band.

The share of photovoltaic electricity for 2024 (January to September) amounts to 26 % of Berndorf Band's total electricity consumption. Furthermore, all lighting has now been converted to LED lighting.

## STATUS OF ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES FOR 2024

### CLIMATE NEUTRALITY 2040; SUSTAINABILITY

The Berndorf AG and the management of the Berndorf Band Group launched a comprehensive project with the aim of the Berndorf Band Group achieving Climate-Neutrality for the Berndorf site by 2040.

In addition, in order to meet the considerable requirements of the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD), intensive preparations are currently underway to systematically record and document all $CO_2$ equivalent emissions.

Furthermore, first measures to reduce emissions are also to be developed and implemented.

### MODIFICATION FILTER AND EXHAUST SYSTEM GRINDING LINE BRM 20

The ABC analysis for the assessment of the significance of the environmental aspects and environmental impacts had shown that there is currently a slight exceedance of the limit value for odor units at the line BRM 20.

In order for this problem to be solved in the long term, the system must be modified accordingly. First tests have already been carried out. The modification works are expected to be completed in 2025.

### REPLACEMENT OF AIR CONDITIONING UNITS

The planned replacement of energy-intensive air conditioning systems with new, state-of-the-art equipment is currently in the design phase.

### LEASE MY BIKE

Starting already in 2023, all employees have the opportunity to purchase bicycles on a tax-privileged basis via the leasing model "Lease My Bike". This campaign shall help reduce the relatively high $CO_2$ emissions caused by employee commuter traffic.

So far, around 25 employees have taken advantage of this campaign. A covered parking area for bicycles has also been built, which will soon be equipped with charging facilities for e-bikes.

## ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES FOR 2025

### SUSTAINABILITY REPORTING

The activities of the environmental management team currently focus on the requirements of sustainability reporting, i.e. the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) and other legal requirements, for example in the area of supply chains (CSDD). These requirements apply in particular to the areas environment, social, and governance (ESG).

Furthermore, there is an increasing demand from customers to achieve certain scores in ratings and questionnaires as proof of performance with respect to sustainability.

All these environmental targets will be formulated in detail in early 2025.

As all these activities are very resource-intensive across all departments, and as the economic situation is currently somewhat strained, and as the annual assessment of the environmental aspects and impacts using an ABC analysis has shown that there is currently no urgent need for measures, no further new environmental objectives have been set for 2025.

## UPDATE INTERVAL, VERIFICATION

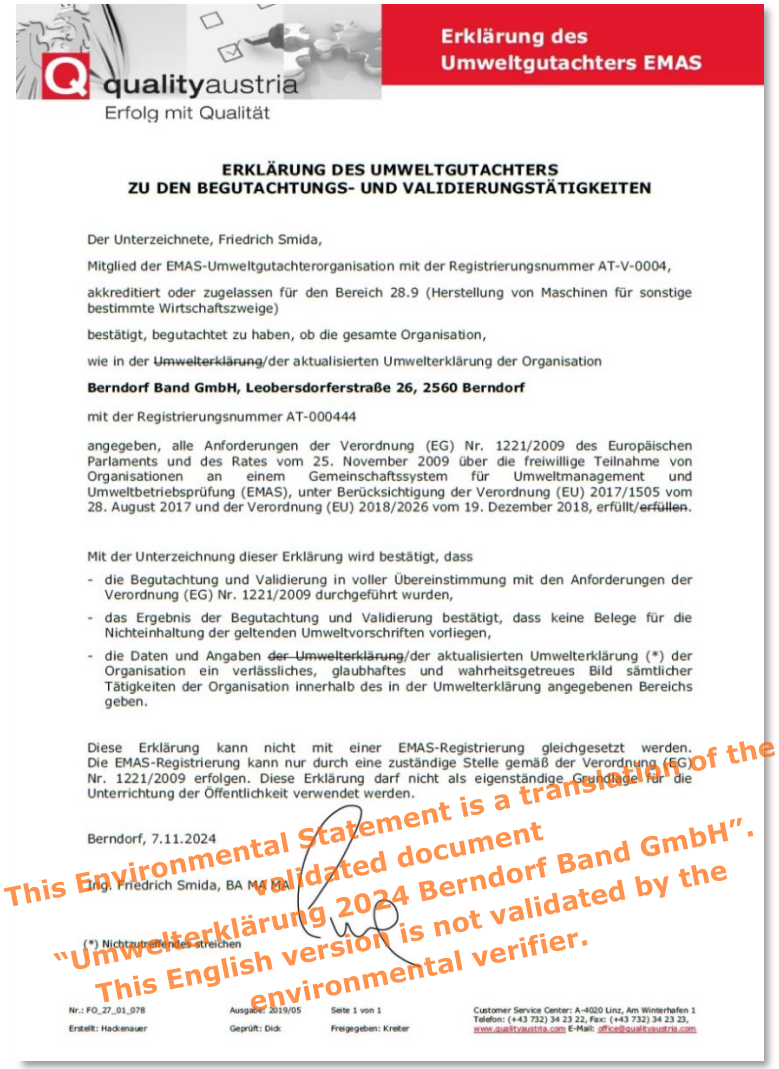
The Berndorf Band Environmental Statement is revised and updated every year. This ensures that both the entire text and all figures, data and facts are always up-to-date and correct.

In the yearly verification by an accredited environmental verifier ("external audit"), it is confirmed that the environmental policy, the environmental programme, the environmental management system, the environmental review, the internal environmental audit system and the environmental statement (this document) of the organisation Berndorf Band GmbH meet the requirements of the Regulation (EC) No 1221/2009 of 25 November 2009 (EMAS) in the current consolidated version 12/07/2023.

This Environmental Statement 2024 is an updated version according to Chapter 1, Article 2, point 19. of the EMAS Regulation.

The next edition of the Environmental Statement, the updated Environmental Statement 2025, will be submitted in the course of the verification in November 2025.

## VALIDATION BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL VERIFIER



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**Erklärung des Umweltgutachters EMAS**

**ERKLÄRUNG DES UMWELTGUTACHTERS ZU DEN BEGUTACHTUNGS- UND VALIDIERUNGSTÄTIGKEITEN**

Der Unterzeichnete, Friedrich Smida,

Mitglied der EMAS-Umweltgutachterorganisation mit der Registrierungsnummer AT-V-0004,

akkreditiert oder zugelassen für den Bereich 28.9 (Herstellung von Maschinen für sonstige bestimmte Wirtschaftszweige)

bestätigt, begutachtet zu haben, ob die gesamte Organisation,

wie in der ~~Umwelterklärung~~/der aktualisierten Umwelterklärung der Organisation

**Berndorf Band GmbH, Leobersdorferstraße 26, 2560 Berndorf**

mit der Registrierungsnummer AT-000444

angegeben, alle Anforderungen der Verordnung (EG) Nr. 1221/2009 des Europäischen Parlaments und des Rates vom 25. November 2009 über die freiwillige Teilnahme von Organisationen an einem Gemeinschaftssystem für Umweltmanagement und Umweltbetriebsprüfung (EMAS), unter Berücksichtigung der Verordnung (EU) 2017/1505 vom 28. August 2017 und der Verordnung (EU) 2018/2026 vom 19. Dezember 2018, erfüllt/~~erfüllen~~.

Mit der Unterzeichnung dieser Erklärung wird bestätigt, dass

- die Begutachtung und Validierung in voller Übereinstimmung mit den Anforderungen der Verordnung (EG) Nr. 1221/2009 durchgeführt wurden,
- das Ergebnis der Begutachtung und Validierung bestätigt, dass keine Belege für die Nichteinhaltung der geltenden Umweltvorschriften vorliegen,
- die Daten und Angaben ~~der Umwelterklärung~~/der aktualisierten Umwelterklärung (*) der Organisation ein verlässliches, glaubhaftes und wahrheitsgetreues Bild sämtlicher Tätigkeiten der Organisation innerhalb des in der Umwelterklärung angegebenen Bereichs geben.

Diese Erklärung kann nicht mit einer EMAS-Registrierung gleichgesetzt werden. Die EMAS-Registrierung kann nur durch eine zuständige Stelle gemäß der Verordnung (EG) Nr. 1221/2009 erfolgen. Diese Erklärung darf nicht als eigenständige Grundlage für die Unterrichtung der Öffentlichkeit verwendet werden.

Berndorf, 7.11.2024

Ing. Friedrich Smida, BA MA MA

(*) Nichtzutreffendes streichen

This Environmental Statement is a translation of the "Umwelterklärung 2024 Berndorf Band GmbH" validated document
This English version is not validated by the environmental verifier.

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