

## QUALITY AWARD: FABER HONOURS ITS PRODUCTION FACILITY IN SASSOFERRATO FOR THE FOURTH YEAR RUNNING

*Excellence and innovation: the Italian production facility confirms the quality of its productions*

**Fabriano, 28th July 2015.** Faber honours the excellence of the **Berbentina** facility. For the fourth year running, the production site in Sassoferrato has won the annual “**Quality Continuous Improvement Award**”, an initiative founded ten years ago with the objective of meeting the challenges presented by an ever more global and competitive market.

**A close focus on the quality** of the product and **excellent performance levels** in terms of the **efficiency** and effectiveness of all the production phases, were the **decisive factors** that enabled the facility in Sassoferrato to win this important award, beating Argentina, Sweden and Turkey, the other international sites within the Group, which in any case also obtained results of an extremely high level.

The employees of the Berbentina facility in Sassoferrato, led by the Director **Giorgio Rossi**, were presented with a trophy that symbolises the initiative by **Stefano Parmegiani, Director of Operations of the entire Hoods Business Unit**.

*“I am extremely happy to again be presenting Berbentina with the Quality Award as the best production facility in the Group – explains **Stefano Parmegiani** – Quality is an essential dimension of the company’s competitiveness: an element that is built up and consolidated over time by ensuring that our people feel part of the process, and encouraging skills, investments, innovation and the will to always continue improving”.*

*“Each year we raise the quality level of our high-range production even more, relying on innovation, uniqueness, and quality, the essential criteria that we must meet in order to create products that are recognised worldwide as a symbol of Italian production. Receiving this award for the eighth time in 10 years is proof that our will to improve on a day-to-day basis is widely recognised – adds **Giorgio Rossi** – as for us, the very first rule that makes us a company is that we must all strive continuously to keep on improving, because the secret of any success lies in the passion, precision and mutual respect of all those who work to achieve it.”*

The Quality Award also confirms the success achieved in the international markets. Indeed, with a view to promptly meeting these demands, the employees’ holiday plan was devised based on a well-defined, balanced rota, so that the production will only stop from **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> August** and the high level of demand from the company’s foreign customers can be met.

The Sassoferrato facility, a historical site, won the **Quality Continuous Improvement Award** for the eighth time, confirming **the Italian production standard of excellence** for which the Faber brand is renowned all over the world. And it is precisely here, in this site, that the brand’s most exclusive hoods are made, recognised worldwide for their excellent performance levels, quality materials, **fine finishes** and **top-of-the-range designs**. And that’s not all. The Sassoferrato site’s commitment to pursuing objectives and strategies, which is designed to ensure continuous improvement in terms of process organisation and cost reductions in line with **Lean manufacturing techniques**, places it among the most **state-of-the-art examples of production systems in the electrical appliance sector**.

## Quality Continuous Improvement Award

Faber's **Quality Continuous Improvement Award**, which was founded in 2005 as a local competition, has today become an international award contended by the Group's production sites. It is organised by the Quality Department at headquarters, specifically by Adriano Marini and was founded to **promote continuous improvement of quality standards** while contemporaneously **reducing the environmental impact of production**, and improving the employees' working conditions to guarantee a **safer working environment**. It has achieved these objectives by making the most of the commitment, passion and team spirit of its operating groups, also motivated by the healthy sense of competition that exists between the various production sites.

The score based on which the winner of the award is determined is assigned according the degree to which the sites have met specific improvement objectives compared with the results from the previous year, in 8 categories: in-process faults, value of the production waste, technical backup interventions, internal audit inspections, efficiency, service level, safety and environment indicators.

Despite the current delicate market period generated by the international crisis, with this initiative, **Faber once again confirms its strong commitment in the fields of quality, safety and the environment**. Indeed, in 1995, the company from Fabriano was the first hood manufacturer in the world to obtain certification of its quality system according to ISO 9001 standards. In 2003, its Integrated Quality, Safety and Environment System, certified by the SGS certifying body in line with ISO 9001, OHSAS 18001 and ISO 14001 standards, received the SGS no. 1 Certificate of Excellence, that is, the highest in the world.

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