

QUALITY AWARD: FABER REWARDS THE SASSOFERRATO PLANT FOR THE FIFTH YEAR RUNNING

Excellence and innovation: the Italian production plant confirms the superior quality standards of its products

Fabriano, 15th July 2015. Faber rewards the excellence of its **Berbentina plant**. The Sassoferrato production plant has won the annual **“Quality Continuous Improvement Award”** - an initiative launched eleven years ago with the aim of accommodating the challenges of an increasingly global and competitive market - for the fifth year running.

Major focus on product quality and outstanding performance in terms of **efficiency and efficacy** of all phases of the production process: these were the **determining factors** which enabled the Sassoferrato plant to claim this significant acknowledgement, overtaking Sweden, Argentina and Turkey, major international concerns belonging to the Group who nevertheless demonstrated top-level results. What's more, from this year, for the first time ever, the contest opens its doors to the plants in France and Mexico too, who will be joining the competition for the 2016 award.

“The plant has improved the quality of its products in double digits for three years in a row, enhancing its competitiveness along with it, which just goes to show that doing a good job also means achieving positive economic results for the production plant and for the group.” comments **Giorgio Rossi, Chief manager of the Berbentina plant** who led employees towards this acknowledgement. *“Our company, unlike everyone else in the household appliance sector, recorded a growth in Italy and in foreign markets during the first half of 2016. Our meticulous attention to the product, the passion with which we do things and the painstaking care in every tiny detail are the key actors which have led to these outstanding results. This is why in order to continue to travel along this path to success, we need to stay focused on doing our job in the best possible way at all times: manufacturing high-tech kitchen hoods, with an innovative design and capable of disseminating made in Italy quality across the globe.”*

The Sassoferrato plant has won **the Quality Continuous Improvement Award for the ninth time**, confirming within an international panorama the **superior manufacturing standards of products made in Italy** for which the Faber brand is renowned the world over. Indeed, the brand's most exclusive hoods are manufactured in this particular production plant - these hoods are appreciated worldwide for their performance, materials, **valuable finishes** and **the highest levels of design**. But that's not all. Thanks to the constant commitment to pursuing the objectives and strategies aimed at continuous improvement in terms of process organisation and cost reduction (according to the **Lean manufacturing** techniques), the Sassoferrato production plant can be considered one of the **most sophisticated examples of the production system in the household appliance sector**.

Quality Continuous Improvement Award

Faber's **Quality Continuous Improvement Award** was launched in 2005 as a local contest and today it has become an international competition between the Group's production plants. It is organised and run by the Quality Department of Faber HQ, specifically by Adriano Marini, and its aim is to **promote the continuous improvement of quality standards** and concurrently **reduce the environmental impact**, while at the same time improving the conditions for **greater employee safety**. All this is achieved thanks to the commitment, the passion and the group spirit of the operational teams, who are also motivated by healthy competition between the various production plants.

The score to receive the award is allocated according to the achievement (or not) of specific improvement targets, compared with the previous year, which refer to 8 categories: process defects, production waste value, technical support calls, in-house inspection audits, efficiency, service level, safety indicators and environmental indicators.

Despite the delicate times owing to the current international crisis, this initiative allows **Faber to confirm yet again its substantial commitment to quality, safety and the environment**. In fact, in 1995, the Fabriano-based company was the first in the world in the hoods sector to obtain certification for the corporate quality system in accordance with ISO 9001 standards. In 2003, its Integrated Quality, Safety and Environmental System, certified by SGS in accordance with ISO 9001, OHSAS 18001 and ISO 14001 standards, received the Certificate of Excellence SGS 1, in other words the number one in the whole world.

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