

Supplying the right bar for any blanket

OFFSET SUPPLIES. Wherever in the world blankets are mounted on presses it is quite likely that blanket bars from Pro Blanket Bars GmbH will be used. Pro regards itself as a specialist supplier able to offer its customers, almost ‘everything from a single source’.

Accounting for in the region of 3% of the total cost of a converted blanket, blanket bars represent a trivial proportion of the production costs. If, however, these aluminium or steel bars are defective or inferior in quality then the entire blanket—whether it be a high quality or a cheap one—is unusable. The printing process can be disrupted and substantial costs for the failure or even for press damage and compensation can be the consequence. The same is true of delivery problems.

“All our bars undergo a multi-step quality check prior to dispatch at short notice to our customers”, explains Dirk Zimmer, the Managing Director of Pro Blanket Bars GmbH. Zimmer believes that, “some of those in the market make false economies here”.

FINISHING OFF THE BLANKET. For over 20 years Pro Blanket Bars has focused

on all aspects of the blanket bar, and over this period the company has developed into a specialist supplier of aluminium and steel bars with locations in Germany and the USA.

Blanket bars should be supplied so that they can be clamped to the blanket without any adjustment and, as Dirk Zimmer stresses, nowadays bars are generally supplied as ‘ready-to-use’. This means that the bars are supplied cut, milled and drilled to order and wrapped in film. Pro Blanket Bars carries the necessary work out on machines that have been specifically developed for the purpose, which allows, “greater efficiency for the customer and increased output of converted blankets”.

RIGHT BARS ON SITE. There is as great a variety of bars as there are presses and blankets for them to be fitted to. Whether aluminium or steel, double or flat bars, milled



The Managing Director of Pro Blanket Bars GmbH, Dirk Zimmer.

or drilled, standard bar or ‘exotic’; in order to avoid press down times and to allow tests to be carried out at short notice, it is important that the right bar is available at the right time and at the right place. “Our extensive stock of some 1.5 million bars and 500 types in 3,000 different lengths, combined with a level of service that achieves 97% of deliveries within 24 hours, makes this possible”, claims Dirk Zimmer. To be able to find one’s way around such an extensive array requires a well thought out system.

In the case of Pro Blanket Bars this is the firm’s own, constantly updated search tool that is available to both customers and its own staff, and which selects the right bar for any type of press at the press of a button (www.pro-blanketbars.de).

PRODUCTION RELIABILITY. Constant checks are necessary to keep pace with the regular new developments in the blanket market. So, for example, the maximum tensile strength of the bar and blanket combination is tested by means of special tensile strength testers invented and developed by Pro Blanket Bars GmbH at the end of the 80s. According to Zimmer, the use of such a machine ensures, “a high level of production reliability for both converters and printers”.

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A modern CNC machine processes aluminium bars. Several hundred thousand bars are drilled and milled to the same standard of quality every year.