

Clean developments

Schüsckhe develops non touch waste flap

Schüsckhe Solid Surface, a 25-year-old German firm located in Kirchentellinsfurt that began life as a joinery, unveiled its first ever washstand with a non touch waste flap at Aircraft Interior April 2011 in Hamburg, an important trade fair for aircraft interior design.

Hygienic: non-touch

The automatic flap enables passengers to dispose of used hand towels into waste containers without actually having to touch them. A capacitive sensor measure the electrical voltage in the area around the flap controls the mechanism. As soon as the hand moves near the flap, this is detected by a corresponding change in voltage and the opening mechanism is activated. That sounds very simple but from designing engineer perspective it's not trivial.

The advantage over an infrared system is that the sensor can be installed on the inside of the flap and thus does not interfere with the surface material or design.

First price in Crystal Cabin Award 2011

Together with Germany's Elektro-Metall Export GmbH, Schüsckhe won a Crystal Cabin trophy for the flap in the "Greener Cabin, Health and Safety" category. According to Schüsckhe, the flap was three years in development and is now in use onboard two of launch partner Lufthansa's A340 aircraft. The company is also with other Airlines in contact. "Hygiene is very important for aircrafts and especially passengers of the business and first class expected a corresponding ambiance" explained Uwe Schüsckhe. So it's in the interest of airlines to offer their passengers a plus for cleanliness and comfort.

While Schüsckhe is Airbus' main washstand supplier, the manufacturer also wants to approach other airframers in future. The smart waste bin is to be further refined with an automatic "trash compactor" to avoid overflow on long-haul flights.

About Schüsckhe GmbH & Co. KG

Schüsckhe GmbH & Co. KG is an owner-managed manufacturer of products made from the solid surface material VARICOR®. For over 20 years, the company with 50 employees has been producing customer specific, tailor-made products for the aviation industry, casings for medical technology, and public commercial facilities. For the civil aviation industry, Schüsckhe has specialized in development and production of customer-specific washstands. The washstands for the entire Airbus program also including the A380. Schüsckhe's philosophy is to constantly enhance products and create innovations. The latest development is the "non-Touch waste flap". Schüsckhe is certified in accordance with EASA 21G, EASA 145 and ISO-EN 9100.

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