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Road sweepers: The successful EUnited PM-Test – more than 100 types of road sweepers certified already

The EUnited PM test has been the unquestionable European reference for the assessment of the fine particulate behaviour of road sweepers for several years. But also outside of Europe, customers continually ask for the EUnited PM Test certificate. All leading manufacturers have completed the test with their machines and thus show their efforts to support the communities in their fight for clean air. Meanwhile, about 100 road sweeper types have been tested and are listed on the EUnited website. Many of these sweepers will be on display at the IFAT 2016 in Munich and can be recognised by their EUnited PM-test label.

With the publication of DIN EN 15429-3: 2015-05: Sweepers - Part 3: "Capacity of dust - testing and assessment" in May 2015, the EUnited PM Assessment became a recognized standard in Europe. The test method is thus becoming more common in Europe and beyond. In the future however, sweepers will only receive the EUnited PM Test label if they meet the criteria laid down by EUnited.

Fine particles have become a serious threat to the residents in many cities. Through the European Air Quality Directive 2008/50 / EC, cities and municipalities must ensure that emission limit values for fine particles are only exceeded on a limited number of days per year. Improving air quality has become a daily challenge for the local authorities and the use of sweepers to curb the amount of dust in public areas is common practice. When procuring their new sweepers, local authorities need a reliable standard in order to be able to compare the different types sweepers offered on the market, in terms of absorption of fine particles.

The European sweeper manufacturers in EUnited responded to this demand and together began to develop a uniform test procedure. The most experienced testing institute in this field, Canadian PAMI, was brought on board as a partner. PAMI was also involved in various North American tests, for example, in California and Toronto.

EUnited Municipal Equipment has charged SGS Institute Fresenius with the tests of different sweepers, which is one of the leading European test centres. This means that the neutrality of the test procedure is ensured. Only vehicles that have successfully passed the strict test will get the EUnited PM Test label. Up to three stars on the label show how much a sweeper positively exceeds the test requirements.

The test takes place in a controlled environment in order to avoid the adverse wind and weather exposure, thereby improving the reproducibility.

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During several test runs, the sweepers sweep a fixed test track, simulating a typical urban street. Defined sweepings are recorded under realistic working conditions, among other things along a curb. Dust reduction systems and water sprays are operated during the test under the settings specified by the manufacturer for the real operations.

For each passage, the absorbed amount of dirt is gathered and compared with the dose of sweeping material distributed to the test surface. This is how the sweeping performance of a sweeper is deduced.

Before, during and after the test runs, the fine dust concentration is measured and analysed in the enclosed test facility. The quantity of dust stirred up by the sweeping units can thus be determined, as well as that, which ended up in the container or in the filter of the sweeper.

The EUnited PM Test method can be used to test truck sweepers and compact sweepers, as well as mounted or towed sweepers.

The success of this EUnited PM Test initiative is based on the fact that all leading European manufacturers have agreed to carry out the same tests, to develop the procedures together with renowned scientists and to verify them by an experienced test house on behalf of EUnited Municipal Equipment. Thus, the EUnited PM Test label provides reliable information for the customer.

What is PM10?

PM10 covers all kinds of particulates with an aerodynamic diameter of 10 µm maximum. Such small particles arise out of the burning of fuels, abrasion of vehicle tyres, industrial processes as well as out of raised soil material and further natural emission sources. PM10 which could cause respiratory disease has been identified as a major health hazard within the last years.

What is EUnited Municipal Equipment?

EUnited Municipal Equipment is the European industry association representing the main manufacturers of mobile municipal equipment like road sweepers, refuse collection vehicles, snow ploughs, salt spreaders and others.

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