



From
MD's Desk



Dear Colleagues,

It gives me immense pleasure to share with all of you that Force Motors has achieved the **ISO 14001 Environmental Management System certification** as well as **OHSAS 18001 Occupational, Health & Safety certification** from TUV, a leading testing, certification & training company in India. This is another feather in the cap for our Pithampur, Chakan and Chennai plants, apart from the existing TS 16949 certifications that all our FML plants already hold. This major milestone was achieved in each plant due to the sincere, dedicated and untiring efforts by the employees of the respective plant.

The Material Testing Laboratory and Standards Room at Pithampur have also been qualified for **National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL)**. This accreditation from NABL is about assessing and determining the reliability of data produced after testing and calibration. This will help in minimizing the uncertainty in measurement, thereby increasing the proficiency of employees.

Friends, I am sure you have all heard of the famous proverb –

“A rolling stone gathers no moss”.

This simple proverb carries a very important message. The essence of this message is about constantly upgrading ourselves, thereby leading us towards continuous improvement. In today's times, it is imperative that we adapt ourselves to the changing environment and adopt newer and better working practices.

Enriched with a strong legacy, expertise in complex engineering and our commitment to quality, we have the right ingredients to be a force to reckon with. However, today, the automotive manufacturers and suppliers are confronted with increasing complexity, shorter technology cycles combined with shorter product life cycles. We need to rise above these challenges.

Force Motors has always believed in adapting itself to the environment. Simply put, we have always believed in constantly refining ourselves to serve our customers better.

There is no shortcut to success and the journey to achieving these certifications hasn't been easy either. The certification process demanded stringent Aspect Impact Study, Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment for each and every activity carried out in the plant. Additionally, Emergency



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Preparedness, Operational Control Process, compliance to all legal and legislative requirements of environment and safety were also audited by qualified external auditors from TUV.

Compliance to requirements of both, ISO 14001 and OHSAS 18001 was especially a challenge at Pithampur, being an old plant, operating for more than 25 years and it took almost two and a half years to bring the Pithampur plant to compliance standards as compared to 6 months each for the Chennai and Chakan plants.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. M. P. Kanade and his team for the passion and dedication demonstrated by them and working simultaneously on three plants to achieve these certifications. This is surely a significant milestone for Force Motors and their efforts in achieving them are commendable. Thank you team, for making such an important contribution to the company.

In addition to these certifications, the organization has also been active in the Six Sigma Program to improve operational performance and to inculcate a disciplined, data driven approach to eliminating defects in manufacturing. Six Sigma aims to improve the quality output of a process using proven techniques of DMAIC (Define, Measure, Analyse, Improve, Control) and we intend to leverage it as an underlying business process improvement methodology. Commenced and continued since 2013; with comprehensive project oriented structured program comprising of classroom trainings by expert external faculty, extensive technical reviews, the Six Sigma drive in Force Motors has resulted into 52 Green Belts and visible improvements in various areas like quality, production, warranty cost etc. We plan to increase the scope of Six Sigma drive through Six Sigma Yellow and Black Belt Programs in addition to Six Sigma Green Belt. We are certain that Six Sigma drive will take us to a new level in manufacturing.

Organizational growth is not just about self-development. It is about taking your stakeholders with you in this path, be it the customers, suppliers, dealers, employees etc. Our Supplier Technical Assistance (STA) Cell corroborates this. The STA Cell was formed to liaise between Force Motors and its Supplier partners to assist them to understand the market demands and handhold them to fulfil Force Motors' quality system requirements.

Force Motors evaluates compliance of Suppliers' Quality systems in terms of Audit Score. Additionally, the Vendor Performance Evaluation System- a recent launch by Force Motors ensures transparent feedback system on Suppliers' overall performance through various measures e.g. Supply Quality, Delivery and Supplier Audit performance.



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Comprehensive guidelines are communicated to our Suppliers through Supplier Quality Assurance Manual.

Through the Supplier Up gradation program, Force Motors organizes Supplier training programs on core tools in manufacturing and problem solving techniques. These training programs are conducted pan India considering geographically diverse supplier base.

As we gear ourselves up for the recent revision in TS16949 (Now IATF16949:2016); in collaboration of certification bodies, we have also extended support to our suppliers to improve Quality Management System at their end.

In closing, I would reiterate that today, change and improvement is the need of the hour. As we move ahead on our aggressive growth path, let us continue to work together to overcome all challenges that come our way and take the company to the next level.

Prasan Firodia
Managing Director
Force Motors Limited.



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