

New factory build takes shape



Everyone at DP Seals is really excited now that the new build is entering its latest phase with everything on course to be fully operational by Christmas this year.

With the outer structure and cladding all but complete, the inside is coming together nicely too. The mezzanine structure for the first floor areas are now in and the polished cement flooring is looking particularly impressive.

The dedicated aerospace and subsea units have remained unaffected during the build and have been clad in the same material so they blend in as one building.

Once complete all the production facilities in the existing main building will be moved into the new one – and there

will be plenty of scope to add further machinery at a later date, thus future proofing production for many years to come.

This will then leave the main building to be reconfigured for Inspection, Cleaning, Materials Storage, Tool Room and Despatch. We will then have more space to expand our Tool Room and Cleaning sections to further speed up production and delivery efficiency.

And for our staff we've added new kitchen/canteen facilities, including an outdoor seating area. Previously dense scrub to the rear of Aerospace, volunteers cleared it all over a weekend and have created an attractive green space for themselves and work colleagues.



Welcome to the latest edition of Update, and a refreshingly Brexit free issue.

We're in a very busy period currently, multi-tasking between the new factory build, being one of the first companies in the rubber industry to achieve the latest ISO45001 Health and Safety standard and an increase in subsea orders keeping both our machine room and dedicated subsea production facilities occupied.

We've produced a design engineer's checklist to help in the specification and design of rubber components which is downloadable from our website and key elements can be viewed inside.

We're also very proud of Tina Isaac and John Groombridge, who have been running and cycling to raise funds for their charities – you can read all about their efforts on the back page.

Let's hope the fabulous weather continues, and have a great summer.

Andrew Piper
Managing Director



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DP Seals leading the way with new Health and Safety standard

We've always kept at the forefront of maintaining our management systems, and were one of the first in our industry to achieve AS9100, so it stood to reason that once again we would be amongst the early adopters to achieve the latest Health and Safety standard ISO45001.

This new standard, which will replace OHSAS 18001, follows the approach of other management systems such as ISO 14001 and ISO 9001 and has an increased emphasis on management commitment, worker involvement, and risk control. This makes it far more proactive than its predecessor – and where staff safety is concerned – that can only be a good thing.



Why choose custom rubber parts?

Custom rubber parts can offer many advantages over standard ones, but for many general applications standard rubber seals, gaskets and mouldings are fine. There may also be times when the up-front cost of a standard rubber part make it seem like the only sensible option.

If you're still unsure which route to take, here are nine reasons for choosing a custom rubber part as a better alternative.

1 Intricate applications

A standard product just won't do. For example, when the moulding is a major part of the end-product, such as a rubber boot for a sub-sea cable connector.

2 Greater sealing surface

Custom seals can be designed with multiple point contact offering greater seal protection.

3 Lower friction

Custom rubber parts can be designed with less 'squeeze' to maintain a more effective seal. This results in reduced friction and can be combined with fluorination techniques.

4 Longer life

Customised materials and design can result in seals lasting longer.

5 Reduced maintenance and operational costs

This resulting longer seal life can lead to lower maintenance and operational costs.

6 Quality of finish

Tooling is designed to ensure finish and the ability to hold tolerances as required, including flash removal techniques.

7 Environmental

Criteria like temperature, pressure, liquids, contaminants, exposure to processes, light, out-gassing and just plain old water may necessitate a custom solution.

8 Regulations

Occasionally, the introduction of new regulations will extend the role of the seal. For example, a seal originally designed to prevent ingress of dirt and fluids into a ruggedised electronics unit can be enhanced to shield against EMI.

9 When you're not even sure what rubber part you want!

Sometimes the requirement for a seal, gasket or moulding is only recognised late in the design process or perhaps you know you need a seal or moulding but aren't exactly sure how it could work.

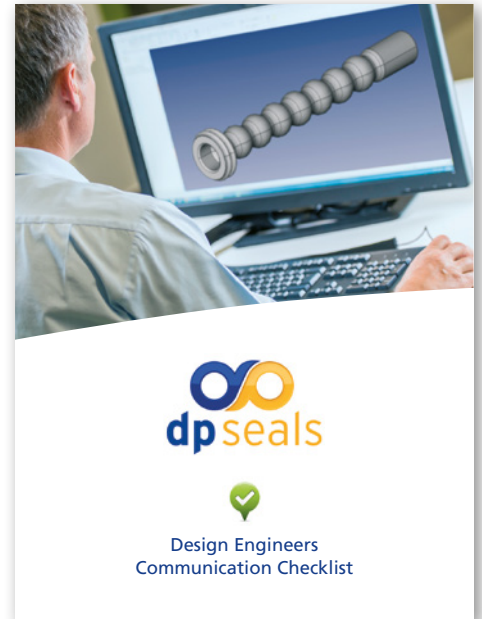
Design Engineer's Checklist

Planning and designing a rubber seal, gasket or moulding to fit with your product application requires significant efforts and collaboration between design engineers, production teams, material technologists and the manufacturer.

By communicating early and thoroughly with your chosen manufacturer you will have the best chance of saving time, reducing costs and gaining a competitive advantage.

In contrast – by leaving your choice of material, profile and manufacturing process until too late in the design cycle, you could be forced to compromise product performance or suffer delays to market entry and incur higher costs overall.

For a design engineer to be able to explain work clearly and convincingly, it is crucial to communicate the thought process behind the work, be it with your team, business or clients – and this handy checklist will certainly play a part in helping you do just that. We don't have space to show all the things to consider here, so please download the full Checklist from our website by clicking on the document image.



Key Questions

How This Helps

What needs sealing?

Asking this question helps point the way towards choice of an injection, transfer or compression moulding process.

Why does it need sealing?

Rubber comes in a wide variety of forms and compounds, all with different performance characteristics and this helps to make initial material choices.

What are the expected performance characteristics of the application?

It is important to understand all the parameters that might influence your seal or moulding design.

What time-scale are you working to?

Getting your product to market in a timely and efficient manner.

What are the budget parameters?

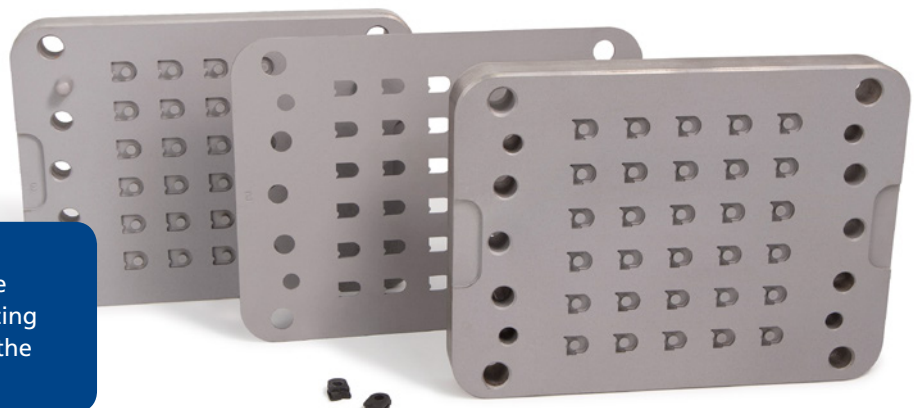
It is important to understand your short or long term planning approach to help get the best return on your investment.



Finished production moulding after design modifications

Utilising our 3-D or prototyping service in the development phase makes sure your moulding is fit for purpose and helps identify any design flaws before proceeding to the tooling phase.

Our multi-layer patented tooling system is capable of holding close tolerance detailing whilst producing virtually flash free mouldings of the highest quality.



Tina Isaac completes Race For Life!

All of us at DP Seals are extremely proud of our very own Tina Isaac who recently completed the Race For Life.

The challenge started when Sarah Green (in black with pink tu-tu) asked her best friend, our Tina (in matching tu-tu), if she would run the race with her. Ten years ago, Sarah bravely battled cancer and having now fully recovered, she decided to raise funds for the charity that helped her on the journey back to good health.

Tina didn't need to be asked twice and was very keen to enter the challenge and raise further funds. With no prior experience of any running or walking events, Tina was naturally very nervous yet excited at the same time – and she worked hard to get sponsorship from all her colleagues and friends and is very proud to say she that she raised £400.

Having enjoyed the experience so much Tina has now confirmed that she is entering again next year and is determined to beat the £400 target.

We wish her the best of luck!



'Iron Man' John Groombridge completes BHF London to Brighton.



Following John's successful ride from London to Paris in 2016 he felt the urge to raise more funds for the British Heart Foundation – and on this occasion he chose the London to Brighton bike ride.

So it was that at 8.30 on the morning of Sunday 16th June 2019 John (number 12224) set off on his bike from London facing the 54 mile ride to Brighton.

The weather was not so charitable – with high winds and rain taking its toll on some of the 20,000 riders as John witnessed several crumpled bikes en-route.

As he came to the end of the cycle, riding down the Brighton promenade, huge crowds had gathered willing all the weary riders to the finish line. All John remembers is the feeling of real achievement.

John is very proud to say that he completed the ride in 6 hours and 19 minutes and has raised £300 for the British Heart Foundation.

Our full congratulations go out, once again, to John. We only wonder what he might do next!



LinkedIn



Facebook



Twitter



YouTube

We are still building our online community, so if you are yet to link up with us on social media please do. We regularly release information and notifications and it's always good to keep in touch.



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