

Press release
AUTOMATION Dr. Nix GmbH & Co. KG.
D-50739 Köln, Robert-Perthel-Str. 2 www.qnix.de
201207

New measurement system Coating Check in use by German Technical Monitoring Association 'TÜV SÜD'.

Technical precision and reliability in the investigation of damage and preparation of vehicle expert opinions providing a high degree of safety for customers of the German TÜV SÜD.

Car accidents causing damages in the billions each year.

About four million times a year car accidents happen on German roads. And although the police recorded only 2.3 million accidents in 2006, the so-called "minor damages" amount to millions of Euros. In most cases, insurance companies have to pay for these damages. In total, accident and damage insurance carriers spent 8.7 million Euros paying for damages covered by vehicle insurance and 7.7 million Euros for insurance payments resulting from third party liability, accident and legal expense insurance benefits.

State-of-the-art measurement technology providing more safety in damage management.

For all involved, TÜV SÜD – one of Germany's Technical Monitoring Associations – has ever since been one of the foremost addresses regarding investigation of damage, vehicle appraisals, repair and vehicle expert opinions in the used-car as well as car leasing business or in case of legal disputes. TÜV SÜD's use of innovative state-of-the-art technology in their damage management is an example of this continuing professionalism and expertise. Therefore, TÜV SÜD in collaboration with AUTOMATION Dr. Nix, one of Germany's leading manufacturers of coating thickness measurement gauges, developed a new future-oriented gauge system improving measuring safety and cost-efficiency to provide even better customer convenience.

(Fig. 1: TÜV measurements during damage assessment on motor vehicles.)

Coating Check TÜV SÜD: New modular measurement system for the determination of lacquer and anti-corrosion protection.

The new modular coating thickness measurement system Coating Check, based on the innovative QNix® 8500 system technology from AUTOMATION Dr. Nix GmbH, Cologne, increases measurement safety during investigation of damage, guaranteeing variable and versatile use in various fields of application – even outside the usual field of motor vehicles. The system automatically determines on which substrate – for example, sheet steel or aluminium – lacquer or anti-corrosion protection is measured. It then determines the exact coatings thickness up to fractions of millimetres.

By means of a simple change of probes non-destructive measurements on various lacquer and anti-corrosion coating thicknesses on steel, iron and non-iron are possible within a measuring range of 5000 µm (1 µm = 1 micrometre = one thousandth of a millimetre). The measurements can be transmitted and, using a special software, individually analysed also allowing a customer specific documentation. Such a complete documentation can be of particular importance for the preparation of legal opinions, investigation of damage and vehicle appraisals.

One particularly exceptional feature of the Coating Check TÜV SÜD however is the possibility to adjust it to any given measuring task in a highly flexible and safe manner, saving time and money.

This innovative measurement technology and high accuracy is based on the proven, easy-to-use and reliable technology of the renowned German Company: AUTOMATION Dr. Nix GmbH, Cologne. Developed and manufactured exclusively in Germany, the gauges and systems for non-destructive coating thickness measurement are used throughout the world.

Special use in investigation of damage and vehicle appraisals.

In the field of vehicle appraisals and investigation of damage the new measurement system **Coating Check** for the determination of lacquer coating thickness is used when preparing experts opinions on third party liability and physical damage, vehicle appraisals on the return of leased cars as well as technical expert opinions for preservation of damage by order of individuals, car-dealers and courts.

(Fig. 2: Measurement with TÜV SÜD Coating Check during investigation of damage and vehicle appraisals)

The expert tests the exterior parts of the cars body, usually during inspection, for evidence of repainting – regardless of these parts consisting of metal or aluminium. Use of the new TÜV SÜD gauge system Coating Check allows reliable detection and documentation of repainting on such parts, probably indicating repaired prior damage.

It is also easy to determine whether the affected parts were merely repainted or if traces of priming is still evident under the coating. The determination of the flat coats thickness simplifies the decision whether the prior damage was repaired according to the manufacturer's specifications thus establishing whether the damage has been repaired professionally. Too thick a flat coat might indicate unprofessionally repaired damage.

Such a repaired accidental damage may reduce the vehicles replacement value considerably, even in case of total damage or when calculating salvage value.

Preservation of evidence during preparation of technical expert opinions often is about the determination of a concealed prior damage. If such damage is detected, the contract of purchase might be rescinded or the purchase price might be reduced.

The state-of-the-art measurement technology of Coating Check provides more safety and security for all involved.

Radio-controlled probe as an innovative solution even for future tasks.

With its new measurement system Coating Check, TÜV SÜD can resolve future measuring tasks already today. The best example of this future-oriented technology is the novel system integrated radio-controlled probe.

Where usual gauges fail to measure in inaccessible areas that are however crucial to safety, a 30 grams light and only thump-sized probe can still perform its precision measurement task safely and reliably: Precise measurements of lacquer and anti-corrosion protection coatings can be transmitted wirelessly by radio, recorded and analysed individually – from everywhere only a thump fits.

(Fig. 3: Radio-controlled probe of the modular Q-Nix® 8500 measurement system used during safety inspections of bridges and ships)

No longer cables interfere with inspection measurements of coating thicknesses.

The worldwide new radio-controlled probe of the QNix® measurement program is part of the measurement systems used by TÜV SÜD and an example for the exceptional versatility and adaptability of the novel system. At the same time the world wide new miniature radio-controlled probe enables TÜV SÜD to find new uses and applications on large surfaces, in until now inaccessible measuring spots, during the measurement of lacquer and anti-corrosion protection coatings as well as safety inspection measurements, for example during the construction of bridges, aircrafts, vehicles and ships. No longer cables interfere with the measurement procedure, as the measurement data is safely transmitted by radio, then recorded and documented completely.

Copy free of charge.

Send voucher copy to:

Christoph Weise, Dr. Helmut-Junghans-Str. 35, 78713 Schramberg

Fig. 1: TÜV measurements during investigation of damage on motor vehicles

Fig. 2: measurements using the TÜV SÜD CoatingCheck during investigation of damage and vehicle appraisals.

Fig. 3: radio-controlled probe of the modular QNix® 8500 measurement system used during safety inspections of bridges and ships.