

Success for Wearthcheck in three international quality audits

WEARCHECK's focus on quality continues to bear fruit. This year the company has passed quality audits by three international organisations with flying colours, in addition to its twice-yearly SABS ISO 9002 checks.

In February, Wearthcheck's accreditation for marine testing was confirmed by Bureau Veritas, the Paris-based organisation which frequently requires an oil analysis service during hull and machinery testing on board ships in Durban harbour.

During September, Wearthcheck received Lloyds Register approval for lubricating analysis for ships for the first time. Lloyds registered ships can only be serviced by approved suppliers.

July saw Wearthcheck's successful three-yearly audit by Honeywell Aerospace, one of the world's largest manufacturers of gas turbine jet engines. This confirms Wearthcheck's status as the only official oil analysis company for Honeywell jet engines in Africa.

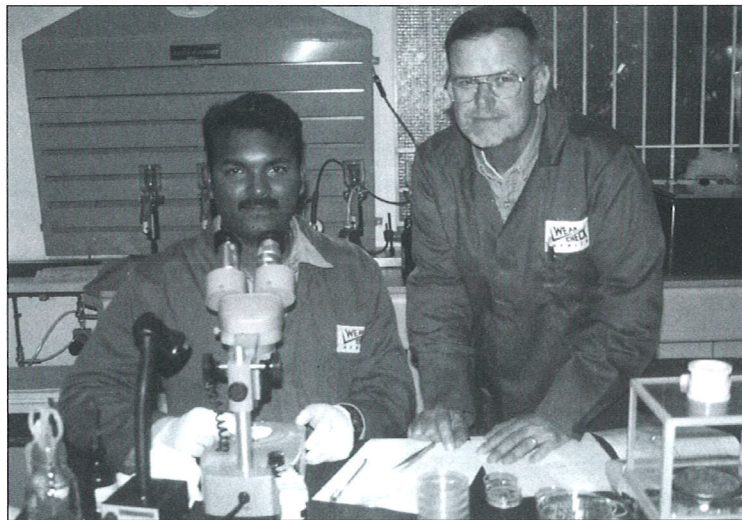
The audit was conducted by US-based

Robbie Phillips, senior engineer for Honeywell Aerospace's SOAP programme, who commented that Wearthcheck ran one of the premier oil analysis laboratories in the world.

'Their facilities are excellent and the quality of their technicians is outstanding,' he said.

During the audit, trainee diagnostician

Ravi Chetty became the fourth Wearthcheck staff member to pass Honeywell's stringent accreditation examination which enables successful candidates to undertake the diagnosis of used oil and filters from Honeywell aircraft engines. He shares this achievement with Gary Brown, Daan Burger and Michelle Allis. ✓



Robbie Phillips of Honeywell Aerospace (right) and Wearthcheck trainee diagnostician Ravi Chetty discuss Wearthcheck's status as official oil analysis company for Honeywell jet engines in South Africa.

Wearthcheck International meeting consolidates ties

THE meeting of the International Wearthcheck Group hosted by the Belgian operation in France during July once again focused on developing a unified service for international clients. This is gaining momentum in Europe and may ultimately include Wearthcheck companies

from other continents, including Africa.

Gary Brown, Set Point divisional director of Wearthcheck, attended the meeting.

'There were no dramatic developments affecting our operation this year,' he said. 'However the opportunity to share ideas and input on

advances in the industry with associates from a cross-section of countries across the globe is of immense value to us. Our ongoing co-operative initiatives such as the round robin sample testing programme and collaboration on software development especially, continues to reap rewards.' ✓

Season's Greetings and all good wishes for the New Year

READ recognises Wearcheck's support

Lesley Davy (left), national training manager for the READ Educational Trust presents a certificate of appreciation to Lesley Crawford of Wearcheck.

THE READ Educational Trust presented Wearcheck with a certificate of appreciation recently to thank the company for their long-standing support.

Every year, instead of sending out Christmas cards to customers, Wearcheck donates the cash equivalent to READ, a non-profit making organisation which promotes literacy throughout South Africa.

Wearcheck's donation is spent on organising an annual speech and debate competition for disadvantaged high school learners and on training teachers in rural schools.

Says Lesley Davy, READ's national training manager, 'We depend on the generosity of companies like Wearcheck to run our literacy projects and greatly appreciate their ongoing support.'

Lesley Crawford, Set Point divisional director of Wearcheck, said, 'We are able to convey our sincere good wishes to customers over the festive season through this newsletter, knowing that they are glad to be a part of the READ initiative which is helping to create a better future for growing numbers of South Africans in need.' ✓



HELPING WITH UNIVERSITY EXAMS

JOHN Evans, Wearcheck's diagnostic manager for mobile equipment, was invited to be the external oral examiner for the tribology module of a masters degree in maintenance-based mechanical engineering at the University of Pretoria during October.

As an independent expert, it was John's task to circulate between three examining rooms in which 30-minute individual oral exams were being conducted simultaneously, each by two lecturers, and to confirm that the exams were conducted equitably.

'I was able to interact with 10 of the 30 post graduate students during an intensive seven-hour session

which was at the same time draining and mentally stimulating,' said John, who has agreed to assist with the exams again next year.

John was impressed with the content of the university's tribology module and the fact that oral exams have been introduced on the course for the first time this year.

'Too many well qualified engineers lack a good grounding in tribology and maintenance practices, so courses such as this can only benefit the industry as a whole,' he said. 'Conducting oral exams at this level is also a very good idea as it tests the students' ability to think on their feet.' ✓

Streamlining stores and customer service

WEARCHECK has created a new stores office in its mini factory directly across the road from the Pinetown laboratory.

This is run by Deon Yettian, a former lab assistant on the night shift, who is doing a sterling job accepting and co-ordinating all stock, as well as storing and emptying samples. He is assisted by Wellington Ndlovu, Aaron Mchunu and Anele Nibe. Ordering of stock is carried out by accounts clerk, Pearl Joseph.

This move has freed up office space next to the laboratory which has been transformed into a newly-decorated customer services office. This makes it very handy for customers who are dropping off samples to stop in at customer services on their way in or out. ✓

Wearcheck Germany visits the Johannesburg lab

Barbara and Peter Weismann of Wearcheck Germany paid a visit recently.

PETER and Barbara Weismann, owners of Wearcheck Germany, paid a visit to the Johannesburg laboratory during July to view the new laboratory and some of the development work Wearcheck Africa has undertaken since their last visit a few years ago.

Impressed

According to technical manager Alistair Geach, the Weismanns were impressed with the new software Wearcheck has developed to control laboratory instruments based on a standard touch screen interface, and they are interested in applying this technology in their own laboratory.

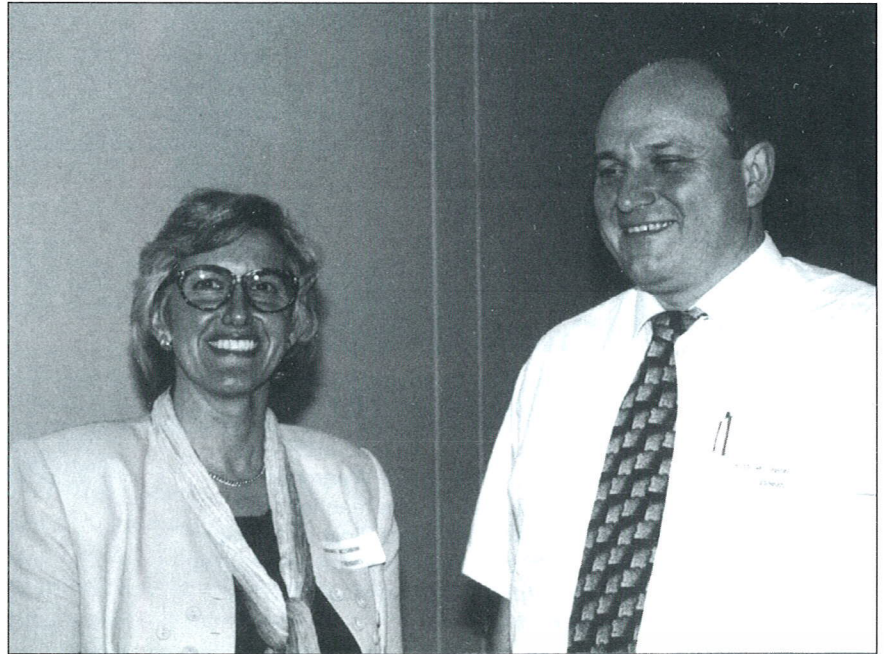
'We like to keep in close touch with the Weismanns because our businesses share the same progressive, flexible philosophy and have many mutual interests that lead to beneficial discussions.'

Buying Wearcheck kits

WEARCHECK kits are no longer available from all Barlows offices. In future, customers will be able to buy kits from three sources: Barlows at Bellville in the Cape, or Wearcheck's Pinetown and Johannesburg offices. ✓

Alistair said.

'For example, the Weismanns purchased two new instruments this year that are interesting to us because we intend acquiring similar equipment shortly for our Pinetown laboratory. In the same way, the German lab bought a Bio-rad Oil Analyser last year for which we were able to provide accurate performance data as we have operated an earlier version of the same system for over three years.'



'Having access to accurate information from an independent source with "hands on" experience is always useful in negotiations with equipment suppliers,' he said.

Another valuable topic of discussion was the variety of oil analysis based services and products on offer and how

they are marketed to and received by the market place.

'Wearcheck Germany has been very successful in penetrating the industrial market,' Alistair said. 'This sector in South Africa remains an area of great potential for us.' ✓

On the move



After four years in the Pinetown laboratory, lab assistant Rodney Suchipersadh (left) has moved to Johannesburg to help ease the work load in the Isando SOS laboratory. He is pictured here with colleagues Greg Morse and Cowboy Manana.



CONGRATULATIONS TO VIGIE!

Divisional director Gary Brown congratulates laboratory staff supervisor Vigie Manikum who became one of Wearcheck's longest serving employees this year when she reached the impressive 25-year milestone. Gary employed Vigie as a junior typist in 1975. Since then, she has achieved several promotions, gone through four office moves, and is looking forward to her next 25 years with Wearcheck.

Lube Tips

1. Contamination is often the most significant factor affecting oil service life.
2. Gear drive breathers should be inspected frequently to help avoid ruptured seals, loss of lubricants and contamination entry.
3. The most common type of wear mechanism is abrasive wear. Abrasive wear occurs in sliding contacts, usually due to particle contamination.

- Courtesy of Noria Corporation

New look for technical training in 2001

EXCITING new plans are in the offing for Wearcheck technical training in 2001. Existing courses are being restructured and a variety of innovative new options are being developed to enable customers to get the most from their oil analysis programme. Full details will be announced as soon as they are finalised. ✓

PUBLICATIONS are welcome to reproduce articles providing that Wearcheck is acknowledged.

Where to find us

GAUTENG

25 San Croy Office Park,
Die Agora Road (off
Brabazon Rd), Croydon.
P.O. Box 284, Isando 1600.
Tel: (011) 392-6322
Fax: (011) 392-6340
E-Mail:
jhbsupport@wearcheck.co.za

KWAZULU-NATAL

9 Le Mans Place,
Westmead.
P.O. Box 15108,
Westmead 3608.
Tel: (031) 700-5460
Fax: (031) 700-5471
E-mail:
support@wearcheck.co.za

INTERNET SITE

<http://www.wearcheck.co.za>

Wearcheck Training Courses February - November 2001

Date	Course	Venue
12 February	2	Johannesburg
12/13 February	NetCheck	Johannesburg
14 February	3	Johannesburg
15/16 February	4	Johannesburg
12 March	2	Johannesburg
12/13 March	NetCheck	Johannesburg
14 March	3	Johannesburg
15/16 March	4	Johannesburg
10 April	2	Pinetown
10/11 April	NetCheck	Pinetown
18 April	3	Pinetown
19/20 April	4	Pinetown
7 May	2	Johannesburg
7/8 May	NetCheck	Johannesburg
9 May	3	Johannesburg
10/11 May	4	Johannesburg
4 June	2	Pinetown
4/5 June	NetCheck	Pinetown
6 June	3	Pinetown
7/8 June	4	Pinetown
9 July	2	Johannesburg
9/10 July	NetCheck	Johannesburg
13 August	2	Pinetown
13/14 August	NetCheck	Pinetown
17 September	2	Johannesburg
17/18 September	NetCheck	Johannesburg
8 October	2	Pinetown
8/9 October	NetCheck	Pinetown
12 November	2	Johannesburg
12/13 November	NetCheck	Johannesburg

Course 1 : A practical introduction to oil analysis

By arrangement on site. Cost: R2 954,90 per day.

Course 2 : The application of analysis and an introduction to troubleshooting

08h30 - 16h30. Cost: R517,10 (Wearcheck customers), R718 (others).

Course 3 : Troubleshooting series

08h30 - 16h30. Cost: R517,10 (Wearcheck customers), R718 (others).

Course 4 : The technical management of oil analysis and lubrication

Day 1: 08h30 - 16h30, Day 2: 08h30 - 12h30. Cost: R985 (Wearcheck customers), R1 292,80 (others).

NetCheck : 08h30 - 16h30 on both days. Cost: R1 140,00.

All prices include VAT

For bookings phone Melanie Hynd on (031) 700-5460