SecuSan® – The new hygiene standard
Clinically tested
The problem

Excerpt from a press release issued by the German Federal Ministry of Health, 8 July 2011

Bundesrat passes legislation amending the German Act on the Prevention of Infection and other laws

Every year in Germany some 400,000 to 600,000 people pick up an infection in association with medical treatment as an in- or outpatient. It is estimated that they prove fatal in 7,500 – 15,000 cases each year. Twenty to thirty percent of such nosocomial infections and deaths could have been prevented through closer adherence to the standard principles of hygiene and infection control. The situation is compounded by the fact that many hospital-acquired infections are caused by pathogens that are drug-resistant, so making them difficult to treat.

The solution

SecuSan® is an antimicrobial surface for HOPPE door and window handles. Its high level of hygienic safety has been confirmed in independent laboratory and practical tests.

SecuSan® door and window handles

• immediately combat germs
• have a preventative effect
• are wear-free on a long-term basis
SecuSan® – Responsibility towards society

The issue of “hygiene” has been the subject of public concern for many years and is currently more topical than ever before. With our SecuSan® door and window handles we have developed a solution that provides active protection in the very places where it is urgently required. Be it in clinics, schools, industry or leisure facilities – SecuSan® handles help to ensure high hygiene standards wherever people are present in large numbers.

As the European market leader in the development, manufacture and marketing of door and window hardware we systematically rely on innovative, future-oriented technology that does more than make life easier: it makes it safer too.

SecuSan® is a special surface that immediately suppresses microbial growth on a lasting basis. It is entirely maintenance-free and designed for long-term usage. Its high level of efficacy has been confirmed in independent laboratory and practical tests.
SecuSan® in laboratory tests

The laboratory test

Requirement: Based on the JIS (Japanese Industrial Standard) Z 2801:2000 and ISO (International Organization for Standardization) 22196:2011 standards it was tested whether the antimicrobial activity of SecuSan® is sufficient to achieve a reduction in bacteria of at least 3 log units (99.9%) in 24 hours on door and window handles as required in hygienically sensitive areas.

Procedure: A thin layer of the test bacteria specified by the German Society of Hygiene and Microbiology (DGHM) was applied to a Petri dish and incubated for 24 hours.

Evaluation: SecuSan® showed a significant bactericidal effect with all test bacteria. The effect was especially marked in the case of Staphylococcus aureus (including MRSA) and Pseudomonas aeruginosa.

Antimicrobial effectiveness

SecuSan® surfaces contain silver ions which are embedded in a carrier system of ceramic glass. They form an active part of this material and prevent the growth of germs such as bacteria, algae and fungi.

The silver ions destroy the cell membrane of the germ. This stops respiration and nutrition of the cells, so preventing cell division. Independent tests have proved that SecuSan® reduces microbial growth by more than 99%.

The SecuSan® surface remains effective even when cleaned at regular intervals.

Development of antimicrobial effect over time

Requirement: Based on the JIS Z 2801:2000 and ISO 22196:2011 standards testing investigated the elimination of test bacteria on the SecuSan® surface over time.

Procedure: Reference strains of Staphylococcus aureus and Escherichia coli K 12 were used here as the test bacteria. A reduction factor of 60% was achieved after 5 minutes for Escherichia coli, while the reduction factor was 50% after 30 minutes for Staphylococcus aureus.

Evaluation: The reduction values observed represent a very good result. A high level of hygienic safety is ensured by SecuSan® door and window handles.

Did you realise that using a door handle is like shaking hands with thousands of strangers?
SecuSan® in practical testing

Tested in daily clinical practice

The practical test

The mean bacterial load was recorded in two wards of identical construction and containing comparable patients at Universitätsklinikum Marburg and subjected to analysis in the course of a two-week clinical field trial.

The result: SecuSan® achieved an impressive result, not just during laboratory testing but also in daily clinical practice. A direct comparison was made between wipe disinfection of conventional door handles and no disinfection of SecuSan® door handles. SecuSan®’s high level of antimicrobial effectiveness was certified by the institute, in particular as regards its effect over time.

Excerpt from the comment of
Prof. Dr Reinier Mutters, Head of Hospital Hygiene department
at Philipps University Marburg

In tests conducted in accordance with the JIS Z 2801:2000 and ISO 22196:2011 standards, the antimicrobial finish of door handles [with] SecuSan proved to be effective against the test bacteria specified [by the German Society of Hygiene and Microbiology (DGHM)]. This result was to be tested by means of an extensive field test.

For this purpose, the entire hospital ward A at Universitätsklinikum Marburg was fitted with these handles as part of an overall refurbishment of the ward. The hypothesis of the efficacy was to be tested in a field test based on a comparison with a newly renovated ward B that was identical in terms of construction and where patients with similar pathologies were treated.

Test set-up and execution: Over a period of 2 weeks, quantitative, microbiological contact samples were taken from ward A in accordance with DIN 10113-3. During the testing period, the door handles on this ward were no longer disinfected.

In parallel, samples were taken from comparative ward B. On this ward, the standard metal handles were wiped every day with disinfectant as usual.

Evaluation: The antimicrobial properties of SecuSan door handles from HOPPE Holding AG fitted on the ward proved effective in the field test. The material’s good level of effectiveness that had already been verified in laboratory tests was also confirmed in practice.

The results show that fitting hospital areas with antimicrobially active SecuSan door handles is sensible in terms of preventing the spread of infection. From a hygienic stand point, SecuSan can be recommended, as the system delivers sustainable improvement to hygienic safety in hospitals.
The above series satisfy the requirements of DIN EN 1906, category of use: grades 3 and 4 as well as the RAL-RZ 607/9 regulations and are especially characterised by their long service life when fitted in public buildings. All handle sets for commercial applications are also available as panic- and fire-resistant versions. Additionally, the sets on rose with eschutcheon come as backplate/escutcheon security sets, too.

* suitable for interior applications only

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SecuSan® is highly effective due to the fast action of its antimicrobial properties. Hardware with this surface is thus especially suitable for use in medical and nursing facilities, e.g. in hospitals, medical centres, pharmacies, care homes, nurseries, schools, institutes or public buildings. Wherever hygiene protection needs to act fast while remaining highly cost-effective and environmentally considerate.

Their hygienic and functional properties ensure that SecuSan® handles are suitable for a wide range of industrial applications as well as for use in the hospitality sector: areas where they satisfy the high requirements in terms of hygiene control.