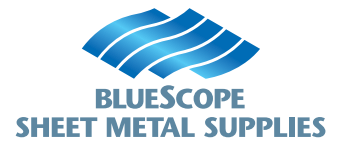


CASE STUDY

Locker Group



CATEGORY:
Manufacturing

LOCATION:
Australia / New Zealand

BlueScope Sheet Metal Supplies helps Locker Group span the quality divide

Established in 1956, Locker Group has several manufacturing facilities throughout Australia, New Zealand and Asia. Locker Group's extensive product range services a broad market in safety-critical areas such as mining, gas and a number of other industrial applications.

Locker Group's extensive experience benefits both the industrial and architectural markets with the company servicing the architectural and construction industries with a range of expanded and perforated metal, wire mesh and curtains used in facades, balustrades, screening and an extensive portfolio of industrial flooring systems.

Having worked with BlueScope Sheet Metal Supplies (SMS) for many years now, according to Locker Group Sales Director Brent Robinson, the distinct advantages of dealing with the Australian steel company are almost too long to list.

“ *The steel we source from BlueScope SMS is made in Australia, by Australians and for Australian conditions* ”



“We buy our mild steel only from BlueScope SMS for a number of reasons – they supply a consistent quality of product, a known yield and the exact grade that we require for our most popular walkway products, namely Gridwalk and Gripspan. Because we can rely on the integrity and strength of material, we can provide our customers with greater spanning capabilities than the imported alternatives.”

“The steel we source from BlueScope SMS is made in Australia, by Australians and for Australian conditions – in the past, we have seen some imported products have issues with quality and integrity.”

“As an Australian company that works extensively on architectural and infrastructure projects, we need a product that is aesthetically appealing, functional and can be reproduced locally with the same quality over and over again – and we have found that we can only achieve this with the mild steel we buy from BlueScope SMS,” noted Brent.

Locker Group’s Gridwalk, for example, is an expanded metal flooring designed to create robust floors and walkways. Used in quarry and mining applications, in plant and theatre settings and anywhere else durable and economical flooring is required, Gridwalk’s unique expanded diamond pattern adds strength and provides reliable grip underfoot.

Some of the many uses of Gridwalk include catwalks, conveyor walkways, platforms and saleyard walkways.

Another one of Locker Group’s products, Gripspan, – is a safety-conscious flooring system that is produced in long planks and available in standard or serrated tread and slotted profiles.

Designed to be anti-slip and to guard against falls and trips in work and storage areas, on mezzanines and access walkways, Gripspan is roll formed and uses no rivets or welded joints.

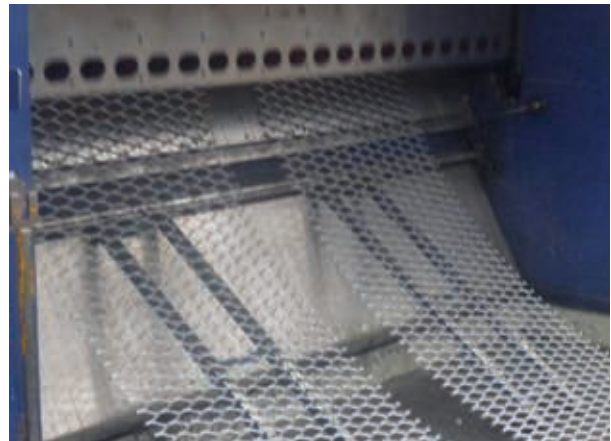
“Locker Group developed the industry standard for walkways quite a few years ago – there is a standard number of meshes per metre that is required to ensure our walkway products have both the span and strength that our customers require, and only the BlueScope SMS-sourced steel delivers this,” noted Brent.

BlueScope SMS Market Development Manager, Manufacturing, Dean Manicolo noted that apart from supplying a premium mild steel product, BlueScope SMS also constructed a Steel Efficiency Review (SER) which has led to a series of quality and cost improvements.

“Working with our research metallurgists and mill staff, we came up with another grade of mild steel product that has no scale and can be worked easier and faster.”

“After 12 months, the Locker Group made tooling savings in excess of \$120,000 as well as providing them the opportunity to remove one step in their production process,” said Dean.

“This was a win for the BlueScope SMS technical team and a huge benefit for Locker Group.”



“Locker Group prides itself on being a company that works at the cutting edge of perforated and expanded industrial steel product development and has developed a number of unique products in this field,” noted Brent.


“Without the local support, technical back up, product knowledge and premium Australian-made steel supplied by BlueScope SMS, competing in our industry would be much harder for us than it is now,” he concluded.

More information at www.locker.com.au

Phone: 1800 010 247

www.sheetmetalsupplies.com.au

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