

“The Camp!”: Support programme for the new generation of young professionals working in paint shops



Many bodyshops and paint shops are lacking in qualified young professionals. To counter this, Roger Staneczek, Managing Director of Artur Gevelhoff Autolacke GmbH—one of Standox’s sales partners based in Holzkirchen near Munich—has launched a training camp for apprentices. The second intensive week of the camp for young paint shop professionals took place recently. Standox supports the initiative as a sponsor.

“We’re all in the same boat: If we want to improve the situation with regard to young professionals working in the painting trade, we must work together to make training more attractive”, says Staneczek. With the “The Camp!” support programme, wholesale trader Standox hopes to help its customers to get their apprentices ready for their exams and their careers. The concept of the camp is based on the successful “Standex Camp”, which ran for the first time in 2013. Ten apprentices are invited to an intensive training week once every academic year, for which they are given time off by their respective companies.

Mistakes are allowed

How do I decide which sanding paper to use? How do I clean my spray gun correctly? What do I need to think about when painting aluminium parts? These and many other questions from the vehicle paint shop apprentices were answered during the practical training sessions carried out during the camp. “Here the apprentices can practise without time and cost pressures — and they can make mistakes without any consequences”, explains Roger Staneczek. He is very passionate about this project, which is why he personally worked with the apprentices throughout the week.



Under expert guidance, the apprentices worked on carshapes with effect varnishes and their own designs, for example.



During the practical training session, the apprentices were able to practise new techniques in a relaxed situation.

"A great addition"

"The Camp!" was organised by Hubert Albert, Sales Manager at Gevelhoff. Together with external experts, he taught the apprentices not only about theoretical and practical aspects of vehicle painting, but also important soft skills such as a confident manner and professional communication. The apprentices also learned about the processes that take place in a large company during a company tour.

The participants were enthusiastic about the initiative. 18-year-old Aaron Reich, an apprentice who is currently in the second year of his apprenticeship, summarised his experience so far as follows: "I particularly like the fact that we can try out lots of things here without worrying, which, of course, is not always possible in day-to-day work", he said. "I think the camp is a great addition."

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