

Modus Compact. Modus Executive. Environmental Product Information.

design made in germany

Wilkhahn



Modus.
The aesthetics of sitting.
Design: Klaus Franck, Werner Sauer and wiege

In 1994, Wilkhahn laid down a milestone in office chair history: the Modus range translated the principle of "sitting without a driving licence" and the ergonomic quality of the FS-Line into groundbreaking, graceful aesthetics.

The ingenious idea in a nutshell: a covered, flexible and break-proof backrest frame was developed for highly sensitive areas of the user's back. Due to the form and the flexible material, this backrest frame is like a membrane providing optimal support for widely differing body types and sizes – with any manner of posture and movement. Lengthy, complex materials research, new manufacturing technologies, studies on movement and physical requirements, and last but not least, meticulous refining processes have resulted in a chair that is the epitome of office chair aesthetics.

The combination of minimum material input, maximum transparency and optimal comfort in terms of support and movement have made Modus a model of excellence for a new generation of office chairs throughout the world. Often quoted, but still unrivalled, Modus is a class of its own: the perfection of dynamic sitting.

Guidelines.

Truthfulness in product design

We strive to develop lasting products, increase their utility value and reduce waste. "Less is more" or "reduce to the max" are the guiding principles that Wilkhahn continually translates into future contexts. Ecologically oriented design principles are a natural, integral part of product development.

Fairness in cooperation

We focus on people. This implies a cooperative style of management that recognizes employees' representatives as being co-managers who share in shaping the company. Profit-sharing for employees, the development of new forms of work with partly autonomous group and project work, as well as a firmly established health management scheme mark Wilkhahn's social orientation.

Ecological responsibility

Wilkhahn pursues the goal of sustainable development. Wilkhahn corporate culture is shaped by the balance that we strive to achieve between economic, ecological, social and cultural objectives for safeguarding the independence of the company. Adherence to environmentally relevant criteria throughout the entire product life cycle forms the basis of the way in which we judge our success.

Wilkhahn at a glance – commitment statements, certification, awards.

UN-Global Compact, ISO 9001/14001, EMAS, GREENGUARD™, LEED

Sustainability:



UN Global Compact

Processes:



ISO 9001
ISO 14001



EMAS

Product: Modus



GREENGUARD™



Complies with the requirements for the following number of credits under LEED:
LEED CI 5 – 7
LEED NC 5
LEED EB 7

Milestones of socio-ecological development at Wilkhahn

2009 Wilkhahn signed an international framework agreement to assure and extend exemplary social standards on a global scale. Regular internal checks and external monitoring carried out by the workers union IG Metall guarantee that Wilkhahn and its suppliers meet fundamental standards of the International Labour Organization (ILO).

2008 The newly erected co-generator for combining power and heat at the Bad Münder site is powered by renewable raw materials and since 2008 it has ensured virtually CO₂-neutral production

2001 First company in Lower Saxony, Germany, to be certified in accordance with the European Environmental Standard of EMAS 2

2000 Publication of the first sustainability report in the sector of medium-sized companies: Wilkhahn Added Values

1997 Corporate Conscience Award of Council on Economic Priorities, New York

1996 German Ecology Prize of the Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt

1995 Development and introduction of transport packaging; changeover in table lacquering to low-solvent, water-based lacquer

1994 Preparation and implementation of a waste management concept according to the premises of recycling management

1992 Introduction of the Picto swivel chair range as the first office chair in the world with a design concept integrating consistently ecological criteria

1989 Start of "Wilkhahn Green" with a policy statement on ecology: "The Administrative Board and Management have decided jointly to take ecological matters seriously and, in case of doubt, to give priority to such over and above quick profit"

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Eco-design:
combination of predictability and change

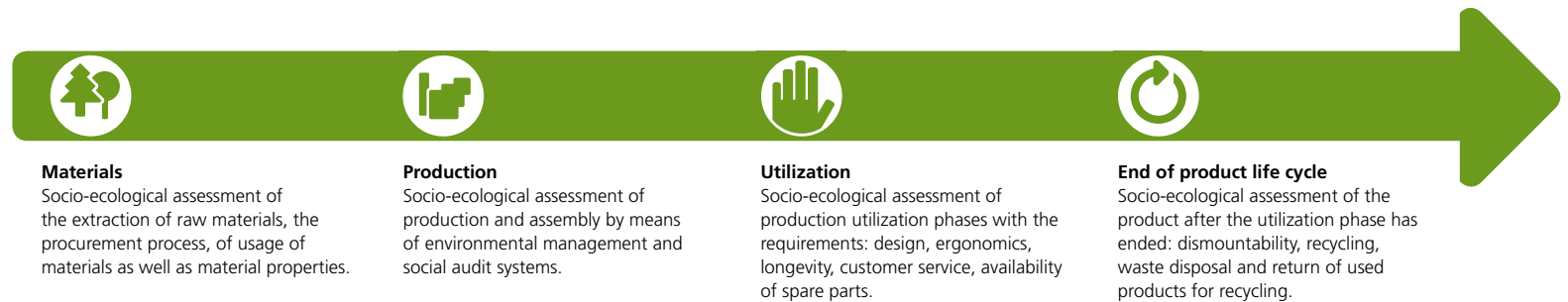
The yearning for predictability on the one hand and for change on the other hand is as old as humanity itself. From the very start, Modus was therefore designed as a modular product concept that combines virtually limitless re-use of all high-quality, technical parts with easy exchange of seat and backrest covers.

- The frames and the modelled swing plates in die-cast aluminium, the seat shell in flexible, through-dyed polypropylene with a seat cushion in CFC-free polyurethane foam inserted without the use of any adhesive, the back frame and armrests in break-proof, glass fibre-reinforced polyamide and the compact, the maintenance-friendly synchro-mechanism comprising coordinated torsion rods in high-performance steel and cast steel are designed for maximum service life. All metal components and the seat shell are 100% recyclable.
- Just four screws have to be loosened to allow the back frame and the seat to be disassembled and the cover to be exchanged if there are signs of wear or a new look is desired. The innovative upholstery technology guarantees that the finely crafted covers are attached to the upholstery and the seat shell in a secure and integrated way without having to use any adhesive.
- Numerous customers throughout the world now use the Wilkhahn service of giving "their" Modus a completely new appearance after years of intensive use without having to replace complete sets of components or even the entire chair. This combines both predictability and change, and economics and ecology.

In addition to reduced material input, clearly coded materials, which are as far as possible one-type only, and simple dismountability, this synthesis makes Modus first choice among high-quality, first-class office chairs from an ecological point of view too.

Responsibility from the very start – Wilkhahn Environmental Product Information

The environmental impact of the Logon table has been evaluated for the entire product life cycle – including the extraction of raw materials, manufacturing, utilization and waste disposal – on the basis of a life cycle analysis and assessment (LCA).

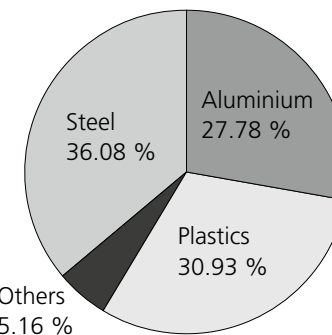


Materials.

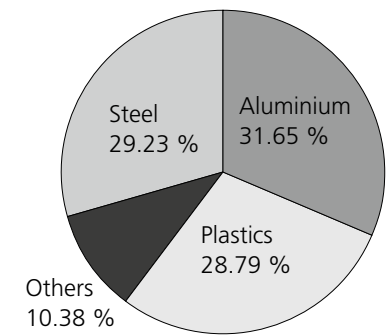
Material composition

	Modus Compact		Modus Executive	
	kg	in %	kg	in %
Metals				
Steel	5.52	36.08	5.91	29.23
Aluminium	4.25	27.78	6.40	31.65
Others	0.11	0.72	0.11	0.54
Plastics				
Polypropylene	1.13	7.34	1.19	5.89
Polyurethane foam	0.68	4.44	1.34	6.63
Nylon	2.82	18.43	0.66	3.26
Others	0.11	0.72	2.63	13.01
Miscellaneous				
Textiles	0.51	3.33	0.55	2.72
Others	0.17	1.11	1.44	7.12
Total weight	15.30	100	20.22	100

Modus Compact



Modus Executive



The total weight of the chair is 15.3 kg (Modus Compact) / 20.2 kg (Modus Executive). Modus Compact chairs comprise 35 percent recycling material (aluminium / steel) and Modus Executive chairs comprise 37 percent recycling material. The materials used for Modus office chairs are subject to stringent control. An ABC analysis is used to examine substances contained in these materials in terms of environmental and health compatibility. Prohibited chemicals are not used in the product at all. All manufacturing supplies are contained in a register of hazardous substances that forms a basis for further minimization or substitution in the case of potential problematic substances.

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Architectural environment



Co-generator powered by renewable raw materials



Production.

Water pollution control, waste management and sustainable production of energy

Water is becoming an increasingly important resource. Wilkhahn spares no effort to minimize water consumption in production and to ensure that water quality is not impaired. Due to the treatment of process water, the quantities of waste water requiring special supervision has been reduced by 80 per cent.

The Wilkhahn waste management concept embraces sorting waste according to one-type materials, recycling and disposal of all fractions of waste resulting from production and administration.

The newly erected co-generator for combining power and heat at the Bad Münden site is powered by renewable raw materials and from 2008 onwards it will ensure almost CO₂ neutral production

Wilkhahn production sites

Wilkhahn Modus office chairs are produced and assembled in Bad Münden (Germany), Castellon (Spain) and Sydney (Australia).

Environmental management system

All Wilkhahn sites work in conformity with a uniform environmental management system that is validated at the Bad Münden site (Germany) and certified in accordance with EMAS ISO 14001.

Process safety and quality management

Both the main Wilkhahn production site and all European sales offices are certified in accordance with ISO 9001. When selecting suppliers, Wilkhahn assigns great value to a comprehensive and viable quality management system.

ILO: All Wilkhahn production facilities guarantee compliance with labour and social standards as required by the ILO (International Labour Organization). Such compliance also forms the basis of cooperation with suppliers. The ILO is primarily concerned with the formulation and implementation of international labour and social standards, particularly core work standards that ensure social and just interpretation and application of all aspects of globalization, as well as the promotion of decent work.

Employees as partners

Top performance requires a potential-oriented corporate organization with flexible working hours, a bonus scheme, and group and project work. In turn, all employees share in corporate success in material terms. They have a comprehensive pension scheme; they are at the heart of company health promotion measures and they work in an environment that, by taking groundbreaking steps in industrial architecture, strives to achieve a synthesis of social, ecological, economic and aesthetic needs.

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Use.

Aesthetics and design

Sustainable products must be purposive. The timeless aesthetics of the Modus range result in an increase in utility value in terms of enduring use. All Modus models have one thing in common, besides the host of functions, features and elegance: they provide sitting culture of the highest degree due a synthesis of ergonomics and aesthetics.

Longevity and guarantee

The Modus office chair range was launched in 1994. More than 827,700 Modus chairs have been sold throughout the world since then. Modus sets standards for product design that is "sustainable" in the most optimal way. The durability of the high-quality materials used, the innovative sitting concept and the classic design guarantee usability for many decades. We give a two-year manufacturers' guarantee which thus provides a serious planning and specifying timeframe. We can vouch for this regardless of the long product service life entailed. We regard guarantees over and above such timeframes as an investment in the future. Our service in terms of "ecological prolongation of service life" includes general overhauling and maintenance of older chairs. Wilkhahn offers repair service for furniture units no longer produced for two further years following discontinuation. Being on the market for a long time, overhaul service and the high durability of Modus office chairs mark key aspects of Wilkhahn product philosophy.

Air quality and emissions of pollutants

Office chairs from the Modus range do not emit any concentrations of gas that are harmful to the environment or to health. Products from the Modus range are certified in the USA in accordance with GREENGUARD Indoor Air Quality™. GREENGUARD™ is a certification programme for low emitting products.

LEED

Office chairs from the Modus range support companies by allowing credit points to be achieved in the case of potential LEED certification (U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design). Buildings in the USA are evaluated according to this system in terms of their ecological and social impact.

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End of product life cycle.

Return of used products and recycling

Our responsibility does not stop at the end of the utilization phase of a product as we offer our customers extensive services for taking back and recycling used products. We guarantee that used products may be returned in their entirety. The chairs are dismantled at our plant, all components are sorted according to one-type materials and – if possible – are recycled. Due to the clear marking and identification of all materials, due to their nontoxicity and due to easy dismantability, we can today ensure that the components of a Wilkhahn product are returned to both decentral and local material and production cycles and are properly recycled and, if necessary, disposed of. This serves to reduce energy-intensive (and thus ecologically questionable) return transport over long distances.

Disassembly and recycling

All components of Modus chairs permit non-destructive disassembly. All components weighing more than 150 g bear a material identification mark to ensure that materials can be sorted according to a single type. No material protecting agents or halogen-organic combinations are used that prevent subsequent recycling. A total of 71 percent (Modus Compact) and 67 percent (Modus Executive) of components of the chairs can be recycled.

Returnable transport packaging

Returnable transport packaging made from renewable raw materials is used for office chairs from the Modus range that can be reused, recycled or composted.



International awards

1995: Industrie Forum Design, Gutes Design, "Die Besten der Branche" (The Best of the Industry), Hanover

1995: Design Zentrum Essen, "Roter Punkt für höchste Designqualität" (reddot for high design quality)

1995: Design Week Award, 1st prize, Great Britain

1995: Goed Industrieel Ontwerp, Netherlands

1995: Apex Award (Intern. Interior Design Ass. Chicago/USA)

1995: Acknowledgement for outstanding product "Design Preis Schweiz" (Design Prize Switzerland)

1995: Award for Excellence in Design & Manufacture of Seating, Australia

1996: Bundespreis Produktdesign (Federal Prize for Product Design), Acknowledgement, Rat für Formgebung (German Design Council), Frankfurt

1996: Industrial Design Excellence Award, "Silver" in the furniture category, Industrial Designers

Society of America and Business Week

1996: "G-Mark", Good Design Prize for Foreign Products, Category Office and Store, Ministry of International Trade and Industry (M.I.T.I.)

1996: Good Design Award, Chicago Athenaeum, Chicago 1996

1998: Roter Punkt für Hohe Designqualität (reddot for high design quality), Design Zentrum NRW