

DIZ

Doepke-Info-Zeitung

The free customer newsletter from Doepke Schaltgeräte GmbH

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Training you can trust

The German Chamber of Industry and Commerce once again recognises the quality of training at Doepke

Well-trained staff are hard to find. And this is all the more true for positions that require special skills, where it often takes years to receive suitable applications. It all boils down to skills shortage.

Doepke is committed to tackling this challenging situation on the labour market and is therefore focusing on in-house training. The conditions are favourable: the large number of specialist departments at the company ensures a real net output ratio of 90%, while also enabling the company to offer a wide selection of vocational training and dual study options everywhere from tool manufacture or plastic injection moulding to the internal IT department and the sales team.

The company is currently training 17 trainees and work-study students in 11 different occupations and 3 courses of study. Nine of these just started their training at the beginning of August and the new training places for 2026 have already been confirmed,

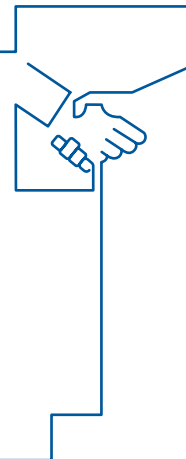
although these still need to be filled. Young people have high expectations of their training, and rightly so. The opportunity to play an active role in shaping the company, modern facilities, further development opportunities, an open company culture, a good work-life balance thanks to flexible working time models and, of course, the location are all important factors for many interested candidates. The quality of the training is decisive, because

applicants know that the better the training, the more in-demand they will be as skilled workers on the job market in the long term. That's why good-quality training is an effective antidote to skilled labour shortages.

Doepke is also well positioned in this regard. The East Frisian company has again been awarded the 'TOP Trainer' quality seal by the German Chamber of Industry and Commerce in recognition of its training, and is required to comply with strict quality standards in order to continue using it.

You can find out more about the training we offer and the various career paths available at karriere.doepke.de. ■

International guests at Doepke – welcome to Norden!



Our global partnerships are becoming an increasingly important part of our daily work. As we intensify our international sales activities, establish new contacts and tap into new markets, the number of visitors from all over the world is also growing. A brief look at the first half of 2025 shows that we had a lot going on!

Several employees of our US partner **Altech** took advantage of their visit to the Hannover Messe trade fair to stop off in East Frisia. Not only has Altech been an importer of our products for many years, it also represents Doepke in many matters locally, acting as an extended arm of our company on the North American market. In addition to a tour of the factory, the main focus was on discussing joint projects – with plenty of enthusiasm and good ideas for the future.

Employees from our long-standing distributors in Switzerland (**Demelectric**), Belgium (**DeMaegd**), Austria (**Stenna**), the Netherlands

(**Hateha**) and Hungary (**Kamleithner**) were also guests in Norden. Learning about new products, planning joint market activities, taking a look at our production facilities and doing some sightseeing in East Frisia were among the highlights of the varied programme for the trip.

We were also visited by some of our more recent partners, namely our Turkish distributor **Novsen** and **Lidalco** from Sweden. In fact, Lidalco travelled together with PhaseBox,

a company that uses our type B RCBOs in its charging stations.

Last but not least, representatives from **Walther-Werke France** took the opportunity to kick off their visit with a traditional East Frisian tea party – a successful start to a productive exchange.

Each visit is a testament to a successful working partnership and another step on our path to international growth. ■



“All it takes is a moment”

Short-time delayed residual current circuit-breakers for safety and system availability

Residual current circuit-breakers need to trip immediately when a residual current occurs. But what does “immediately” mean? The maximum permissible time is defined in the relevant standard (product standard VDE 0664-10). Depending on the magnitude of the residual current, the permissible switch-off times range between 40 and 300 milliseconds.

However, there are cases where although “immediately” has to be within the switch-off times required by the standard, it may be sensible to wait a short while. One such example is during storms: lightning strikes that are some distance away may result in short-term surges and voltage peaks in the installation. These give rise to transient (temporary) leakage currents, which a residual current circuit-breaker cannot differentiate from an actual residual current.

As a result, the circuit-breaker trips.

This can become a problem if it is not possible to switch the power back on immediately – for example in the case of remote installations, prolonged absences or sensitive loads.

And in electrical installations with LED lights, fluorescent lamps, strip lights, computer systems, solar power systems or a large number of switched-mode power supplies, pulsed surge currents may occur when switching on, which can lead to (false) tripping of conventional residual current circuit-breakers.

These problems can be avoided using short-time delayed residual current circuit-breakers. As the name suggests, they wait briefly when a residual current occurs. If it is still present after 10 milliseconds, then the RCCB trips.

Put in technical terms, because they feature a response delay, short-time delayed residual current circuit-breakers only respond to residual currents that last longer than a half-period of the power frequency.

Compliance with the tripping times required by the standard is therefore not a problem, meaning that short-time delayed residual current circuit-breakers can be used without any issues in place of standard breakers.

Our Type F RCCB and the AC-DC sensitive Type B are short-time delayed and lightning-resistant as standard. As for Type A, which is sensitive to pulsating and alternating currents, the short-time delayed “KV” version can be selected. ■

Compliant protection for charging equipment

A growing number of electric cars and hybrid vehicles are being driven on Germany's roads. At the same time, the number of charging facilities in public and private spaces is increasing. But whether it's a private wallbox at home or a public charging point – 'charging stations' are usually used by people with no expertise in electrical engineering and therefore need to be designed to be completely safe in order to avoid dangerous situations or even electrical accidents.

Safety standards for charging columns and wall boxes for electric vehicles are governed by the installation regulations for electromobility charging devices, IEC 60364-7-722.

According to these regulations, every plug connection for charging an electric vehicle must be protected by its own residual current device (RCD) ≤ 30 mA of at least Type A. However, smooth DC residual currents higher

than 6 mA can also be produced when electric vehicles are being charged. This goes beyond the design scope of conventional Type A or Type F residual current circuit-breakers. In a worst-case scenario, these circuit-breakers may fail as a result of the pre-magnetisation of their summation current transformer, and this failure may go unnoticed. Protection against smooth DC residual currents must therefore also be ensured. The standard IEC 62955 gives three options for this:

The use of a Type B residual current device is particularly suitable for new installations. For existing installations where a Type A or Type F residual current device (or an unknown protective device) is connected upstream, protection by a Type B device is not suitable. This is because it creates the risk of 'blinding' any upstream RCDs.



Another way to protect a charging station against residual currents is to combine a monitoring module for 6 mA DC detection with an additional Type A or Type F RCD. When working with this particular combination, the person or company responsible for the installation must, however, always carefully follow the switch-off criteria required in the event of a fault and be able to demonstrate that they have done so in cases of doubt.

A third option is to use the Type A or Type F DFS with EV functionality. These devices detect smooth DC residual currents and trip at 6 mA DC, making them VDE-certified according to the IEC 62955 standard. By using them, you can prevent the summation current transformer core from becoming pre-magnetised. This protection not only covers the RCDs used here, but also extends to any upstream Type A and Type F RCDs to ensure safe charging. ■



efa:ON trade fair in Leipzig



From 23 to 25 September, Leipzig will host efa:ON, the long-standing trade fair for electrical, building and lighting technology in central Germany and neighbouring regions. It combines an exhibition, a specialist programme and a special event, attracting numerous visitors from the skilled trades, industrial, commercial and energy supply companies, retailers, planners, architects, engineers, building operators, investors and young industry professionals to the exhibition halls.

Doepke will of course be there, presenting its latest innovations and everything you need to know about the safe use of electricity in Hall 5 at Stand E 10. In addition, Stefan Davids will speak at the de-Innovation Forum and Holger Meier at the efaforum of the Saxony/Thuringia guild. We look forward to seeing new and familiar faces, engaging in interesting discussions and gaining new inspiration. ■



efa:ON

Our electrical finds

Be it a mess of cables, a strange installation or even 'chindogu', the electrical curiosities we come across have one thing in common: they are unusual and eye-catching. Chindogu, by the way, is a Japanese word that means 'strange device' – in other words, inventions that the world doesn't really need, but laughs at instead.

We hope to make you stare in amazement, shake your head or laugh out loud, by sharing our favourite electronic finds with you on a regular basis.



At least it's somewhat protected from the rain: a 'Wi-Fi hotspot' at a campsite in Croatia.

Many thanks to Torben Heyd for the photo.

Do you have an entertaining electrical find to share with us? If so, please take a photo of it and send it to us at:

kommunikation@doepke.de

Important: we can only consider photos that you have taken yourself.

Fiete's island getaway

Did you take part in the guessing game in the last issue? If you guessed 'Mallorca', you were spot on. Beloved by German holidaymakers, this island has also won over our trade fair mascot. For his holiday, Fiete chose the beautiful east of Mallorca – home to the picturesque harbour town of Porto Cristo, numerous small bays and the Cuevas del Drach (Dragon Cave) stalactite cave system with the largest underground lake in Europe. After many fantastic experiences and plenty of swimming in the



turquoise blue water, Fiete bid farewell to Mallorca with an "Adéuuuuu!" (Adéu is the Catalan word for goodbye). ■



Television producers visit Doepke

We welcomed employees from Westdeutscher Rundfunk (WDR) to our Doepke Academy studio. Stefan Davids, Günter Grünebast and Robert Schmidt (Doepke) greeted our guests Dr Dirk Peters (head electrician at WDR), Rainer Franke (stage manager for the programme 'Kölner Treff') and Jens Kleineberg

(Atlas Copco). The topics discussed included our protective devices for mobile installations, such as the DFS B SK MI, and our core product for portable residual current devices, the DPRCD-M. These are already in use in outdoor TV productions and in production vans, known in the trade as OB vans. ■



'de Normentagung' symposium

In mid-August, Doepke was once again a guest at the symposium 'Normen in der Elektroinstallation [Standards for electrical installations]' organised by the magazine 'de'. The event is aimed at planners, installers and operators of electrical systems, plant engineers, inspectors, consultants and other professionals from the electrical industry. The series of high-calibre presentations ended on a high note with Martin Kaden's talk on 'Safety in mobile applications'. Doepke will also be participating in the next symposium on 19 and 20 November in Hamburg. ■

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QUOTE OF THE QUARTER

*"Man is nobler for his knowledge
than for the gold and goods he
possesses, even though these
be gained with great good will."*

Ramon Llull, Mallorcan philosopher,
logician and theologian

DATES/NOTES

efa:ON

Leipzig, 23/09 – 25/09/2025
Hall 5, stand E10

Electrical engineering symposium
of TÜV Saarland
Hagen/online 25/09 – 26/09/2025

RCD and RCM seminar
Essen/Haus der Technik, 7/10/2025