

## SAFT – FERAK a.s. „A man must keep running faster all the time to stay in the forefront“

A stock company SAFT – FERAK was established in 1995 as a result of a merger of FERAK, a well-known Czech producer of nickel-cadmium accumulators of pocket-plate design, and a french company SAFT, the biggest word producer of industrial alkaline accumulators.

The products of FERAK have been known since the establishment of the company in 1953 as first-rate and very reliable products.

The company SAFT – FERAK is fully aware of the necessity of continuous improvement of all of its activities therefore in 1997 has been launched an extensive process of restructalisation called „World class 2000“.

Even the name of the process is saying that there is an afford of becoming a world producer who will set the direction in its field of activity not only in quality and by innovation of its own products but by the respect to the environment as well.



Plate production SAFT-FERAK a.s.

The goal of the restructalisation was an increase of productivity, sales and the total flexibility. By implementation of the information system, currently controlling all processes, has allowed to optimize the production of the time and even to transfer a part of cell production from the Swedish sister subsidiary. One of the terms of the transfer was to get a **Certificate ISO 9001**, and that was fulfilled in January 1998. By launching the so-called „Swedish“ production, designated for export to western markets, the sales was doubled and the company gained customers from Singapore to the United States. The portfolio of products has been immensely widen of about another 150 types of cells. For the annual rate of the export increase by 161%, SAFT-FERAK won a second place

in the competition **Export award of DHL 2000**.

The increase of portfolio meant to produce monthly 75 types in 1999 compared with 15 types in 1995, in the series of one to several thousand pieces. This could have been possible to manage only by a perfect organisation of production, which is currently divided into so-called autonomous teams and by implementation of new controlling methods such as KAN BAN, TPM, KAIZEN, 5S, PDCA together with project management, closely linked to the MBO.

The fast and first-rate transformation of SAFT-FERAK resulted in becoming one of the most successful SAFT subsidiary, and the company gained – as the only one - „**SAFT Manufacturing Award**“ in 1999, among others for the annual increase of productivity by 20%.

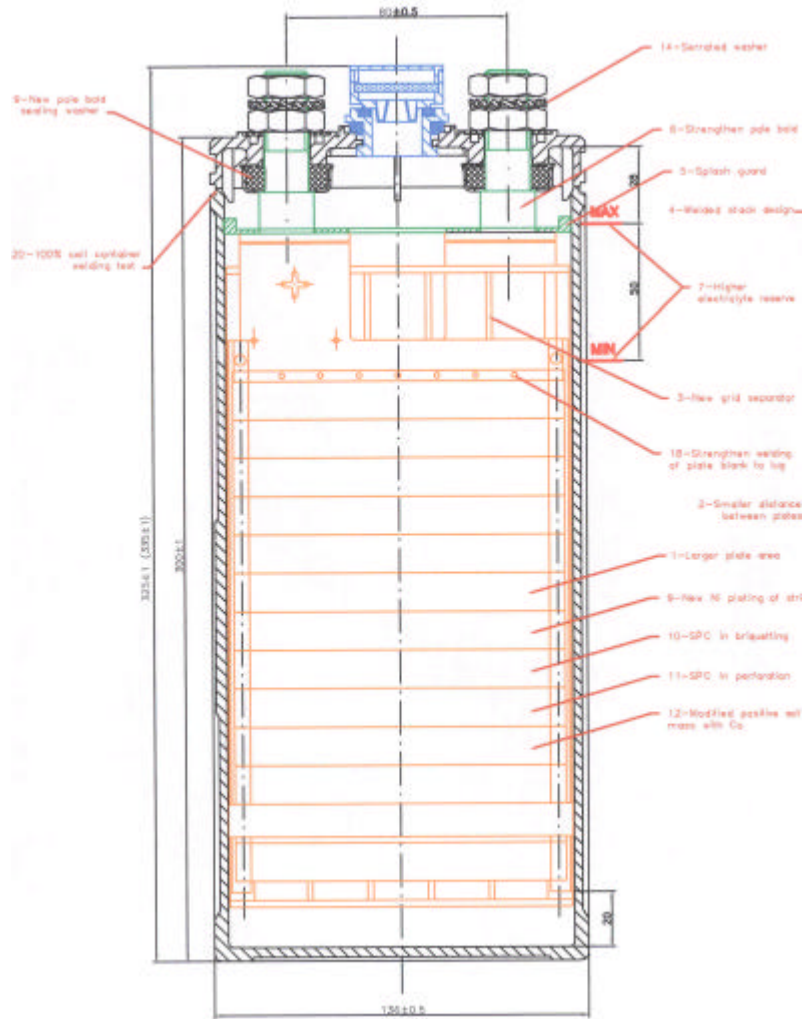
The present SAFT – FERAK is aware of the fact that not only a perfect process or product can fully satisfy a customer. Projects, aiming to decrease the delivery time by weeks, try to improve customer services to increase the ability of competition.



Stainless steel production

To all of our customers and users of our products we are trying to prove that our product and process is regardful to the environment. Our activities in this field were topped in June 2000 by achieving Certificate **ISO 14001**.

Among the technical improvements we are preparing for our traditional customers (Czech railways, Škoda Plzeň and others), a new model range and by implementation of that, the nominal value shall be increased. Welding of electrode stacks will result in decreasing the internal resistance, new design rules lead to the increase of the electrolyte reserve, so the maintenance demands are decreased. By implementation of SPC (Statistic Process Control) in the plate production line, the capacity variation has been reduced which is important mostly for using cells in sets. The new cell range ( see the picture bellow) will gradually replace the present types as from September this year to be fully compatible with the present ones and not to cause any problems to our customers.



Thanks to the modern production line for the steel cell production we can deliver steel cells in almost any dimension and capacity, according to the customer requirements.

The latest improvement which the SAFT-FERAK can offer for all cell types, is a central filling of the new generation without any moveable parts, which rapidly reduce the time necessary for water filling and reduce this activity to a mere connection of the pipe to the relevant place.

The goal is to offer a solution of a fully maintenance-free cell by keeping the present prices.

SAFT-FERAK is nowadays a modern, dynamic company, oriented to the customer satisfaction. We managed to joint a long-time tradition of the Czech production with advantages of a big world producer and we are determinate to carry on with the production and product improvement.