



68 NEW TECHNOLOGY

Having recently installed a complete new spray and curing facility from Schuberts, furniture manufacturer Metroplan is now benefiting from a tailored system which offers a controlled spray zone, efficient working cycles and much more ...

Metroplan invests in quality

Metroplan, manufacturer of presentation and display furniture has invested in a complete new spray and curing facility from Schuberts. The spray shop enclosure has been designed with full filtered air input system and a high level snorkel to harness warmer air from the roof space.

A capture and hold air filter on the air input plenum ensures no dust from other processes is allowed into the spray zone, making the quality of the spray application first rate. The extraction is through at-rated fan sets mounted on top of the structure.

The spray enclosure has 1000 lux lighting, as no natural light was available in the factory unit. This gives a pure white light – ideal for spraying and colour matching. Once sprayed with either solvent or water-based lacquer, the wet wooden components and part-assembled carcasses are introduced to the Schubox – the revolutionary way to dry and cure wet coatings.

The pieces are then subjected to gas catalytic infrared, warm air and reflection. These combine to



2.5m sliding doors into bright white spray zone



Components curing in the Schubox



Full spray enclosure and Schubox at Metroplan

give Metroplan a 15 minute cure time and the pieces can be either sanded or packed afterwards. The Schubox will cure any wet coating that has a finite air drying time. The infrared penetrates the layer of paint or lacquer and cures from the inside out. There is no 'skinning' of the coating and no trapping of the solvent or water carrier, meaning a very quick cure with no surface bubbling.

Adrian Leigh, production manager of Metroplan and responsible for the new projects, says: "The new installation from Schuberts is a significant step forward in technology. Schuberts have been willing

and able to find the right solution to our problems of throughput and quality required. Working on a 15 minute cycle time in the Schubox means we have very little work in progress – it literally goes straight from spray into the Schubox and then out again."

Schuberts offers a full range of manual and automatic finishing solutions, including its ever-popular range of catalytic infrared curing systems.

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