

Caritas in Eschweiler, Germany relies on IDEAL AP PRO air purifiers.

IDEAL

For safer air in workshops.

There is currently intense discussion in the media about fitting air purifiers in places and areas where large numbers of people regularly gather. Protecting the health of employees and supervisors in a targeted way was also a great concern for Caritas Betriebs- und Werkstätten GmbH in Eschweiler, Germany, especially during the period of the pandemic, which is why their eight workshops at six sites were equipped with a total of 126 IDEAL air purifiers at the end of 2020. Managing director Michael Doersch reports on the background and experiences.

The Caritas business production sites and workshops (CBW for short) in the cities of the Aachen region have 1605 employees – of whom 1320 have a mental or physical disability – in over 20 areas of work, such as a carpentry workshop, laundry, printing works and turning shop. Furthermore, medical products are produced in a cleanroom.

Managing director Michael Doersch:

“As a Caritas company, we feel that we have a responsibility towards our employees to do all we can to reduce a possible viral load in our workshops and to protect our employees (both with and without a disability) comprehensively against possible infection. Purchasing the air purifiers was sadly not subsidised. In this respect, we financed the devices from our free reserves. We processed this order for air purifiers through the Aachen-based company Büro-Musterhaus Prickartz. The Prickartz team has always been on hand for help and advice for many years as a reliable CBW supplier, which was also the case here.”



Michael Doersch, Managing director of Caritas Betriebs- und Werkstätten GmbH

Ideal air hygiene protects employees and supervisors

Clean and cleaned indoor air is more important than ever, above all in places that are heavily used, since this is exactly where infectious diseases often spread particularly quickly. While social distancing and other hygiene measures are also strictly upheld in the CBW, the air purifiers will provide additional protection and ensure clean air. This is why the decision was taken to purchase IDEAL air purifiers. Five different models from the AP PRO series – all „Made in Germany“ – were chosen from the comprehensive range of various air purifiers.

Michael Doersch: “We have fitted IDEAL air purifiers in all rooms in which at least three employees are working. Depending on the size of the room, there are five different AP PRO model variants now in use. It was of the utmost importance to us to find a good solution to protect our employees and supervisors, particularly for our production areas where up to forty people work. The only exceptions are our ISO class 8 cleanrooms, where medical products are produced. Appropriate systems are already installed here.”

Particularly when working together in communal rooms, infectious aerosols get transmitted through ambient air. The IDEAL air purifiers counteract this and thereby supplement and enhance protective measures such as social distancing, dividing walls, surface disinfection



Caritas Betriebs- und Werkstätten GmbH headquarters in Eschweiler, Germany



The IDEAL AP140 PRO air purifier in use on site at Caritas

and face masks. Circulating and cleaning the air several times per hour decreases the dwell time of harmful substances like viruses and bacteria and significantly reduces the amount of aerosols in the ambient air. *“As an operator of several cleanrooms (ISO 8 and others), we know that the viral load in rooms can be reduced using suitable filtration technology. We tested the air purifiers ourselves and determined that the number of particles in the air (>0.3 µm) can be reduced by almost 95% in our conditions. We usually have the devices running for eight hours per day from Monday to Friday, in narrow rooms even up to twelve hours per day.”*

Highly effective IDEAL filtration technology ensures clean air

The 126 air purifiers in use at Caritas in Eschweiler – comprising the five high-performance models IDEAL AP30 PRO, IDEAL AP40 PRO, IDEAL AP60 PRO, IDEAL AP80 PRO and IDEAL AP140 PRO – guarantee efficient air purification. All devices are particularly impressive thanks to their low noise emissions and low energy consumption, and are equipped with five-stage filtration technology. Using this, the devices reliably filter bacteria and viruses, significantly reducing concentrations of these. In addition, they remove fine dust, chemicals and unpleasant smells from the indoor air. The IDEAL AP PRO air purifiers also provide relief for allergy symptoms and ensure that the air we breathe is clean. *Michael Doersch: “To date, there has not consciously been feedback on alleviation of allergy-related or other*

air-related health complaints from our employees and supervisors. But the time of year when pollen levels are high is just around the corner. The high percentage of filtered ambient air can certainly lead to relief here too.”

Once particles, pollutants and pathogens are trapped by the 360° smart filter, they can no longer get out into the ambient air. Pathogens become dormant (viruses) or die off (bacteria) on the filter material after a short period of time.

Professional and practice-oriented air purification guaranteed

Alongside high-quality equipment and intuitive operation, the IDEAL AP PRO devices are also impressive thanks to their quiet operation, meaning they are unobtrusive and are not a disruptive source of noise during everyday work processes. Michael Doersch agrees: *“What particularly impressed us was the easy operation of all five air purifier models. This is very important because we have many different people operating the devices. Owing to the large number of employees in the rooms and the high ventilation rate thanks to open windows, there is a constant movement of air in our rooms, meaning that the air is constantly mixing. If the air is now filtered, we believe that this leads to an improvement in air quality and a significant reduction in potential virus-infected particles in the air we breathe. In this respect, we would choose the IDEAL AP PRO air purifiers again.”*