

PRESS RELEASE

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Pharmaceutical transport according to GDP guidelines: Transco Berlin receives the new TÜV Rheinland certificate as first national carrier

TÜV Rheinland certifies Transco Berlin Brandenburg GDP-compliant processes for road transport logistics

Documentation, qualified vehicles, training of personnel: The EU directive “Good Distribution Practice” (GDP), which was amended in 2013, is considerably more demanding as a generally accepted industry standard than has been the case so far. TÜV Rheinland now offers a special inspection procedure. After successful completion of an audit, companies receive a certificate that confirms GDP-compliance when transporting pharmaceuticals. Transco Berlin Brandenburg GmbH has now received this GDP certificate from the TÜV Rheinland as the first national pharmaceutical forwarder. In a sophisticated audit process, TÜV Rheinland inspected not only the qualified vehicles of Transco, but also the processes, the internal documentation, as well as the quality management system of the company. "We were able to demonstrate that our pharmaceutical transports comply with all the requirements of the revised GDP", explains Thomas Schleife, the Managing Director of Transco. "Without extensive preparations, however, we would have most certainly failed the audit. In this case, our investment in equipment, in the GDP-education and training of personnel, as well as our process optimization measures - from the risk analysis to the intervention plans – has paid off." The TÜV Rheinland certificate permits carriers to show the GDP conformity of their processes. Also, it provides better transparency when comparing pharmaceutical transport processes and services, from which pharmaceutical manufacturers profit as customers. "We consider the TÜV Rheinland certificate as proof for our good performance and are proud to have received it as the first German pharmaceutical forwarder", said Transco Managing Director Schleife.

Already two years before the amendment to the GDP guidelines came into force, Transco Berlin Brandenburg GmbH from Ludwigsfelde had started to prepare itself for the amendment to the EU guidelines, with foreseeably stricter provisions of the directive. As part of the project "The safe cold chain", the experienced forwarder to East Europe developed a holistic concept for pharmaceutical transport – this was made in close cooperation with external partners and under the scientific supervision of the Technical University in Wildau. The freight forwarder had its refrigerated semitrailers qualified by EIPL European Institute for Pharmaceutical Logistics, conducted GDP training courses and documented its internal processes. In addition, Transco prepared a comprehensive risk analysis and developed worst case scenarios and intervention plans based on this. The audit was carried out on this solid basis by TÜV Rheinland. In a sophisticated audit process, experts from TÜV Rheinland checked the vehicles, the driver documents and cleaning documentation, working instructions and the complete quality management system for GDP conformity. The latter is based at Transco on the ISO 9001 certification and was extended to correspond to the required pharmaceutical specific QM processes, and thus conform to GDP guidelines.

"The preparations for GDP-amendment were very time consuming and involved an investment in the six-figure range", said Thomas Schleife. "And also in everyday operation, the effort which is associated with GDP-compliant processes is not to be underestimated. However, by checking every temperature document and treating any deviation as a kind of complaint, we shall be able to minimize the error rate along the supply chain in the long run. Thus, our customers are able to benefit from proactive process controls and smooth operations in the transport of pharmaceuticals. Quality costs money - but I am convinced that the investment will pay off in the long run."

Only with this high standard of quality, which is placed on the process and transport procedures, is the specialist for the transport of pharmaceuticals able to master the particular challenge of logistics in Eastern Europe – from the complex customs formalities to the extreme weather conditions in the winter. "We guarantee this high GDP-compliant transport quality as the first national freight forwarder - also for the route Berlin-Moscow - and thus outside the boundaries of the EU," emphasizes Transco Managing Director Thomas Schleife.

Photos:



The scheduling team of Transco Berlin Brandenburg GmbH: Transco's staff attends regular GDP-training sessions and are specialised in the transport of pharmaceuticals



The qualified trailers used by Transco for transporting pharmaceuticals are inspected by TÜV Rheinland for GDP-compliance



Transco also increasingly uses smaller vehicles for the transport of pharmaceuticals

TRANSCO

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