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**APEX STRIP CURTAINS & DOORS ANNOUNCES FULL COMPLIANCE OF ITS PRODUCTS
WITH THE GLOBALLY RECOGNISED HACCP FOOD SAFETY SYSTEM**

New food production and processing practices, coupled with emerging food borne pathogens and changing eating habits and demographics have all contributed to an increased awareness of food borne illness. In order to be able to effectively address safety concerns, the food and beverage industry has adopted the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) system, an internationally recognised food safety system that assists with the manufacture of safe food products.

In keeping with this latest trend to prevent, reduce or eliminate potential biological, chemical and physical food safety hazards, Apex Strip Curtains & Doors has announced that all its products are HACCP compliant. "HACCP is recognised internationally as the primary means for enhancing food safety throughout the food chain and is being used increasingly around the world," Wim Dessing, Managing Director of Apex Strip Curtains & Doors, says.

Strip curtains play a vital role in the food and beverage industry and therefore have to be durable and flexible in preventing the ingress of unwanted elements. This requirement is critical in the light of issues such as cross-contamination. From production facilities to retail outlets, the food and beverage industry depends on strip curtains to minimise the entrance of dust and heat while at the same time facilitating easy access for personnel and vehicular traffic.

"After extensive research, we devised a specially formulated PVC material that retains its flexibility even after years of use. In addition, the transparency of the material ensures optimum visibility and safety," Dessing explains. "In terms of HACCP compliance we needed to develop a product that could withstand the rigours of the often harsh local environments in which Apex Strip Curtains are often used."

The patented Balledge® design provides an effective thermal seal while at the same time it parts easily under pressure to allow people and goods to move through unhindered. The Balledge® design

consists of a reinforced edge on the border of each strip that not only prevents snagging or scratching of goods or people but also provides extended life of the strips irrespective of the application in which they are used.

Apex General Purpose Strip Curtains are commonly attached to an overhead hanging rail and provide a cost effective and highly efficient way of separating atmospherically-critical areas from temperature extremes and environmental pollutants. In addition to their obvious use at entrance and exit points, the industrial PVC strip curtains are also becoming increasingly popular as a means of temporarily partitioning areas within larger facilities.

Immediate results are evident with regard to improved manufactured or packaged product quality due to the elimination of contaminants. In addition, compliance with occupational health and safety requirements for a comfortable work environment is achieved following the installation of Apex General Purpose Strip Curtains. The strip curtains also tick all the boxes for increasingly stringent standards in the food and beverage industry, such as the latest HACCP food safety system.

“Apart from fostering a more productive work environment, the installation of strip curtains contributes to lowered energy usage and costs. The need for excessive cooling or heating of the work environment is reduced due to the ability of the strip curtains to effectively maintain a suitable ambient temperature,” Dessing adds.

In addition to the well-known Apex General Purpose Strip Curtains, the company also specialises in the local manufacture of insulated and impact traffic swing doors, roll-up and fold-up speed doors, roller blinds and cabinet curtains for refrigerated display cabinets as well as welding and safety screens. The company is committed to the highest levels of quality control within its extensive manufacturing facility. Quality assurance systems ensure that all specifications and tolerances are met during the production process.

MEETING HACCP REQUIREMENTS 01: Apex Strip Curtains & Doors has announced that all its products are HACCP compliant.

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