

WORLDFOOTWEAR

The strength is in the know-how

Creating a range of moulds is an extremely complex activity nowadays, fully reflecting the complex demands made by footwear manufacturers. Elio Zago, the Italian mould maker from Padova, enjoys a challenge and is a specialist in the production of difficult moulds and, in particular, those for safety footwear.

The company uses all the latest technology including 2D and 3D CAD for design, CAM for production, including HSC (High Speed Cutting) and five axes milling cutters for the direct machining operations. The most important factor, however, is the capacity to use all these systems to the maximum advantage. Hence, the company's catch phrase "Our strength is in the know-how".

TrioFlex

The new Red Wing TrioFlex boot produced by Red Wing in the USA is a good example of this. It has been designed as a premium work boot to outperform all others. Three key features work in concert to create the TrioFlex system.

The first is the V-Task Sole. Designed as a two-part sole system, its unique red rubber pad inserts are set in a polyurethane outsole. The combination of rubber and polyurethane provides maximum traction and durability. The second, Red Wing's Formatic footbed, offers superior comfort by automatically conforming to the contour of the foot. The third is Red Wing's waterproof system that is claimed to be so foolproof that it is guaranteed not to leak for one year.

Together, these three features deliver the ultimate in comfort and durability for all working conditions. This is clearly a technically sophisticated boot that would set tough demands on any mould maker. Elio Zago was delighted to be set the challenge.

Key strengths

The company has been producing moulds since 1958 and so has a wealth of experience. It was also able to offer Red Wing some good reasons why it could produce the moulds

TECHNOLOGY



up to the standards required:

- The design could be followed up step by step to allow any adjustments or additions
- It has the technology to pre-check the exact fit of the steel toe caps to the customer's lasts
- It has the ability to make injection moulds for any combination of compounds including PU, PU-PU, TPU-PU, RUBBER-PU, PU-PU/TPU & RUBBER-RUBBER/PU
- There is the possibility to inject PU on either aluminium or plastic lasts with maximum results
- It offers total precision in size grading and 100% accurate replication of each mould
- It has knowledge of the DIN rules and performance standards essential for safety footwear
- The final trial moulded quality checks are sent to the customer for final approval
- There is quick delivery of the complete mould set plus any further duplicates required
- The company offers a guarantee of moulds up to specification and on time
- Delivery on schedule and immediate production start-up as the moulds require no further adjustments

Today's global footwear market places great strains on everyone involved. Standards have never been higher and delivery schedules never shorter. When you are dealing with such complex and expensive tooling, the pressures are particularly high and there is no room for error. Many European companies on the machinery side of the industry are suffering from the downturn in business but, as usual, it is the specialists who are coping best. 🌐

