LUBRICATION-FREE HYGIENIC DESIGN REDUCES THE RISK OF CONTAMINATION

A Cleaner Revolution: Setting New Hygiene Standards with a Sleek Carriage



In the world of food manufacturing, every movement matters—and every surface must be trusted. From thermoforming and filling machines to bread-slicing equipment, linear guides quietly keep automation moving. Yet, behind this essential role lies a persistent challenge: hygiene.

Lubricants, dirt and abrasion particles can collect in hidden gaps, making conventional linear guides difficult and time-consuming to clean. For food processors, every additional cleaning minute can mean increased maintenance effort and costly downtime.

Cologne-based plastics specialist **igus** saw an opportunity to change the story.

Its new **drylin W linear guide,** developed specifically for hygiene-critical food applications, has become the **world's first linear guide to receive EHEDG certification**—a significant milestone for hygienic machine design.

The innovation is remarkably simple. Instead of requiring tools and extensive dismantling, the polymer carriage can be pulled off the stainless-steel rail and cleaned separately. The rail itself can remain installed while being cleaned, helping manufacturers reduce maintenance time and get production moving again faster.

But the breakthrough goes beyond easy disassembly. The electropolished shafts have a surface roughness below 0.8 micrometres, helping prevent residues and microorganisms from adhering. A food-grade silicone base seal further limits contamination risks.

At the heart of the system is the blue **iglidur A160** carriage, a PTFE-free, PFAS-tested high-performance polymer featuring integrated solid lubricants for dry, lubrication-free operation. Its low water absorption helps maintain dimensional stability through repeated intensive cleaning cycles.

With this innovation, igus is demonstrating that **hygiene, efficiency and automation can move together**—setting a new benchmark for safer, smarter and more sustainable food production.