



"I am responsible for the safety of our raw materials and products."

CHRISTINE RASCH

Ceramics engineer
Product safety

Christine Rasch's business card bears the title "REACH/MSDS specialist". This means that she is responsible within the company for material safety data sheets in accordance with the European Chemicals Agency Regulation. REACH stands for Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals. This regulation stipulates that raw materials and products may only be processed in Europe if they are known, registered and tested.

"As a ceramics engineer, I have already become a bit of a paper tiger,"

she comments on her job somewhat soberly, "but my job is of central importance because I am the one who decides which materials are used at Grothe and which are not."

Christine Rasch briefs the purchasing department on which raw materials may be processed and sold under which circumstances. The commodities market is changing ever more dynamically. Ongoing training is therefore essential due to weekly updates from the EU Chemicals Agency ECHA and topics such as sustainability and life cycle assessment.

However, her critical eye is also required directly in the daily production process. Only certified materials are used here. For example, if substances that are classified for environmental reasons are transported in specially suitable and classified bags.

When speaking in front of people, e.g. at safety briefings, Christine Rasch admits that she quickly gets nervous. However, she compensates

for this with the pleasure she takes in familiarising the trainees. She is currently accompanying Isabell Arnold on her way to becoming a testing technologist and is delighted that another young woman is aspiring to the job.

The ceramics industry is traditionally a male domain. Christine Rasch reports on previous experiences in other companies where she was not taken seriously as a woman. "I had to have a male colleague with me for my dissertation, who basically interpreted. That was really crass. The older production employees deliberately didn't listen to me. Well, maybe I wasn't loud enough in my early twenties, but they gave me the feeling of being completely transparent."

"Here, I never had the feeling that you couldn't get a job as a woman."

With Grothe, however, she never had the feeling of being at a disadvantage. "When I started studying, there were one hundred students at the school in total, two of whom were women. Fourteen women joined me during my semester. This means that my generation is now bringing some movement into it." She has noticed slow but steady changes in the industry, but does not believe in a forced quota, as change must come from within.

In general, like many people here, she finds the working atmosphere very positive and human. As an example, she mentions that all employees, regardless of their position, from management level to cleaning staff, receive the same appreciation on anniversaries. The boss knows every person by name and wishes them a happy birthday in person. Christine Rasch commutes to work for fifty minutes each way every day. She is therefore grateful that her employer allows her to work from home two days a week - a rather unusual arrangement in the company.

After work, Christine Rasch looks forward to spending time with her family and her time-consuming hobby: an Icelandic horse, which takes up most of her free time. At the end of the working day, she likes to reward herself with a proper steak on her plate. "Even a paper tiger likes it," she laughs.

