FORTACO

Fortaco – a sustainable metal company

Fortaco Oy is a joint-stock company, founded in Vantaa year 2002. Fortaco's line of business is in the metal industry and machine work. Fortaco does export and import and they offer heavy off-highway equipment and marine industries technology, vehicle cabins, steel fabrications and vehicle assemblies. Their clients need safety cabins for example in Umeå for forest machines or mining machines all around the world. The company has 11 offices in Sweden, Poland, Estonia, Hungary and Slovenia and altogether they employ 2600 people.

Our group visited the Fortaco office at Kurikka, which taught us a lot about the company. Päivi Laaksonharju presented informations about the company and the company's grounds. Everything had its own place and the working environment was altogether well organized. The employees seemed to enjoy the work and their work day consisted of work time and breaks.

As a working environment Fortaco is safe and encourages the workers to discover new things. Fortaco respects human rights and the rights of the employees whole-heartedly. Employees get to feel appreciated - after all, they are the key factors to the success of the company. Fortaco respects different people and personalities. Everyone is treated equally and given the same chances to get employed and to evolve in their line of work. The safety and health of the workers is monitored and everyone is responsible for following safety instructions.

Sustainable development and protecting the environment are very important subjects for Fortaco. Environmental effects are being researched, material and resources are used to their full efficiency and environmentally harmful consequences are minimized. Environmental friendliness could also be seen at the workplace: the workplace was very well organized and waste was properly recycled with different bins for different materials. The workers were well aware of recycling.

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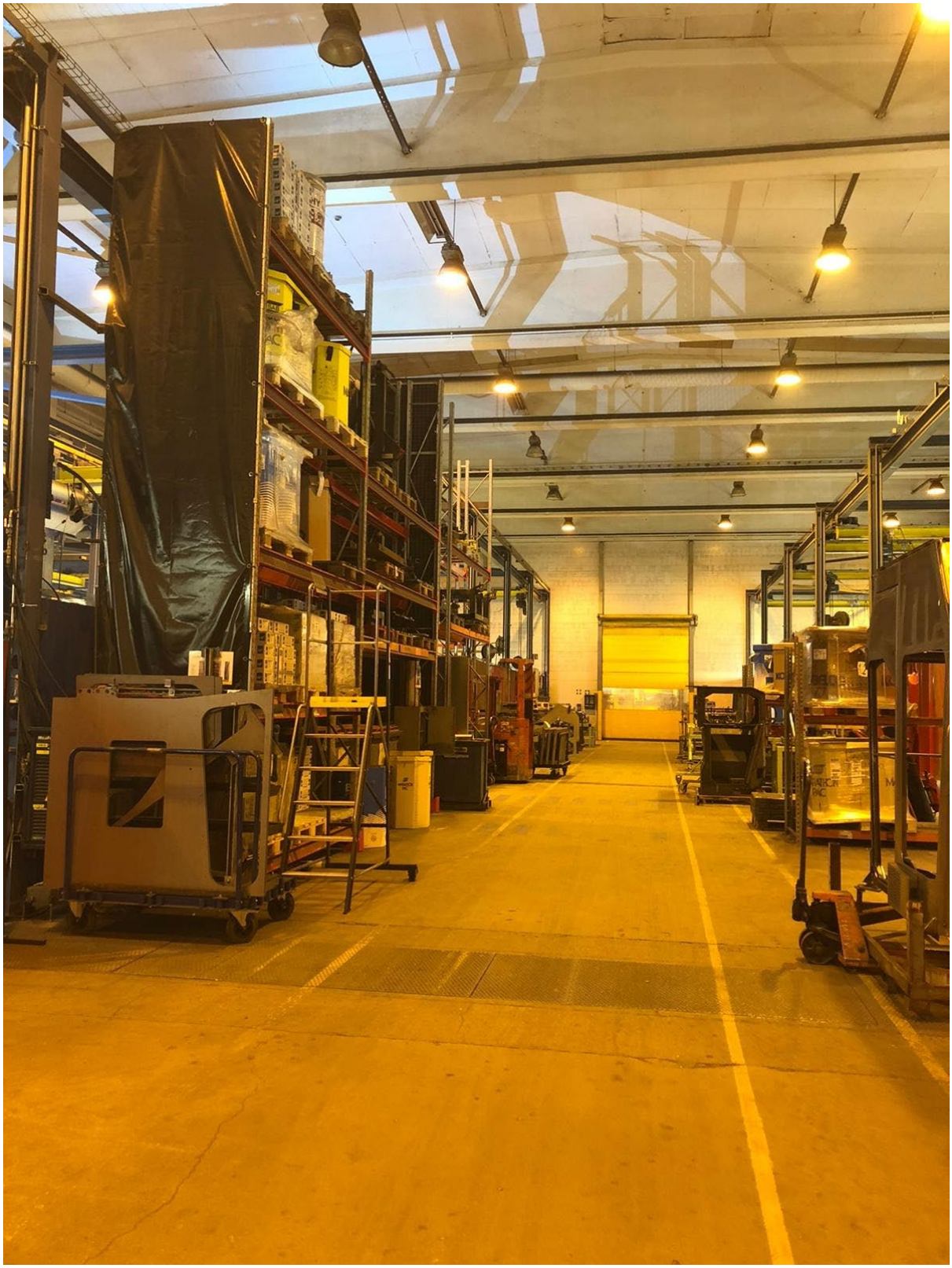

Picture from inside the factory. Yellow safety lines are in place for the forklifts to drive safely inside the lines. This way people can move around the factory safely on foot outside the lines.

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Sustainable development in the company

Fortaco's ideal is to live in harmony with nature. The ideology of sustainability can be seen in concrete actions that endorse environmental development but also in the development in the workers. To endorse environmentally sustainable choices one must minimize the use of plastic and waste and organise recycling. Working efficiency is endorsed with good work ergonomy, where for example welding robots come in place. The company follows ethical laws and economical directions. A good working environment is sustained with safety precautions and with creating a working environment that invigorates personal development as also previously mentioned.

Fortaco began to work in a more sustainable way to be more responsible and take responsibility for the environment, for it improves everyone's future. It hasn't taken too much changing to work in a more sustainable way. All the garbage has now it's own recycling places to make recycling as easy as possible. The company has invested in a couple of welding robots, who work faster and easier than humans. Welding is physically challenging work and employing robots do it, reduces the strain on the workers.

Fortaco works in a sustainable way as much as possible. The workers can be proud to work in a company that works towards a better environment. Fortaco does everything in their power to develop sustainability. The company keeps track of all the waste and make the recycling of waste inside the factory as smooth as possible. This makes working faster and more effective. Recycling is considered self-evident and the process goes by well, when everyone does their own part.

Benefits of sustainable development

Sustainable choices have also brought the company financial benefits. The welding robots work more efficiently which means that products are manufactured quicker and the workers stay healthier longer. With the smart organising of the workplace and its recycling points there is less back and forth going, which saves time.

Fortaco has gotten a lot of good feedback from customers due to its paint shop and for its persistent work towards a better company and good customer service. They are also well known for their expertise in building safety cabins. The company is saving money on recycling water and changing the traditional light bulbs to led-lights which save on electricity.

Customers have been thankful for Fortaco being able to provide a complete product in contrast to having to order different parts from different suppliers. Ordering from one place reduces a lot on emissions due to simplified logistics. Waste and garbage is recycled and the workers are encouraged to bring out solutions for more sustainable ways of working. Most of the workers are pro-sustainability and want to develop the company's processes further.

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A recycling point

Marketing and branding

Advertising is a perfect way to show that the company takes sustainability in consideration and it tells to the customers of the company's values.

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Miniature of a Beowolf.

Future

Some challenges still lie ahead. This industry uses huge amounts of plastic and other packing materials which are hard to replace, since noone has figured out a better way for packing. The company will continue recycling and reducing waste and will invest in sustainable solutions.

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Thank you for the visit, Fortaco! -Julia, Venla, Ellen ja Sanna

Sources:

https://fortacogroup.com/

https://www.finder.fi/Metallituotteet/Fortaco+Ostrobothnia+Oy/Kurikka/yhteystiedot/2754731

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