

PRESS RELEASE

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Sustainability is becoming increasingly important in motorsport: focus on environmental certifications

Motorsport symbolizes high speed and exciting races. But it also showcases the development of sustainable and modern technologies. To ensure that motorsport has a future and remains relevant for developments in the automotive industry, the major challenge is to preserve nature and use its finite resources carefully. This philosophy has become increasingly important in recent years and there are many different approaches, from Formula 1 to regional racing series. Environmental certifications and their implementation are an important element of this.

Circuits and racing series all over the world are focusing on the sustainable development of motorsport to protect our environment. Recently, racetracks such as the Nürburgring, Spa-Francorchamps and the Hockenheimring received environmental certificates from the international motorsport authority FIA. BILSTER BERG has taken a different path and has been certified according to the international standard DIN EN ISO 14001 since 2013, the Hockenheimring since 2023.

FIA environmental certification vs. ISO – will they really make motorsport more sustainable?

The international standard DIN EN ISO 14001 has been a globally recognized basis for environmental management systems since 1996, defining the establishment, implementation, maintenance, and continuous improvement of an environmental management system.

The FIA environmental certificates are based on proven systems, such as DIN EN ISO 14001, but have been developed specifically for all FIA stakeholders. The audit process is similar as the FIA expert team has a trained ISO auditor who assesses all applications. Renewal is every two years, compared to an annual audit - a review of processes to make necessary updates and improvements to fully comply with the environmental management system requirements - or a full renewal of the certificate every three years for DIN EN ISO 14001.

FIA environmental certification is based on a three-star system to gradually introduce interested organizations to the topic of environmental management.

To obtain the highest possible certification from the FIA, companies must define guidelines that are necessary to achieve defined environmental goals. In addition, laws and regulations must be complied with and the organizations must commit to the continuous improvement of their environmental performance. To achieve these goals and targets, they must be specifically measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound. It is important that the objectives are in line with the environmental policy and the environmental aspects and reflect the opportunities and risks within the organization.



Hans-Jürgen von Glasenapp, Managing Director at BILSTER BERG

“For BILSTER BERG, it has been clear from the very beginning that we want to do more than the authorities have demanded. By implementing the environmental management system, we have not only focused on species protection but also on topics such as CO₂ reduction, handling hazardous substances, our noise monitoring system, resource consumption, and much more. Separating waste alone is not enough to compensate for the CO₂ emissions caused by the driving activities at BILSTER BERG,” explains Hans-Jürgen von Glasenapp, Managing Director at BILSTER BERG. “We recently installed and commissioned a 1.5-megawatt photovoltaic system on the roofs of our halls and buildings, which will save us around 963 tons of CO₂ per year. For BILSTER BERG, this is another component of our sustainability and environmental program. The results of active environmental protection at BILSTER BERG are very positive. It was the right decision to take the more elaborate approach to protecting our environment. We will continue to do so in the future.”



Wind turbines and BILSTER BERG photovoltaic system

However, it is not only the company itself that should follow the requirements of the environmental management system in accordance with DIN EN ISO 14001 or the FIA. Contractors, partners, permanent employees, and temporary workers must also do their part to achieve the defined goals.

“When procuring raw and auxiliary materials, we pay attention to ecological criteria wherever possible and prioritize suppliers who place a similarly high value on environmental protection as we do,” adds von Glasenapp. Both the DIN ISO EN 14001 environmental management system and the FIA system aim to make motorsport and mobility in general safer and more sustainable while promoting environmental awareness.

“As we are not an official racetrack, but a test and presentation track, the FIA environmental certification is not as relevant for us as it is for other circuits where Formula 1 or DTM races are held. Therefore, we opted directly for certification in accordance with the globally recognized industry standard DIN EN ISO 14001, which is the basis for the highest possible FIA certification. A lower standard would not have been an option for us. Our efforts to protect the environment are an obligation for our company towards our customers, business partners, our fellow human beings, and future generations,” concludes Hans-Jürgen von Glasenapp.

The journey towards a greener future in motorsport has only just begun, but eco-friendly motorsport is possible. Innovative approaches from companies to make motorsport emissions-free and new projects from the automotive industry show that a greener future can also be achieved on the racetracks.

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Photos: [Story - Sustainability is becoming increasingly important in motorsport](#)
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About BILSTER BERG

Built on an ammunition depot of the NATO Rhine Army in Bad Driburg, about 200 km to the east of Cologne, BILSTER BERG opened on June 1, 2013. After a planning period of 7 years, this was the first time in 80 years that a new track started operating in Germany. Formula 1 architect Hermann Tilke and German rally legend Walter Röhrl were significantly involved in the planning and construction phase. However, BILSTER BERG was not primarily designed for use as a racetrack. Car manufacturers often rent BILSTER BERG as a test and presentation track. Due to the white label principle of the track, it is also often used for product presentations and by film crews. Part of BILSTER BERG is also an Off-Road Course, a Clubhaus, the restaurant TURN ONE as well as a Dynamic Driving Area offering possibilities for wet-track testing for example. The project cost 34 million euros and was fully privately financed by 180 shareholders. All shareholders have the opportunity to drive on the track themselves on selected dates.



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