

Press release  
No. 037/2021

## Protective clothing, helmets and more: Safe reprocessing in Miele's new commercial laundry machines

- ▶ All-round protection thanks to special-purpose Benchmark programmes
- ▶ Ready to connect with smart systems

**Gütersloh, June 7, 2021. – The new commercial laundry machines from Miele are able to reprocess entire sets of the personal protective gear worn by fire-fighters: not only multi-ply jackets and trousers but also helmets, gloves and heavy-duty belts. All models are available from June 2021 onwards under the title 'The New Benchmark Machines' and guarantee increased safety in readiness for the next emergency call – if required even with digital assistance. And there are also right-sized dryers to match the washing machines from this model series, with load capacities of between 12 kg and 20 kg.**

Flagship Performance Plus models feature a stainless-steel front and more than 90 wash programmes, covering for example washing and disinfection or the reprocessing of breathing masks. In addition to this, it is now also possible to wash helmets of up to 60°C in protective bags, ridding them of soot and other residues from fighting fires. Depending on the machine size, up to 10 helmets can be accommodated in a single cycle. After washing, up to 13 helmets can be transferred to a dryer, depending on the model, for drying at 55°C (at 55 °C in a special programme without drum rotation). Protective gloves and belts are washed clean at 40°C - the latter also in protective bags to prevent buckles from causing damage.

The heart and soul of the new machines are new controls which allow programme customisation. Depending on the application, M Touch Pro Plus controls with their full touch colour display for instance can be set to offer a full complement of programmes and parameters or to be incredibly simple – in more than 30 languages. The smooth, easy-to-clean display even responds to gloved hands.

All models are connectivity-enabled and ready to embrace future-proof solutions such as the new digital Miele MOVE portal. This allows operating data to be browsed and, if required, provides fast access to Miele Service ([cf. Press release No. 041/2021](#)). Connection to dispensing systems is also very beneficial.

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## **Door locked at the touch of a fingertip**

Compared with the current model generation, operating washing machines and dryers is now considerably simpler. Take for example the electro-mechanical OneFingerTouch door lock of the washing machines which – thanks to a new door handle design – is now even easier to operate: Slight pressure applied by the tip of a finger is sufficient to close and lock the 415 mm door and start a programme. Once a programme ends, the door can be opened again just as easily. On the dryers, the door handle has been optimised and the size of the door handle recess increased for more ergonomic operation.

A further increase in user convenience comes in the form of the exceptionally smooth running washing machines, even when fully loaded. This is guaranteed by a strong and efficient main drive motor and a new 3D imbalance sensor. This monitors rotation during the ramp-up to full speed and evaluates the data gathered. Spin speeds are constantly and automatically adjusted to ensure that damp and heavy items are ideally distributed throughout the patented Mark 2 honeycomb drum. Integrated automatic load control adjusts water intake to the load in hand, simultaneously aligning cycle times and consumption.

## **Short washing and drying cycles**

The shortest cycle on Performance Plus washing machines uses a mere 5.9 l of water per kilogramme of laundry and is finished in only 42 minutes. Residual moisture is as low as 44%, saving valuable energy in the subsequent drying stage.

In the dryers, Miele's AirRecycling Flex system recycles part of the process air, similar to the previous AirRecycling Plus system but with smart controls to adapt dynamically to operating conditions. This ensures perfect drying results combined with low energy consumption, shorter drying cycles and the gentler treatment of fabrics. Cycle times are reduced approximately by a further 4%.

Optimised cycles also boost the durability of all models. As on previous generations, The New Benchmark makes exclusive use of high-quality materials such as stainless steel and cast iron able to live up to the constant high levels of strain in commercial laundries. These washing machines passed endurance tests to ensure 30,000 and 20,000 hours of operation for washing machines and dryers respectively.

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**Company profile:** Miele is the world's leading manufacturer of premium domestic appliances including cooking, baking and steam-cooking appliances, refrigeration products, coffee makers, dishwashers and laundry and floor care products. Their product portfolio also includes dishwashers, air purifiers, washing machines and tumble dryers for commercial use as well as washer-disinfectors and sterilisers for use in medical and laboratory applications (Miele Professional). Founded in 1899, the company has eight production plants in Germany, one each in Austria, the Czech Republic, China, Romania and Poland as well as two production plants belonging to its Italian medical technology subsidiary Steelco. Sales in the 2020 business year amounted to around € 4.5 bn (thereof 29.5% in Germany). Miele is represented with its own sales subsidiaries and via importers in almost 100 countries/regions. Throughout the world, the family-run enterprise, now in its fourth generation, employs a workforce of around 20,900, of which approx. 11,050 employees work in Germany. The company has its headquarters in Gütersloh in Westphalia.

## There are four photos with this text



**Photo 1:** The New Benchmark Machines, commercial laundry products from Miele, are able to reprocess the entire personal protective gear worn by fire-fighters, from multi-layer trousers to jackets and helmets. (Photo: Miele)



**Photo 2:** There are even programmes and matching protective bags for such items as the heavy-duty belts worn by the fire service. (Photo: Miele)



**Photo 3:** Gloves worn to protect against fire and heat are washed in a 40°C programme including a pre-wash and 4 further water intake cycles. (Photo: Miele)



**Photo 4:** Special padded protective bags are available for the reprocessing of breathing masks. (Photo: Miele)

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