Infrared emitters simplify the fitting of decorative foil strips on cars

An infrared heating system from Heraeus Noblelight is helping a major car manufacturer to simplify the fitting of a decorative foil strip to certain of its higher specification models at its Merseyside manufacturing plant.
A “black out” strip around the window is a feature of many modern cars and this is normally effected by sticking an adhesive-backed foil strip to the B pillar of the car during manufacture. (The B pillar is the roof support between a car’s front door window and the rear side window.)
When the specification of one of the cars produced at the Merseyside plant required the fitting of such a decorative strip, it was established that the ease and quality of adhesion would be optimized if the pillar was pre-heated to provide a warm attachment surface. Having used infrared successfully for an earlier project at the factory, it was decided to contact Heraeus and, following successful trials at the Neston company’s Test Centre, a compact, carbon infra-red system was installed in the available space on the production line.
This consists of two cassettes, mounted on each side of the line and each containing five 4.6kW carbon medium wave emitters. The cars travel backwards along the line and, as they reach the heating station, limit switches operate to ramp the heaters up to full load instantaneously, to heat the metal pillars to 22°C to 29°C, according to the specification. The decorative strips are then applied by hand.
Since installation, the motor manufacturer has found that strip fitting has been greatly improved and that the optimized adhesion quality ensures fewer rejects and reworking. Moreover, the extremely fast response of the carbon emitters means that the system is highly energy efficient.

Features

- Fitting of a decorative adhesive-backed foil strip to the B pillar of a car
- Pillar is pre-heated with IR to provide a warm attachment surface thus optimizing ease and quality of adhesion
- Optimized quality ensures fewer rejects and reworking
- Very energy efficient

Technical Data

- Carbon infrared system
- Two cassettes mounted on each side of the line
- Each cassette contains five 4.6kW carbon medium wave emitters

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