

#WeAreViskoTeepak



CASINGS & PACKAGING MATERIALS / ViskoTeepak.com

JANA KIRCHNER:

COORDINATOR FOR FIBROUS
CONVERTING EUROPE &
HAMBURG SUPPLY

A decade of growth, teamwork
and finding better ways.



Learn more
about our team



Jana Kirchner – Coordinator for Fibrous converting Europe & Hamburg Supply.

When Jana joined ViskoTeepak Germany on 1 January 2016, it all started with an interview—and one unexpected question.

“Do you eat meat?”

It was the first thing Stefan Dälken asked her.

“At first I thought it was a strange way to start an interview,” Jana laughs. “But as a casing manufacturer, it was actually quite understandable.”

What impressed her even more was what happened next. Instead of simply discussing the position, she was invited to spend time with the team and get a first impression of how they worked together.



TEAMWORK IN ACTION

“The people were very friendly, and it was important to them whether I would fit into the team—which was just as important to me.”

That first impression proved to be right. More than ten years later, Jana is still part of the ViskoTeepak family, although her role has evolved considerably along the way.

Making Things Work Behind the Scenes

Although her title originally suggested purchasing, Jana’s role has always been much broader than placing orders. Her focus has been ensuring that customers receive the right products at the right time by coordinating closely with sales, production, planning and colleagues across several ViskoTeepak sites.



BEHIND THE SCENES

“You need to develop a feeling for the market and understand the products. For me, it has always been important to understand how things work, because only then can you give 100% for the customer—and ultimately for the company.”

She laughs when describing how many of her mornings begin.

“One of the salespeople would call and say, ‘Jana, I need casings—and I needed them yesterday.’”

Helping solve those situations has become one of her greatest strengths, but she is quick to point out that it is never a one-person effort.

“That is only possible because we have a very good team behind us—and by that I mean all our sites.”

Growing Through Challenges

Over the past decade, Jana has experienced plenty of change. The pandemic, geopolitical uncertainty and shifting market conditions all brought new challenges. During that time, she also faced an important decision about her own future within the company.

Thanks to discussions with colleagues—and the encouragement of Ria Kuppens—she took on new responsibilities, first supporting Fibrous reels planning in Lommel and later helping the Delfzijl site during a particularly demanding period. When staffing shortages and production backlogs created significant pressure, Jana stepped in to support the planning team.

“Together we managed to turn things around again.”

Those experiences ultimately led to another opportunity. Since March 2026, Jana has taken on the role of Coordinator for Fibrous Converting Europe & Hamburg Supply, bringing together planning activities across multiple sites.

Finding Better Ways

Ask Jana what she enjoys most about her work, and the answer comes quickly.

“I love everything I do.”

If she had to choose one thing, however, it would be improving the flow between plants.

Whether balancing machine capacity with staffing, avoiding unnecessary stock, finding alternative uses for existing inventory or supporting colleagues during busy periods, she enjoys finding practical solutions that benefit the entire network.

“My ‘fetish’, as Willy Böhme liked to call it, is optimising capacity across the plants and making the best possible use of our resources,” Jana says with a smile.

She also believes that close collaboration makes all the difference.

“I don’t only check in when there are problems. I also like to ask whether everything is going well.”

A Company That Listens

Reflecting on the past ten years, Jana says one of the biggest lessons has been seeing how the company continues adapting to difficult circumstances while working to remain financially strong. At the same time, she appreciates that employees have opportunities to contribute ideas that make everyday work easier.

“I’m grateful that my views are listened to and that processes are introduced that help all of us.”

She also values the flexibility that supports a healthy work-life balance and hopes to see even stronger integration between the Hamburg office and the wider ViskoTeepak family.

“We need open communication, mutual understanding and to continue working in line with the Hearts & Minds culture.”



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Life Beyond Planning

Outside work, Jana's life is just as busy. Together with her husband, two children, two dogs and a house with a garden, there is rarely a quiet moment. She enjoys spending time outdoors, whether walking the dogs, tracking scents, gardening or jogging. Weekly outdoor fitness sessions help keep her active, while meeting friends remains an important way to recharge. When time allows, she also enjoys restoring old furniture—a hobby she hopes to spend more time on during the winter months.



FOUR-LEGGED COMPANIONS



ADVENTURES OUTSIDE OF WORK

Trust, Ambition and Fun

For Jana, ViskoTeepak's values are closely connected. Trust begins with believing in yourself, your colleagues and the company. Ambition means continuously learning and expanding your horizons while finding the right balance. And Fun, she says, is just as essential as good health.

"Fun is like health—I need both to be happy."

Looking Ahead

After more than ten years with ViskoTeepak, Jana remains motivated by new challenges.

She wants to continue contributing to the company's success, developing professionally and working in an environment where teamwork, open communication and personal responsibility are valued.

For Jana, growth isn't only about taking on a new role. It's about continuing to learn, helping others succeed and making the entire organisation work a little better every day.

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