

Press release

An indispensable module for our work

**The Tax Administration Computing Centre of North Rhine-Westphalia (RZF):
Highest security thanks to envelope sealing control.**

"Security and traceability are the be-all and end-all for us," says Harald Schießl, Head of the Printing, Dispatch and Output Management Systems Department computer centre at the North Rhine-Westphalian tax authorities (RZF), so Kern's letter seal control on the inserting systems are customary there. The latest version of these special modules has been running in the Düsseldorf data centre for several weeks.

Letters with highly sensitive data, such as tax assessment notices, are despatched from the RZF every day, which is why strict zero error tolerance applies. The slightest damage to the envelope could be considered a violation of tax confidentiality. "That's why we want to run our processes fully automatically from the first to the last step," emphasizes Schießl. The computer centre already had positive experience with the envelope sealing control years ago: "Kern developed this system at our suggestion", reports Schießl. The Kern 3500 Inserting System, the two Kern 3600 and the Kern 4700 Inserting Systems each have one module in use. This means that the entire work process is seamlessly monitored and the output in the data centre is always completely legally compliant.

"The envelope sealing control is an indispensable module for our work", says Schießl. The new system was adapted to the existing inserting machines by the Kern technicians and has been running smoothly ever since.

The financial administration computer centre of the state of North Rhine-Westphalia is the IT authority in the department of the Ministry of Finance. The automatic processing of tax data, printing and mailing of tax assessment notices in North Rhine-Westphalia, programming of tax software and equipping all workstations of the state financial administration with software and hardware, are among the most important tasks of the RZF. Up to 22 million letters and parcels leave the data centre every year.

The envelope sealing control has already been in use there for many years. The module checks whether the flap of an envelope has been properly glued or whether there are open areas. For this purpose, the envelope is uniformly illuminated with an LED light band and then imaged at a suitable angle with a wide-angle camera. The software can evaluate shadow areas that inevitably occur due to an incorrectly closed flap. Since the relevance of a non-sealed area depends on the type of application, one or more sectors on the envelope can be modelled in the software and evaluated with a sensitivity that can also be set.

Depending on the evaluation result, when a threshold value is reached, the decision is made whether or not to divert out the envelope.

Website of RZF: <https://www.finanzverwaltung.nrw.de/de/willkommen-im-rzf>

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