

# 1983

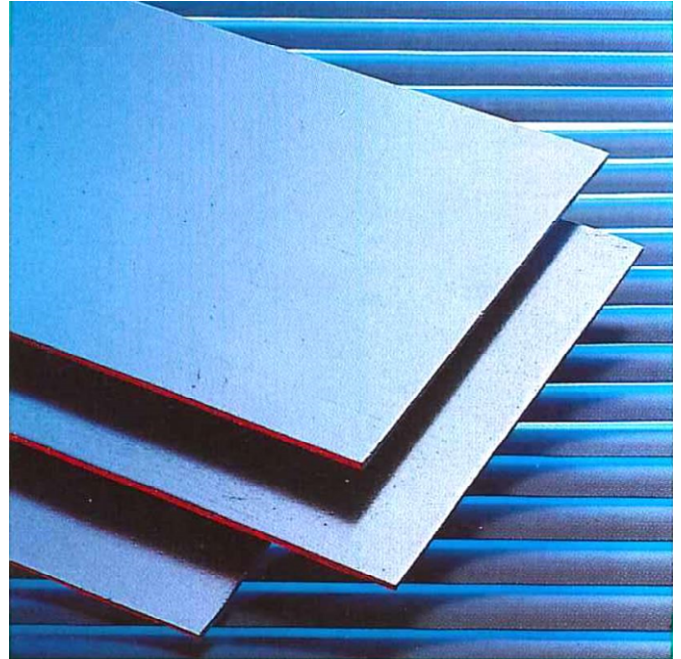
SIGRAFLEX®  
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1972  
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## SIGRI brings SIGRAFLEX® STANDARD, the first anti-stick graphite gasket sheet, to the market

In the 1980s, SIGRI's ambition remained unchanged to develop further innovative sealing materials based on flexible graphite that would provide real benefits to users and give SIGRI an edge over the competition.

Sealing points equipped with graphite gaskets do not stick or weld, i. e. the flanges can be removed even after a long period of operation. However, gaskets sticking to the flange faces is a major problem. Residues have to be removed and the flanges have to be cleaned by hand, which costs time and money. In addition, there is a great risk of damaging the flange surfaces, for example with a wire brush or spatula.

Therefore, the developers at SIGRI looked for a coating of the foil surface that would reduce sticking and make the surface less sensitive to scratches, thus easier to handle. The result of the development work came onto the market in 1983: the impregnated homogeneous gasket sheet SIGRAFLEX STANDARD.



## Foundation of the Valencia site

In 1983, SIGRI's US subsidiary Polycarbon founded a new site in Valencia, California to be able to further grow its business as especially the demand for graphite foil used in the manufacture of cylinder head gaskets and exhaust gaskets for the automotive industry grew.

All manufacturing and business activities were relocated from North Hollywood, CA to Valencia. This included not only the fabric and yarn production but also the 12" (30.5 cm) wide graphite foil line and all accompanying equipment.

## Product novelty SIGRAFLEX UNIVERSAL: Metal reinforced graph- ite gasket sheet with anti-stick coat- ing – in use until today

Over the years, graphite gasket sheets became SIGRI's special core competence. The research and development department in Meitingen was constantly looking for solutions to the sealing problems of the industry. Efforts were directed both to the development of new innovative products and to the improvement of existing ones.

The idea was to combine the respective unique properties of the metal reinforcement of SIGRAFLEX NORMAL and the anti-stick coating of SIGRAFLEX STANDARD in a new product. Silvia Mechen and Alfred Hirschvogel in particular worked intensively on the development of this product combination and the SIGRAFLEX UNIVERSAL gasket sheet was born.

In 1983, the product was presented to customers and end users atACHEMA for the first time, and its success took off from there. SIGRAFLEX UNIVERSAL is still state of the art and to date one of the most important products in our portfolio.



Cover page of the SIGRAFLEX UNIVERSAL data sheet from 1993