



Abrasive Blast Cleaning - Monthly Review

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PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT

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Volume 1, Number 5

June 1986

EDITORIAL

For some unknown reason, several important segments of the Painting and Coating industry suddenly, during the past year or so, have independently come to the conclusion that a comprehensive standard for Abrasive Blast Cleaning is not only desirable but downright necessary.

It all started with the U.S. Navy, followed by ASTM, SNAME, SSPC, NACE, and even the International Standards Organization. A fair agreement exists that the scope of the standard should cover four major areas, namely:

1. Physical properties of abrasive media;
2. Minor undesirable constituents;
3. Factors affecting occupational health and safety as well as waste disposal aspects;
4. Performance characteristics.

The Standards set out by the U.S. Navy are expected to be published shortly.

The ASTM 25.02 together with SNAME 023-1 have discontinued their efforts in favor of the work undertaken by SSPC. The ISO TC-35 SC-12 has initiated a new working group, WG-4, and is expected to devote a full day to the subject of an Abrasive Blasting Media Standard during its upcoming Annual Meeting October 20 to 24, 1986 in Den Haag, Holland.

SSPC has seven sub-committees or sub-task groups working to develop a national abrasives standard under the guidance of the SSPC Advisory Committee on Surface Preparation, Task Group on Abrasives. H.W. Hitzrot is the chairman for this project, to our industry the most vital of all regulatory activities currently in progress.

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World Book Encyclopedia states that "Silicosis is a disease...caused by breathing in dust that contains silica." The silica particles react with lung tissue to produce tiny inflamed swellings which can grow in size and spread through the lungs. Once these swellings, or nodules, form, silicosis has begun. If the condition becomes bad enough, shortness of breath, coughing, chest pains, tuberculosis and cardiac arrest are all potential outcomes. Because of the symptoms, the disease has often been misdiagnosed and, if death occurs, the cause of death is often listed as heart disease, tuberculosis or emphysema. In many cases, silicosis is never suspected as the underlying cause of all of the problems which have led to death or serious disability. Of course today, as the disease gets more and more attention, silicosis is suspected more often. Increases in the number of silicosis diagnoses are one result of this increased awareness.

Silicosis is only one of several disorders which are called pneumoconioses, literally: "Dust retained in the lung." In general, the smaller a dust particle is, the farther it can travel into the lung before settling out onto tissue. Particles 5 microns in diameter or larger normally settle in the upper or lower respiratory passageways from which they are easily cleared by the combined action of cilia (small hairs), mucus-secreting cells and coughing. They are then either swallowed or expectorated. However, particles below 5 microns in diameter can penetrate farther into the lungs, to the alveoli. Many of these particles are not cleared from the lungs. This is especially true when high concentrations of fine particles are inhaled. They are simply deposited in various tissues around the lung. When this occurs, a pneumoconiosis has developed.

What separates silicosis (and other harmful pneumoconioses such as asbestosis) from the majority of pneumoconioses is what happens to the dust after it is deposited. Most types of dust particles are inert and will cause no adverse health effects even if they are never removed. However, crystalline silica and certain types of asbestos can react to cause intense inflammation which can result in large amounts of fibrous tissue growth. This growth causes symptoms such as shortness of breath as well as the more severe symptoms described above. In the worst cases, the result is complete heart failure caused by the lung disease.

Who Is At Risk?

LAM 002374

Clearly, uncontrolled exposure to crystalline silica dust such as that found in quartz sand and flint, two common abrasives, must be avoided. Sandblasters are not the only workers at risk: Foundry workers, miners and silica flour mill workers are also common victims of silicosis. What sets sandblasters apart from

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Regulatory Status Concerning Occupational Health and Safety and Toxic Waste Aspects of Abrasive Blast Cleaning in California and Utah by James D. Hansink, Rocky Mountain Energy.

Comments on the HEW Publication No. 75-120 (NIOSH) of 1974, as yet unnamed.

Comments on the European approach to protect blast cleaning workers against silicosis, by Peter J. Ensio.

The meeting is being held in Montreal, Canada. Official notices were sent out on June 9th, 1986 by the chairman of E-34.60, Paul André Bélanger, whose phone number in Montreal is 514-873-4681.

This meeting, as indicated by the papers being presented, should be very worth while and attending it by all interested parties is highly recommended by ABC-MR.

SIGNS OF POSSIBLE INDUSTRY GROUP FORMING

The Abrasive Blast Cleaning Industry has for many years been a regional group mostly preoccupied with individual problems. Each area had its own Coating Society, NACE, or Industrial Association which met each month to swap information on what was happening in their area. I guess I've been to several hundred of these in the past 30 years, and, although 30 years of "happy hours" have made things a little fuzzy, I do remember that any effort to present a coordinated front always wound up cratering. When you have as many diverse self-interest groups as we had (and still do), this is not surprising.

The last 10 years have created the wave of regulatory agencies, Federal, State and Local that have made our once simple business a complicated tangle that is most graphically evident every time we get the courage to look at the bottom line on our P and L statement. Check and see what you were paying a few years ago for insurance or legal or accounting or waste disposal or whatever. Now, these are not costs that only some of us face. We all do. I've got to believe that, even with a roomful of computers, anyone bidding a job of any size today is crap shooting. In Las Vegas, you not only would get to see the floor show, but your odds would be better.

Have faith. Maybe there is hope for us yet. I have recently spoken with two organizations that have taken steps to form an Industry organization that could just possibly be the beginning of a cohesive effort to address the problems most important to us. Most of us are aware of the efforts of SSPC, ASTM, and NACE

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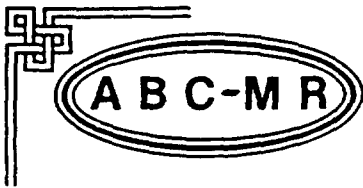
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Major developments are taking place which will impact the entire Abrasive Blast Cleaning industry. ABM producers, distributors, equipment manufacturers, blast cleaning contractors as well as the principal clients (shipyards, structural steel fabricators, refineries, chemical plants and others) will be affected in a major way over the next few years. To know what is taking place and thus anticipate future events becomes increasingly important to every one of us involved.

ABRASIVE BLAST CLEANING-MONTHLY REVIEW (ABC-MR) is designed to keep you abreast of forthcoming developments so that your business will prosper to the maximum possible extent in spite of these changes.

We hope, after having read our current issue of ABC-MR, that you will join with us by adding your name to our growing list of subscribers.

U.V. Erkkila
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T A Roberts

7-10-86
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Abrasive

Tom,

The attached may be of use for training or safety meetings for abrasive blasting. Also includes some general info on what's happening in the industry.

Al Schmit

ALLEN F. SCHMIT

LAM 002371

DPMC-08526