



MFSA News Digest

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MFSA Resources on Pretreatment

The MFSA publishes materials in a number of areas for both the benefit of its membership, as well as its customers and others involved in metal finishing. There are a variety of resources focused on metal finishing applications, environmental concerns and safety issues.

The *Quality Metal Finishing (QMF) Guides* are a series of publications designed to provide information to both producers and buyers of electroplated products. The guides promote quality by providing information on the standards and specifications in current practice. Each of the publications reviews the finishing process by examining the preparation, design, testing and applications of each process.

Cleaning and pretreatment are integral parts of the process to produce quality finishes on both plated and painted parts. MFSA offers two *QMF Guides* that deal with these subjects.

I am pleased to announce the publication of the latest *QMF Guide, Pretreatment for Painting and Powder Coating*. This book provides a good overview of the pretreatment process—from the equipment required to quality testing of the end product—as it relates to the preparation of metal parts or work pieces for the application of paint. In this multi-step process, the first two chapters of the guide address the absolutely critical step of cleaning, including a discussion on cleaning of ferrous substrates and nonferrous substrates.

Because different metal requires different pretreatment and conversion coatings, the guide address several key types of conversion coatings, including iron phosphate, zinc phosphate and chromate conversion

coatings. Following this section, the book's concluding sections address post rinses, process equipment, end-product testing and filtration of pretreatment solutions.

The other *QMF Guide* is called *Chemical Surface Preparation for Electroplated and Metallic Coatings*, chaired by Diane Patterson, ACI Chemicals. The Pretreatment Committee was recently presented with the Outstanding Committee Award. Another activity that this committee has been working on is a series of

short comparative features, intended to provide fuel for thought and generate discussion. The first in the series is "Iron Phosphate vs. Zinc Phosphate." This feature is on the MFSA website (www.mfsa.org) under the committee section.

Other *QMF Guides* are \$10 for MFSA and NAMF members, and \$15 for nonmembers, plus postage and handling charges. To request an MFSA Publications Catalog, or to order other publications, please contact MFSA at 703/709-5729. P&SF

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