

# Finishing Facts

## ASTM Has Revised Standard For Metric System Use

The updated and revised Standard for the Use of the International System of Units (SI): The Modern Metric System (IEEE/ASTM SI-10-2002) is now available from ASTM International. The cost is \$50 in North America and \$55 elsewhere (Stock #SI10).

The publication helps users to understand and apply SI in the internationally accepted manner. The 69-page document is the American National Standard for the use of the modern metric system.

The contents include:

- SI Units and Symbols: Includes classes of units and SI prefixes.
- Use of SI: Focuses on application of SI prefixes and style and usage.
- Annex A: Tables of conversion factors.
- Annex B: Rules for conversion and rounding.
- Annex C: Comments concerning the application of SI.
- Annex D: Development of the International System of Units.

To download or order IEEE/ASTM SI-10-2002 (ISBN1-7381-3318-3, Stock #: SI10), visit [www.astm.org/sitesearch](http://www.astm.org/sitesearch) and enter SI10, or contact ASTM Customer Service (610-832-9585; FAX: 610-832-9555; e-mail: [service@astm.org](mailto:service@astm.org)). Special quantity prices are available.

## New Aluminum Resource Available on Internet

The Aluminum Extruders Council (AEC) has teamed up with Secat, Inc., to provide online technical information through a proprietary software called "Aluminum Answers" on the AEC Web site ([www.aec.org](http://www.aec.org)). Visitors to AEC's home page can access the specialized service through a customized link to the Aluminum Answers page at [www.secat.net](http://www.secat.net). The program provides technical information on aluminum extrusion products and process technology.

The new service comes on the heels of an expanded Web site for AEC. The

## Test Your Plating I.Q. #382

By Dr. James H. Lindsay, AESF Fellow

### Name the Acronym

- |                                |                            |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. DQSK (steel)                | 4. CASS (performance test) |
| 2. EDTA (chemical)             | 5. CAD/CAM (technology)    |
| 3. EDAX (analytical technique) | 6. AESF                    |

Answers are on page 53

Council has upgraded the site's capabilities to include streaming video, online publications, and improved navigation features. The Council says the site receives an average of 16,000 visitors per month.

## Metallforming Survey Shows Industry Trends

Metallforming companies improved their internal operations during the last year in spite of the general slowdown in business conditions affecting manufacturers, according to the Precision Metallforming Association's (PMA) Benchmarking Survey. Top companies and average companies both improved in many of the 50 measures targeting improvements in management, quality and productivity areas.

PMA Benchmarking data is comprised of information reported by companies representing more than 140 facilities in the U.S. and Canada. Partnering with Plante and Moran, PLLC, for analysis and reporting assistance, the survey now includes four years of information about metallforming industry trends. When comparing 2002 to 2001 measure of performance, the gap is closing between average performing companies and top performing companies in the 90 percentile of those analyzed. Performance measures are segregated into three categories: management, quality and productivity. Some of the areas measured include:

## Raw Material & Total Inventory Turnover

Top performing companies in this category report raw material turnover rates that are two to three times the industry average, indicating considerable room for improvement for companies with performance close to the industry average. Total inventory turnover rates on the average have steadily increased during the past four years, indicating that work in progress and finished goods have been managed more effectively.

## Success Rate on New Quotes

The category shows a downward trend for average and top performers, supporting business owners' claims that new work continues to be difficult to obtain. Top performing companies, however, are twice as successful in winning new work as average performers.

## Employee Turnover

During the past four years, the industry average turnover rate is in the 21–23 percent range. Average companies have more than five times greater employee turnover than top performing companies.

## Customer Rejections

Tracked on a per part basis, rejections have trended downward every year since 1999. The trend indicates an improvement in this quality measurement of approximately 36



## In Memoriam

AESF was saddened to learn that Paul R. Sandre of SERFILCO, Ltd. passed away on January 23, 2003.

He was 55. Paul was the Eastern regional sales manager for SERFILCO since 1995. He was active in the AESF Chicago Branch, and was also certified level III in various methods of non-destructive testing by the American Society of Non-destructive Testing (ASNT).

percent. Top performing companies, however, show rejection rates of about 140 times better than the industry average.

## Supplier On-time Delivery Rates

At 85 percent, the on-time delivery rate for suppliers of raw materials was relatively low compared to the delivery rate of other purchases and services, which was 96 percent.

Copiers of the report can be purchased from PMA (phone: 800-540-1757).

## Company News

❑ Magnetek, Inc., Menomonee Falls, WI, has acquired Telemotive Industrial Controls of Glendale Heights, IL. Peter McCormick, executive vice president and general manager of Magnetek Industrial Controls Group said the acquisition strengthens the company's position as a provider of products and services to the material handling industry.

Telemotive manufactures wireless remote controls and anti-collision systems for use on overhead cranes, hoists, mono-rail systems, conveyors, locomotives and other material handling applications.

Magnetek is a designer and manufacturer of electrification and control products for the overhead material handling industry.

❑ Plating Systems & Technologies, Inc., Jackson, MI, has earned ISO 9001:2000 certification. The company is a large supplier of mechanical plating and galvanizing products and services in North America.

❑ Shipley Company, LLC, Horsham, PA, and Coviant, Inc., Blacksburg, VA, have announced that the companies will strengthen an existing strategic partnership. As part of the arrangement, Shipley will become a preferred supplier of fiber

optic subcomponents and services to Shipley's customer base. Together, the two companies will provide an end-to-end component packaging solution to customers in the telecommunications, MIL/aerospace, medical and industrial markets.

Shipley Company, an ISO 9000 company, is a part of the Electronic Materials Business Group of Rohm and Haas. The group provides optoelectronic and electronic materials processes for semiconductor fabrication and packaging, printed wiring board manufacturing, connectors and industrial finishing. Coviant is a global supplier of optical manufacturing services.

❑ Devec Corporation, Belvidere, IL, has achieved ISO 9001:2000 certification. The company is best known in the metal finishing industry for cleaners, phosphates, zinc and zinc-alloy plating brighteners, chromates, and electroless nickel chemistries.

❑ The Sealant, Waterproofing and Restoration Institute (SWRI) has launched a new program to validate the manufacturer's published test results of various wall-coating products, including those used for industrial applications. The program provides specifiers and end-users of wall coating products an unbiased method to

judge whether wall-coating products will perform at the levels of the manufacturer's published data sheet for that particular product. The tests required for validation are those developed by the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM International). For more information on the validation program, visit SWRI's Web site at [www.swrionline.org](http://www.swrionline.org).

❑ Taskem, Inc., Brooklyn Heights, OH, has achieved registration to ISO 9001:2000. Taskem is a specialty chemical company that manufactures and markets processes for the metal finishing, cleaning, water and wastewater treatment industries.

## Answers to I.Q. Quiz #382

1. Drawing quality, special-killed
2. Ethylene-diamine tetra-acetic acid
3. Electron dispersive analysis by X-ray
4. Copper-accelerated acetic acid salt spray
5. Computer-aided design/computer-aided manufacturing
6. See front cover :)

## Special Directory Editions of P&SF Available as Single Copies or on CD

### The Shop Guide

Published annually in August, lists approximately 1,400 jobshops in the U.S., Canada and abroad that provide finishing services. Shops are listed alphabetically by state with key contact information, including addresses, phone and FAX numbers, and e-mail addresses. Extensive cross referencing of finishing services is also included.

### The Buyers Guide

Suppliers to the surface finishing industry are listed alphabetically. In addition to the listing, each company is given the option of being cross-referenced under five categories.



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