

Selected GR Information for Finishers



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DOD Metal Finishing Workshop set for February 26-28, 2008

Make plans now to attend the Department of Defense (DOD)/Surface Finishing Industry Metal Finishing Workshop on February 26-28, 2008 at the Fiesta Resort and Conference Center in Tempe, AZ. This cooperative technology information exchange on metal finishing applications is the next step in the evolution of DOD workshops and discussions on surface finishing, repair and maintenance issues related to new military aircraft, i.e., aircraft in which DOD has implemented clean materials and coatings, or incorporated new materials that present potential environmental, health and safety challenges of their own for sustainability.



The workshop is focused on aircraft and surface finishing applications, all experts from the surface finishing industry and DOD involved in other types of coating applications and weapons systems are encouraged to attend and share information related to technology development and implementation. In addition, because some technologies, such as HVOF and trivalent chromium finishes, are already showing up on legacy systems and being used at depots, finishing professionals maintaining legacy aircraft will also find the workshop valuable. It will be critical to have continued participation and technical input from the surface finishing industry at this conference.

A draft agenda and information on workshop registration and hotel accommodations

for the February workshop is available at www.events.hazmat-alternatives.com. The hotel block is being held until February 11, 2008. Surface finishing vendors and suppliers will also have an opportunity to present table-top displays of literature, samples and small demonstrations of surface coating technologies. If you would like to reserve a table, please contact Hillary Legg (hlegg@rowantechnology.com) before the February 15, 2008 deadline.

If you would like more information on the workshop, please contact Hillary Legg at (847) 680-9420 or hlegg@rowantechnology.com. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this event further, you may contact Christian Richter or Jeff Hannapel of The Policy Group at crichter@thepolicygroup.com or jhannapel@thepolicygroup.com.

OSHA final rule requires employer-paid PPE

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) issued a final rule on November 15, 2007, requiring employer-paid personal protective equipment (PPE). Under the rule, employers must provide, at no cost to employees, almost all PPE when the PPE is used to comply with OSHA standards. The final rule contains a few exceptions for ordinary safety-toed footwear, ordinary prescription safety eyewear, logging boots and ordinary clothing and weather-related gear. It also clarifies OSHA's requirements regarding payment for employee-owned PPE and replacement PPE.

OSHA anticipates that this rule will have substantial safety benefits that will result in more than 21,000 fewer occupational injuries per year. OSHA indicated that in many instances employees exposed to safety and health hazards may need to wear PPE to be protected from injury, illness and death caused by exposure to those hazards. By clarifying who is responsible for paying for PPE, OSHA anticipates that the final rule will lead

to greater compliance and potential avoidance of thousands of workplace injuries each year.

In order to allow employers time to change their existing PPE payment policies to accommodate the final rule, the new PPE payment requirements must be implemented by May 15, 2008. More information on this new rule is available on the OSHA website at www.osha.gov.

Department of Commerce launches economic census for manufacturers

In December, the Department of Commerce's Census Bureau sent the 2007 economic census forms to more than 200,000 manufacturers in approximately 1,000 different industry sectors. The forms ask companies to report information such as employment, payroll and the value of goods and services sold. The economic census is the most comprehensive measure of business and industry, and is taken every five years.

Economic census data provide critical information that companies need when they consider expanding into new regions or markets. Companies can also look at benchmark values from the economic census to assess where they stand in the marketplace and to research market shares, salaries, product and sales trends, and site locations.

The forms must be returned to the U.S. Census Bureau by February 12, 2008. Company names are kept confidential and only aggregate industry data are published.

To help businesses understand the economic census and how it benefits them, the Census Bureau has launched a new website at www.census.gov/econ/census07. The site includes economic snapshots of selected industries, significant facts about every industry and tips to help businesses use the data. The new website also provides links to sample forms, answers to frequently asked questions and a secure way to communicate directly with the Census Bureau. *PSF*