



March 17th.
St. Patrick's Day

The *Met-L-Chek*®



March 23rd.
Easter

Penetrant Professor

Met-L-Chek
© 2008

USED CAR SALESMEN?

We have all heard the story of the used car salesman who alleged that the wreck that he was selling had belonged to “a little old lady from Pasadena” who only drove it on Sundays to go to church. Well, salesmen and saleswomen sometimes use rhetoric like this to convince a person to buy. And, as it turns out, this kind of tactic is even used in the sale of NDT materials. We have a couple of instances to relate, that have come to our attention.

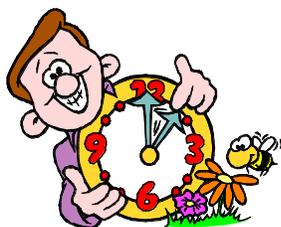
The first instance is one where the salesperson allegedly told the potential buyer that the brand of penetrant that he was selling was superior to other brands because it did not contain any toxic chromium,

possibly hinting that the other brands all contained chromium. Could this be true? Well, yes and no. Anyone who is familiar with the qualification requirements for penetrants, as specified in AMS-2644 and its predecessor, MIL-I-25135 may recall that paragraph 3.3.1.2 states as follows:

“Prohibited ingredients for any penetrant material include ...compounds of hexavalent chromium...”

So the answer is that if the salesperson was selling a penetrant product that was listed on the QPL, It certainly did not have any toxic chromium in it. But, neither do any other qualified penetrants. So all manufacturers that have products listed on the QPL can say the same thing. But if the salesperson puts a spin on the story, it can sound like there is only one manufacturer who is responsible. It is the old story, BUYER BEWARE.

salesperson who allegedly told a potential customer that the penetrant products that he was selling were made by a company that was presently upgrading their formulations so that they would meet stringent new European standards. The hint was that his company was far ahead of others in preparing for these new European requirements. What that salesperson did not add, was that other manufacturers, notably Met-L-Chek, had met the European requirements several years prior. In actuality, the company that the salesperson represented was far behind the times. BUYER BEWARE.



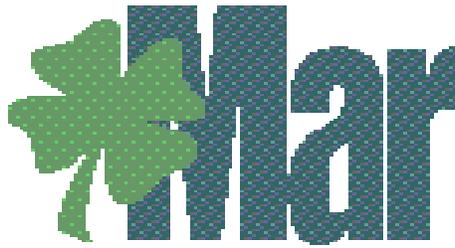
March 9,2008
Spring Forward



Our second story concerns a

A third story happened many years ago. Freon® propellants in aerosol cans were banned in the US in 1978. Penetrant manufacturers switched to either of two propellants, these being hydrocarbons or carbon dioxide. On the one hand, the hydrocarbons were flammable (Freon® was not), but they provided the same spray characteristics that the Freons® did. On the other hand, carbon dioxide was not flammable, but the spray it produced was inferior to what the users needed. So some manufacturers chose hydrocarbons and some chose carbon dioxide. We were told that salespersons selling carbon dioxide propelled developer would allege that the hydrocarbon propelled aerosol cans were bombs, hinting that they were very dangerous. What they did not add was that Johnson and Johnson, the maker of pharmaceutical and household products, had been using hydrocarbon propellants for years. The safety of hydrocarbon propelled aerosol cans is exemplary, and yes, those companies that used carbon dioxide as a propellant in their cans of developer now use hydrocarbons. BUYER BEWARE.

Things are sometimes not what they seem, and it pays to be cautious and even sometimes suspicious, if the salesperson gives you that little old lady in Pasadena story. If you have questions about any story that sounds just a bit fishy, give us a call. We might just be able to set the record straight



2008

INTERESTING QUESTION

We have had this question several times in the recent past and thought we would share the question and the answer, we uncovered, to help others who are struggling with the same issue.

A recently received email asked the Prof. the following; "Both ASTM E165 and E1210 test methods reference immersion post rinsing for PE hydrophilic. Practice E1417 does not, but rather refers to "spray rinse" parameters of 7.3.1 only. As our FPI procedure quotes ASTM E1417 only, would immersion post rinse then be out of the question? Others in our organization think that the reference to the spray rinse paragraph 7.3.1 constitutes permission, as immersion is quoted in it. I say only the "spray parameters" of that paragraph apply. It doesn't seem to make sense, however, that the 2 methods would allow this, and the practice not. Would the professor be able to sort this out for me. Thanks."

Now, we have our thoughts on this but decided we would seek in put from an alternative source of expertise, a former chairman of the ASTM E-1417 committee. The response we received is the experts view of how the specifications should be interpreted based on the intent of the specification as written.



The answer is "The intent was to allow air agitated, immersion washing for both water wash and post wash for PE penetrants. This is why para. 7.3.4.3 in ASTM E 1417 references para 7.3.1. I will agree that it is not truly clear but this was the intent of the verbiage in 7.3.4.3 to refer you back to 7.3.1 which, addresses or allows spraying, wiping and air agitated immersion washing. The next revision to ASTM E 1417 we will make it clearer."

Our thanks to our friendly expert for the insight and we agree as members of ASTM E-1417 we will strive to make this clearer.

The Penetrant Professor

 PENETRANT PROFESSOR
 is an occasional publication
 of Met-L-Chek company.
 To receive it--call, FAX or
 email Bev Clarke

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY



ASNT Spring Conference
 Anaheim, CA
 March 31st