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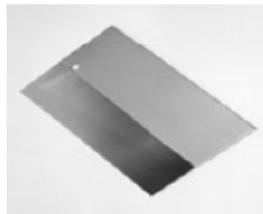
# The **JUL** 2009 Penetrant Professor from **Met-L-Chek®**

## “CORRECTED” ASTM MEETING NEWS

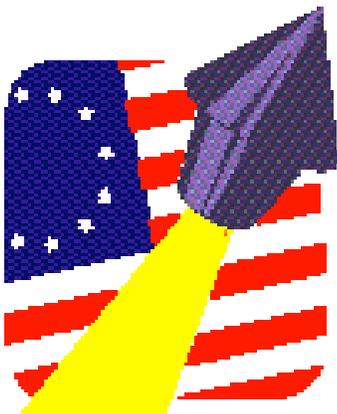
The last issue of the PENETRANT PROFESSOR discussed the ASTM Committee E-07 meeting, and related a discussion of the use of the TAM panel as a system performance monitoring tool.

In our report, we connected Phil Keown’s remarks to **NADCAP**. Phil is the **NADCAP** NDT Chairperson, but he was speaking for himself and **not** for the **NADCAP** organization.

To make his words clear, he said “The TAM panel will not measure material degradation. The TAM panel will monitor the system performance.”  
? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?



The use of these panels to check system performance is a topic of current interest, and we can surely expect more discussion in the future.



Sometimes what you think you hear isn’t what the speaker thinks was said, as evidenced by most politicians and their speeches. We, along with others, apparently did not catch the subtle difference in the words that Sam Robinson used in the discussion.



## SHELF LIFE

We frequently get questions concerning the shelf life of our products. Shelf life is a term that can be defined differently by different manufacturers, and we explain what is the practice for Met-L-Chek Company. This information is also contained in the literature on the **Met-L-Chek®** web site. Met-L-Chek Company defines shelf life as the period of storage time, at ambient (15.5°C - 37.7°C / 60°F - 100°F) conditions, during which an inspection material will retain its functionality in a closed container. The shelf life of **most** Met-L-Chek Company inspection penetrant materials is five (5) years from date of batch approval. The shelf life of aerosol inspection materials is also 5 years provided that the aerosol propellant has not escaped and the can still sprays. This shelf life period is exceeded by most materials and the 5 year period is provided only as a storage guide. Older materials performance may be verified through the Met-L-Chek Company **Pen-Chek®** recertification program.

The shelf life of an individual material is shown on the material certification provided with each purchase. Material certifications are available for each batch of material and identified by a specific batch number.

## TANK LIFE

Now we come to the term “Tank life”. Once the containers of Met-L-Chek Company products have been opened, shelf life no longer applies. If the product is in a tank or other container where it is used, the term “tank life” applies.

“Old Glory”  
at Devils Tower  
North East  
Wyoming.

No UFO sighted!



For example, if a penetrant has a shelf life that expires on January 6, for example, and the penetrant was charged to a tank prior to that date, the product is OK to use. When January 6 has passed, the shelf life date has no meaning because the product is in a tank. Now “Tank life” is what counts. Continued usability of materials may be verified through the Met-L-Chek Company **Pen-Chek®** or **MagChek™** recertification program. The **Pen-Chek®** program conforms to the requirements of **AMS-2644E** and **ASTM E-1417**. The **Mag-Chek™** program conforms to the requirements of **ASTM E-1444**. For some applications, there are penetrant tanks that have Met-L-Chek products in them that are five or more years old. The monthly tests show that the material is satisfactory to use, and there is no reason to discard the material and to replace it with fresh product.

The distinction between “Shelf life” and “Tank life” is important to make.

For Met-L-Chek products that are in a tank and in use, there is no reason to discard the product

and to replace it with fresh product if the shelf life has passed. Shelf life has no further meaning once the product is in the tank.

This information is on the **Met-L-Chek®** web site and may be easily reviewed there. Or, for clarification, please send us an email or phone us.



**The Penetrant  
Professor**

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