



In the effort to preserve and maintain the fragile ecology of our planet, these recently selected abstracts are presented to help readers of *Journals of Materials Engineering and Performance* stay current on legislation and compliance with global environmental issues and regulations. They are reprinted from *Metals Abstracts* and *Materials Business File* with permission from *Materials Information*, a joint service of ASM International, Materials Park®, Ohio, and the Institute of Materials, London, England.

OSHA's New Confined Spaces Entry Regulation. The U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) estimates that >60 workers died from confined-space related injuries in 1992. While >1.5 million employees enter confined spaces every year, OSHA's data suggests that no current standards effectively prevent workers from atmospheric and mechanical hazards. OSHA's definition of a confined space is any that allows human access, has limited means of entry and/or exit, and is not large enough for continuous employee occupancy. In foundries, affected spaces would include resin, gas and scrubber solution storage tanks, mullers, pits under furnaces, sand silos and shakeout units with limited access. OSHA has begun to restrict access to these types of confined spaces with a new regulation that it expects will prevent 54 deaths and >10,000 injuries/year. The new regulation governing workplace practices in confined spaces (29 CFR Part 1910.146), which took effect last April, is expected to affect >200,000 worksites, including foundries. The new standard creates safety requirements, including a permit system, for entry into potentially hazardous confined spaces.

D. Selchan. Cited: *Modern Casting*, Vol 84 (No. 2), Feb 1994, p 38 [in English]. ISSN: 0026-7562. PHOTOCOPY ORDER NUMBER: 199402-S4-0013.

[US] Industry Opposes New Workplace Safety Bills. In the U.S., lobbyists for the plastics industry and other business groups are pushing to stop bills updating and strengthening workplace safety rules. A coalition of >400 companies and industry groups, including the Society of the Plastics Industry Inc., is lobbying to defeat the Comprehensive Occupational Safety and Health Reform Act in the House of Representatives. Arrayed against that coalition are labor unions—which see the strengthening of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration as an important issue—and some key congressional Democrats. The Clinton administration also supports the bills, a move widely seen as an olive branch to unions

Furthermore. . .

Gorham Advanced Materials Institute plans to undertake a *multi-client study on specialty, ultrafine, and nano-sized metal powders*. Markets for these powders are estimated to be between \$600 and \$700 million in 1993, with selected markets growing at 25-30% annually. The five-month study will cover markets, company profiles, manufacturing technology, and applications; the latter including powders used in powder metallurgy, non-structural applications, thermal spray coating applications, and forming, cladding, overlay, and hardfacing applications. For further information, contact: Andrew Nyce, President, Gorham Advanced Materials Institute, PO Box 250, Gorham, ME 04038; tel: 207/892-5445 or 800/649-2231; fax: 207/892-2210.

The **Society of Manufacturing Engineers** in cooperation with the American Association of Community Colleges, has been awarded

because of the administration's support last year for the North American Free Trade Agreement. The plastics industry's chief concerns are the bills tightening of rules on workplace exposure to pollutants and increased regulation and record-keeping. A Washington-based foundation puts the total private-sector cost of complying with the bills at \$57B.

J. Gardner. Cited: *Plastics News (Detroit)*, Vol 5 (No. 49), 7 Feb 1994, p 10 [in English]. ISSN: 1042-802X. PHOTOCOPY ORDER NUMBER: 199402-P4-0005.

Q&A: Title V Operating Permits. Title V of the Clean Air Act Amendments (CAAA) signed into U.S. law by George Bush in November 1990, requires states to adopt new permit programs. The Title V permits are the means by which the objectives of the CAAA are achieved, including limitations on emissions of air toxins under Title III and VOCs under Title I. Title V permits will regulate the operation and modification of sources of air pollution. An article explains the rules of applying for a Title V permit.

J. Schweitzer. Cited: *CI on Composites*, Feb-Mar 1994, p 12-13 [in English]. PHOTOCOPY ORDER NUMBER: 199402-D4-0006.

Lead and the Environment. European Community Legislation. What Does the Commission Have in Store? In order to comply with EC environmental policy, the nonferrous/lead business will need to develop coherent policies on an international basis. Main aspects should include classification, health and safety at the workplace and industrial pollution. Missing data will need to be generated through a critical review of all substances and their various uses and applications. Manufacturers will have to demonstrate their capability to produce and market their products in a responsible way.

A. Franckaerts. Cited: Eleventh International Lead Conference (Venice) 24-27 May 1993, Lead Development Association, UK, 1993, p 2.2/1-9 [in English]. PHOTOCOPY ORDER NUMBER: 199402-G4-0011.

a grant to cover one-half of a \$20 million project designed to electronically deliver *industrial automation training* to U.S. manufacturers. The new program, titled "Cooperative Network for Dual Use Information Technologies" (CoNDUIT), will deliver information and training tools in computer simulation and computer numerical control for machining and preventive maintenance to 11 Michigan community colleges. Four colleges in Montana and three colleges in Florida are expected to join the program over time. The grant comes from the Technology Reinvestment Project and will be funded by the Advanced Research Projects Agency and administered primarily through the U.S. Department of Energy, teamed with NASA and NIST. For more information, contact Robert E. King, SME Government Relations, One SME Drive, PO Box 930, Dearborn, MI 48121-0930; tel: 313-271-1500, ext. 550; fax: 313-271-2861.