

Commentary

Thermal Spray Safety Issues and the TSS Safety Committee



Daryl Crawmer

TSS Safety Committee comprises members from industry and academia, and has as its mission: “To make thermal spray environmental, health and safety (EH&S) information available to the thermal spray community, to collaborate with other professional organizations in the development and deployment of thermal spray EH&S information, and to establish guidelines for the safe installation, operation and maintenance of thermal spray equipment.”

The current Committee members are:

- Mr. Greg Wuest, chair, Sulzer Metco (US) Incorporated
- Mr. Daryl E. Crawmer, Thermal Spray Technologies Incorporated
- Mr. Douglas J. Gifford, Praxair Surface Technologies Incorporated
- Mrs. Donna P. Guillen, Idaho National Laboratory
- Dr. Aaron C. Hall, Sandia National Laboratories
- Mr. Peter Heinrich, Linde Gas AG
- Dr. Richard A. Neiser, Sandia National Laboratories
- Mr. Larry Pollard, Progressive Technologies
- Ms. Lysa Russo, Stony Brook University

The Safety Committee has thus far published three documents:

- Safety Guidelines for Performing Risk Assessments
- Safety Guidelines for the Handling and Use of Gases in Thermal Spraying
- Thermal Spray Booth Design Guidelines

These documents can be downloaded from the current TSS website <http://www.tss.asminternational.org/portal/site/TSS/> under the tab sequence Research Library > Collections > Safety Guidelines. In March 2008, the TSS Board approved for publication a fourth document, entitled “Guidelines for the Use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in Thermal Spraying.” This publication will soon be available on the TSS website.

Through the efforts of Gregory Wuest, Chairman, Safety Committee, committee members are also actively

collaborating with the safety committees of other professional societies to develop synergies between the groups. The most active of these collaborations is with the AWS (Fumes/Gases and Labeling).

Current activities within the Committee include:

- Distributing the Learning Series information via the ASM/TSS website
- Increasing Committee membership by 2–3, adding at least one international member
- Communicating to the community at large at least three times annually through the ASM/TSS, ITSA Spraytime publication and meetings, web postings, training sessions, etc.
- Beginning work on new guidelines (hexavalent chromium exposure, material handling, others)

Longer-term plans include:

- Insuring that all users of thermal spray technology have the necessary Safety training and access to Health and Safety information to ensure worker and environmental safety
- Insuring that Health and Safety information provided by suppliers follows a common protocol, is comprehensive, and is consistent
- Insuring that the activities of the Safety Committee result in measurable improvements
- Insuring more visible attendance by the Committee at Safety-related events
- Publishing more papers on Safety at ITSC
- Providing a forum for suppliers to develop common hazard communication protocols for equipment
- Coordinating activities between TSS committees, especially the Membership and Marketing Committee and the Technical Programming Committee
- Developing a protocol/process for sharing Safety incident information within our industry

If you have an interest in participating in the activities of the TSS Safety Committee, please contact Mr. Gregory Wuest at gregory.wuest@sulzer.com.

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