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The Ansell Newsletter

Dear reader,

Before everyone descends into the end-of-year seasonal festivities we would like to treat you to the last edition of the 2007 InTouch. As you must have noticed already, we've made some extra efforts this time: the layout has been restyled and our approach has changed slightly ...

The basic idea behind InTouch will, of course, remain 'untouched'. This newsletter is our pre-eminent communications tool to strengthen our ties with you. But more than just keeping you posted on new products and events, we wish to share our extensive hand protection expertise with you, through some in-depth articles.

A few examples? Well, in each InTouch we'll zoom in on a specific industry, like petroleum refining in this issue. We'll share our findings on specific exposure hazards. And we'll introduce you to some key opinion leaders: their expertise is sought for as many articles as possible.

We're happy with the first results and intend to pursue this new format. But you, of course, are the main figure in all this. We truly hope that you like the new-look InTouch. If you have any questions, suggestions or comments, please don't hesitate to contact us.

In the meantime: enjoy the festive season and have a good start to a prosperous New Year.

Happy reading,

Werner Heintz - Sr Vice President & Regional Director Europe, Ansell Healthcare



Editorial

Comfortable protection against oils and lubricants

Many operators work on a daily basis with oils and greases, in the most diverse industries. Quite often, they're not aware of the exposure hazards and don't wear the right gloves. Which is not a good idea, as frequent contact with these substances can cause skin diseases ... The solution? Raising awareness and providing gloves that combine protection with comfort.

Research has shown that contact with oils, greases, lubricants, etc. may lead to skin diseases. In the UK, for example, around 200 cases* of contact dermatitis due to exposure to oils and coolants are recorded each year, which is undoubtedly just a tip of the iceberg.

Worse still, mineral oil is included in the US report on Carcinogens, after extensive tests had proven its carcinogenic properties.

Awareness and comfort = user acceptance

Besides the human aspect, skin diseases also cause the loss of many working days a year, costing employers millions. So employers do their utmost to comply with ever-tougher legislation on the protection of workers. Simply obliging the workers to don gloves, however, is not the way to go about it. For operators to wear the prescribed gloves, two aspects, in particular, are important: awareness about the hazard and superior comfort. Only comfortable gloves that fit like a second skin, and which don't compromise on dexterity and

other ergonomic 'comfort' features, will gain user acceptance. And, in doing so, boost safety and productivity.

Ansell's next-generation solutions

At Ansell, our commitment to worker safety is linked with ergonomic design. A perfect example of this is the recently launched HyFlex® 11-920, the first glove to marry superior oil grip with adequate palm protection against liquids. This new HyFlex® is a safer but equally comfortable alternative to the cotton, leather or porous synthetic gloves usually worn when handling parts covered with light films of oil.

If you require more information, please don't hesitate to contact your local sales rep.

* Figures from the UK-based EPIDERM (a scheme in which dermatologists report cases of occupational skin disorders)

IPS Alpha has found a trusted safety partner: Ansell

Safety is a top priority at IPS Alpha Technology, a Japanese manufacturer of LCD modules for flat screen TVs. The company is going to great lengths to keep the workplace safe for both products and people. And it's no different at its recently opened European plant in the Czech Republic. They've also found a trusted partner to support their safety initiatives: Ansell Healthcare.

Like you'll read further on in this InTouch, the protection of products as well as people is a must in the electronics industry. To avoid product contamination, all the production activities are carried out in a 'clean-room' environment where the air quality, temperature and humidity are closely regulated and monitored. People working in these clean rooms are required to wear special protective cloth-

have looked at a number of suppliers and Ansell came out as the best choice. They offer the added value we need to take the right decisions regarding gloves for every task."

Ansell: a partner with a vision

More than just delivering gloves, Ansell provides professional selection advice, which is no simple task in a working envi-

protection for both products and workers; and the light, stretchy Stringknits™ 76-202.

Fostering awareness

And it doesn't stop there... In line with its zeal for safety education and awareness, Ansell also provides personalized training courses, as well as training videos and posters to be displayed in the IPS Alpha production units. Plus there's always a local sales manager or product support person to call on in case of problems. "It is not uncommon for us to receive urgent deliveries from Ansell Brussels to keep our glove stocks up to the required level," illustrates Mr Zabusek. He concluded: "In



ing that does not shed lint and prevents particles of human skin and hair from entering the atmosphere in the room. Michal Zabusek, Production Manager at IPS Alpha Technology Europe, knows the problem all too well: "The slightest contamination in the production process can reduce perfectly good equipment to worthless scrap. Not to mention the loss of time and money."

Support in IPS' quest for protection

For companies like IPS Alpha that have a constant need to focus on protection, it is reassuring to be able to rely on the support of an expert supplier that delivers high-quality products and much more besides. "With over 130,000 gloves used every month, you really need a partner you can count on," confirmed Mr Zabusek. "We

ronment where you have to strike the right balance between protecting products as well as staff. In addition, Ansell also evaluates glove usage and even develops new and enhanced gloves in cooperation with IPS Alpha. Michal Zabusek: "When our needs change or a new version of gloves becomes available, Ansell is always there to make sure we make the right choice. When the Nitrilite® came out, for example, we conducted successful testing and were able to make the switch immediately, with Ansell's help."

Today, more than 90 % of the 1500-man strong workforce at IPS Alpha Europe wears protective clothing. Ansell products used there include the ESD glove HyFlex® 11-120; the HyFlex® Ultra-Lite 11-618, the Nitrilite® 93-401, which offers extreme

Ansell we have found an excellent partner who understands our business and the issues that go with it. We are more than satisfied with their products and services!"

Meet us at Intersec Middle East

From 13 to 15 January 2008, Ansell will present its HyFlex® family of gloves, with a special focus on the new HyFlex® 11-920, at Intersec Middle East – the largest security, fire, health and safety exhibition in the Middle East, in Dubai (stand 4621S). Please visit the Intersec section at www.messefrankfurtme.com

Petroleum refining: defining best practices in plant safety – the Ansell way

Recognize the potential hazards, make provisions for safe operating practices and take appropriate protective measures. That's the heavy responsibility resting on the shoulders of Health & Safety professionals in the petroleum refining industry. When it comes to hand protection, Ansell is glad to help – with expert advice as well as targeted protection solutions, all based on many years' experience in oil refineries.

Petroleum refineries are complex systems, containing a wide diversity of units to turn crude oil into flammable gases and liquids. This conversion process requires considerable knowledge, control and expertise. After all, the hazards are multiple. The oil, for example, is processed at high temperatures and pressures, using vessels, equipment, and piping subjected to great stresses and corrosion. Gas or chemicals may be released accidentally. Chemicals may ignite at high temperatures. Flammable liquid spills may cause fires. Not forgetting dermal hazards due to contact with steam, hot surfaces or chemicals.

Gloves are a bare necessity

Operators' hands are exposed to potential hazards in every step of the refining process, from process sampling, inspection, reading of gauges and testing thru' to repair, maintenance, compounding, handling/recharging of catalyst and turnarounds, etc. In the fluid catalytic cracker, for example, extremely hot (700 °C+) hydrocarbon liquids or vapours and fluid waste streams containing varying amounts of chemicals, pose serious threats. Gloves are, therefore, a bare necessity.

Targeted solutions

As a global leader in total hand protection solutions, Ansell can boast a sound knowledge of the most diverse industries. For the oil refinery segment, we bring together refinery safety practitioners who help us identify and develop solutions to better meet requirements from both operators and contractors.

Our solutions' portfolio includes a wide assortment of products, all designed to



address specific safety problems. One Ansell innovation delivering enhanced value for professionals in chemical and explosive environments is Ansell Grip Technology™. Incorporated in the chemical-resistant AlphaTec™ glove, this unique technology solves the problem of loss control issues caused by excess moisture, grease and/or oil. Equally innovative and also proving its worth in refineries is Aquadri™, Ansell's unique moisture management technology for wicking moisture off the skin.

Make best practice standard practice

More than offering innovative solutions, however, we also lend expert advice. For that, we deploy our unique GuardianSM, assessment tool. Based on an in-depth analysis of refining processes, the tool identifies each unit's glove requirements. Computer-generated reports help you develop a communication plan. Field staff can then be briefed on the typical chemicals and process equipment hazards in their facility, on the exposure risks and on the most appropriate gloves to protect against such risks. In this way, we can help improve plant safety and foster chemical product stewardship while, at the same time, standardizing solutions to make best practice standard practice.

Wish to benefit from Ansell expertise or receive more information? If so, do not hesitate to contact your Ansell representative.

AlphaTec™ protects operators at Total UK's Lindsey oil refinery

Since 2006, operators at Total's Lindsey oil refinery in Immingham, north Lincolnshire, have been protected by Ansell's AlphaTec™ glove, incorporating Ansell Grip Technology™. Much to their satisfaction.

"We needed a bespoke glove capable of protecting us from a wide variety of chemicals," said area safety advisor Brian Sidell. "A three-month trial proved that the grip sustained by Alphatec™ when, for example, changing or refilling oily glass duplex bottles, was truly impressive. As was the protection against the lube oils, greases and aromatic hydrocarbons the operators come into contact with. Combined with the technical support offered by Ansell, AlphaTec™ really became the glove of our choice."



ESD control: a vital step in any processing unit

To many people, electrostatic discharge (ESD) is little more than the shock experienced when, for example, touching a metal doorknob after walking across a carpet. But this same ESD can ignite flammable mixtures and damage electronic components. So due caution is imperative. InTouch met with safety expert Richard Rogers, after his recent lecture at A+A, to talk about the phenomenon and possible precautions.

Controlling electrostatic discharge begins with a good understanding of how it occurs in the first place. Dr Rogers explained: "When two materials contact and then separate, for example when liquid runs through a pipe, a static charge is generated. If the object is earthed, this charge will disappear. But when it finds no way to 'relax', e.g. because the conductive pipe is unearthed, the charge will accumulate to eventually discharge." The most common form of ESD is a spark, which can ignite and cause explosions in flammable atmospheres. A phenomenon that has caused some serious incidents in the past.

Proper earthing

The backbone of ESD reduction is proper earthing of everything. "There are three key rules here: make sure all metal parts and conductors are earthed, ensure the people



are earthed and avoid the use of insulating plastics," said Dr. Rogers. Electrostatic protective clothing is a must as part of such a total earthed system. Gloves and other clothing must meet the new European EN1149 family of standards.

Explosive environments

"In explosive environments, such as chemical processing industries or petroleum refineries, preventing electrostatic hazards may be a matter of life or death. That is why the EU's ATEX – ATmosphere EXplosive – Directive has a set of minimum requirements for employers to ensure the safety of their workers in such settings. It prescribes, among other requirements, an assessment procedure with special mention of the ESD risk and details the need for PPE that does not give rise to additional hazards including hazards from electrostatic discharges."

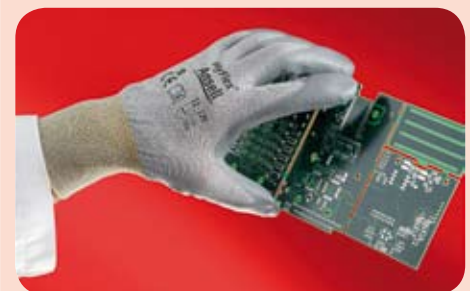
Preventing damage in electronics

In microelectronics, the hazard is of a different order: ESD damages electronic components – immediately or in the long term –, thereby affecting product quality and bottom-line results. With electronic devices becoming ever-smaller and consequently more ESD sensitive, and playing more crucial roles in everyday life (e.g. in airbags), manufacturers invest heavily in preventing ESD. Antistatic PPE, including gloves, has become vital in this sector.

Dr Rogers is convinced that Ansell's new dissipative ESD glove is a great step forward for

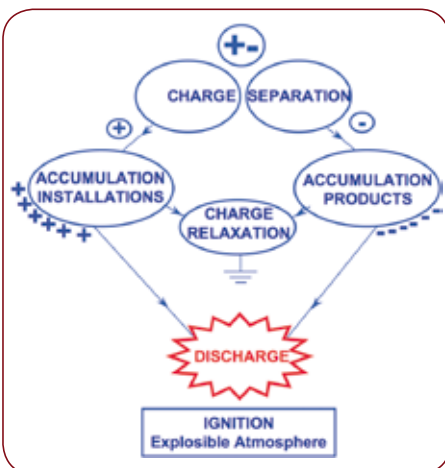
this industry. Provided users take into account this one important remark: "Dissipative materials will gradually release the static charge, which is a good way to prevent ESD. But wearing antistatic gloves is not enough. The tools handled, e.g. a steel hand tool or a drum, still need to be earthed. This remark is key, in any industry. ATEX even stipulates that all gloves should carry a disclaimer label: 'elements that are handled are earthed'."

HyFlex® 11-120: say no to static!



Ansell's new ESD glove – in three variant versions – has dissipative properties, providing very high levels of ESD protection. The glove is thin and flexible, perfect for use in fine electronics.

Truly unique is the fact that the HyFlex® ESD is made with nitrile foam and is dimethylformamide-free (DMF). As it leaves no fingermarks, surfaces will stay clean and uncontaminated. A distinct asset that will be greatly appreciated in the world of microelectronics!



Ansell Healthcare Europe N.V.

Riverside Business Park, Block J Boulevard International 55 B-1070 Brussels, Belgium

Tel. +32 (0) 2 528 74 00 Fax +32 (0) 2 528 74 01 Fax Customer Service +32 (0) 2 528 74 03

<http://www.ansell.eu> Email info@ansell.eu

Ansell