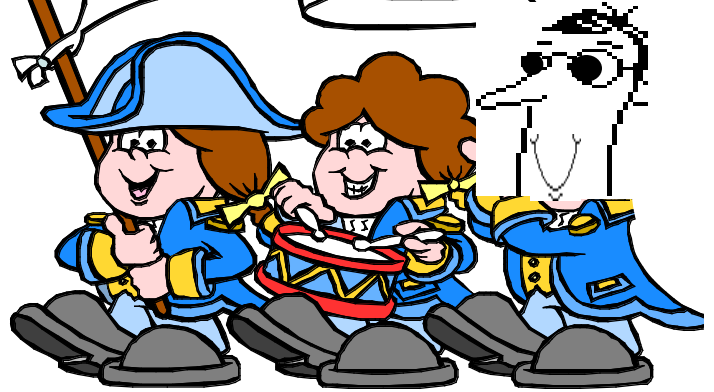


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Penetrant Professor from Met-L-Chek

OLD HABITS DIE HARD

Recently we had a FAX from one of our loyal readers which pointed out that we had referenced a couple of obsolete specifications in our newsletter. The specifications in question were MIL-I-25135 and MIL-STD 6866. It is true that these specifications are no longer valid. MIL-I-25135 has been replaced by SAE AMS 2644, and MIL-STD 6866 has been replaced by ASTM E 1417. Met-L-Chek personnel worked hard on the creation of both of these new civilian specifications.

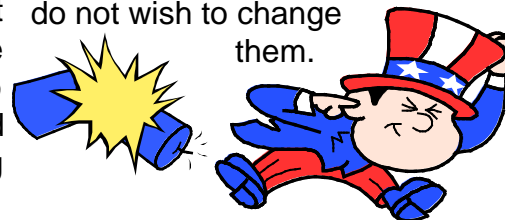
But, as the title of this article says, old habits die hard. There are many penetrant inspection lines operating today which have their procedures written around MIL-I-25135 and MIL-STD 6866. Some of these procedures have not been updated in years, and many will not be updated for years to come, if ever. Since, at the present time, there are not many differences between the obsolete military specifications and their new civilian replacements, probably no serious problems will arise for these inspection lines.

WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL ?

Well, it happens that these same inspection lines need certifications supplied with their penetrant materials, and they need their periodic testing certified as well. And, since they have the obsolete military specifications written into their procedures, they want their certifications and their periodic test reports to reflect these obsolete documents. Met-L-Chek, as a matter of habit, references both the old military specifications and the new civilian specifications on all paper work, so that all bases are covered. We are allowed to do this because although a new specification supersedes an old one, if a product is qualified to the new spec., it is automatically also qualified to the old spec. As an example, all penetrants listed on QPL 25135-17 were automatically approved for listing on QPL AMS 2644. Therefore, when you read about specifications in an issue of the PENETRANT PROFESSOR, do not be surprised to see old specifications mentioned along with the new ones.

WILL THIS CHANGE ?

Will this situation come to an end? We will bet that it will not. To illustrate this, we still have at least one customer who insists on ordering products qualified to the C revision of MIL-I-25135, which was superseded in June 1984. You may remember that the C revision listed penetrants by Group. Solvent removable visible penetrants were Group I, low sensitivity water washable fluorescent penetrants were listed as Group IV, and solvent removable fluorescent penetrant kits were listed as Group VII. Not only were the penetrant systems listed differently than the present format, but the labeling requirements were also different. Suggestions to these customers to order their materials according to the new format meet with no success, because they have internal procedures which were written a long time ago, and they do not wish to change them.





OUR REACTION

As a manufacturer, we have to roll with the punches, because, as we all know, the customer is always right. So when you see that we continue to reference old specs, it is not because we are behind the times, but because we accommodate those who have their own reasons to keep their procedures unchanged. On the other hand, we are always pleased to get a response to our articles. It is our objective to try to publish information which is useful to those who use penetrants, and to a very large extent, we rely on our readers and our customers for input. Never hesitate to contact us with an idea that you would like to pass along, or a comment on what we have written. If you do so, you are just likely to see it published.



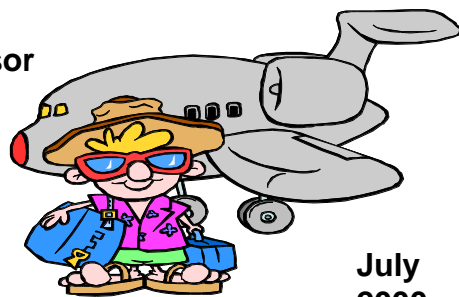
Do you visit the NDT.org website? If you do, you will often find things of interest. This website also carries issues of the PENETRANT PROFESSOR, which you can conveniently download and print. One advantage of reading the PENETRANT PROFESSOR online is that the art work is in color, something which is not practical for the



SPOTLIGHT — MIKE

Mike White is Met-L-Chek's general manager, and the person who you might speak to if you have any questions about penetrant inspection. Mike's NDT background is extensive, and he has experience with almost any situation involving penetrant or magnetic inspection. Let's review what his background includes. Start with bachelor's and master's degrees, and add to that about 30 years of work with Magnaflux®, Brent/Ardrox, and Met-L-Chek, involved in everything from developing formulations to sales. What is most impressive is his willingness to assist with problems which penetrant users might have. No matter what the question, Mike is there to assist, and to share his expertise and knowledge. Not only that, but his ready sense of humor and quick wit make any conversation a pleasant one. At home, Mike does everything from plumbing and electrical work to carpentry, masonry, and gardening. This very practical side of Mike comes through with his common sense solution to problems. Questions? Call Mike!

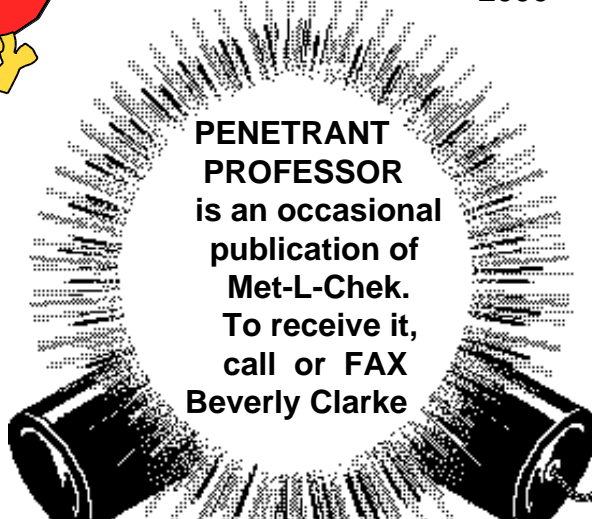
The Penetrant Professor



July
2000



to the
**Penetrant Professor --
he has been going
strong for 7 years !**



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