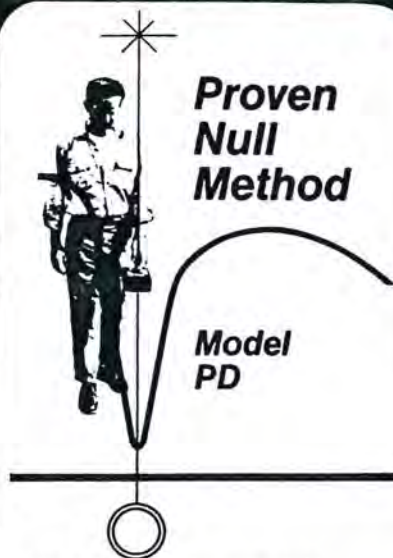


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## NIOSH seeks info on substitutes for silica sand in abrasive blasting

Studies are underway at the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH, Morgantown, West Virginia) to assess abrasive-blasting substitutes for silica sand. Project objectives include: (1) to identify substitute materials for silica sand in abrasive-blasting operations; (2) to assess the effectiveness, availability, economic issues, and health effects of these substitute materials; and (3) to disseminate the findings of the project to the appropriate groups of workers and employers with recommendations for the use of these substitute materials.

NIOSH requests the following materials from manufacturers, distributors, or other knowledgeable individuals to assist them in this project:

- Brochures, handbooks, or written articles that describe the uses and effectiveness of alternative products, the objects that can be blasted, and in what indoor or outdoor environments the products may be used.
- Information on availability of the products, such as a previously published list of suppliers and distributors with appropriate contact names and addresses, the regions and locations where the products are sold, and the amount of the products sold in the most recent year for which data are available.
- Previously published cost catalogs and sales literature, including the price of the products, shipping costs, disposal or cleanup costs, the num-

ber of times the products may be recycled, and cost benefits when compared to silica sand or any other abrasive-blasting agent.

• Written articles that describe possible health effects associated with the products, including material safety data sheets, brochures, copies of health effects data submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency under provisions of the Toxic Substances Control Act, and any other published health information.

• Appropriately labeled samples of each product, such as would normally be provided to customers, that NIOSH may analyze for silica content and metals such as arsenic, chromium, nickel, and lead. The quantity should be approximately 20 cm<sup>3</sup>.

• Any previously published list of additional silica-substitute materials. Thus far, the following materials have been identified as potential substitutes for silica sand: garnet, aluminum oxide, silicon carbide, glass beads, ground glass, plastic grit, chilled iron grit and shot, steel grit and shot, cut wire, sodium bicarbonate, carbon dioxide pellets, mineral slags, metallurgical slags, nut shells, and corn cobs.

Information should be submitted to Mark F. Greskevitch, Industrial Hygienist, Centers for Disease Control, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, 944 Chestnut Ridge Road, Morgantown, WV 26505-2888. (—P. Huddle) ■

## Companies

Ferro Corporation (Cleveland, Ohio) has completed the purchase of ICI's powder coating business in North America and Europe.

This acquisition strengthens Ferro's overall powder coatings business and is expected to provide expanded worldwide sales exceeding \$250 million in the next several years.

The company noted that powder coatings enjoy an annual growth rate of 10 percent or better and are environmentally preferred because there is very little waste in the application process.

KTA-Tator Inc. (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania) has formed KTA Environmental, an affiliation between KTA Services Inc. and SE Technologies Inc., a nationally recognized environmental and design engineering firm.

This association provides engineering, consulting, and project oversight services dedicated to the management of lead paint. Services included assistance for environmental compliance, engineering, coatings consulting, laboratory services, training, and health and safety compliance.

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**About the Cover**

Technicians testing and sampling effluent.

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The First NACE Position Paper:

**Corrosion Control—  
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the Infrastructure**

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