

Ted:

In reference to your fax on 1/2/95 about the levels of styrene found during my previous inspection. Back on 6/29/94, the levels were found to be below the OSHA permissible exposure limit of 100 ppm for an 8-hour time-weighted average, and 200 ppm for a 15 minute level. At the time of inspection the levels were found to be in the neighborhood of 10 ppm.

OSHA does not require the use of respirators unless there is overexposure. Should the employees require the use of respirators, then the elements of 29 CFR 1910.134 must be followed.

If you have any further questions please feel free to call me.

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Equipment sprays recycle

Fabricators can now spray-up parts incorporating recycled glass reinforced plastic (GRP). Seawolf Design Group of New Smyrna Beach, Florida, USA, has developed a system that sprays a mix of fibres up to 18 mm long and recycled GRP particles up to 4.8 mm in diameter.

GRP scrap passes through a granulator that keeps the fibres in the composite intact. The granulator feeds a continuous mixer which combines the scrap with filler and supplies the spray equipment on demand. Previously this system led to hardening of the mix after a few days. This was caused by contaminating catalyst in the used GRP.

Now a compound is added to the scrap in the mixer to prevent hardening. The use of scrap as well as filler prevents the viscosity changes that excess filler loads can cause in the mixer.

Various wastes, including glass fibre overspray, thermoplastics and thermosets, can be recycled and sprayed. The company says that all wooden parts in boats can be replaced with parts containing GRP recycle. If up to 40% of scrap is used in a syntactic foam core of a sandwich, a material is produced that has better physical properties than plywood. Using the scrap gives the benefits associated with recycled materials (see *Reinforced Plastics* Jan 1992).

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