

## Air Handling Systems Newsletter

### INDUSTRIAL STRENGTH Ductwork Direct

SEPTEMBER 2011

#### Latest on Combustible Dust issues

The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration has cited Intercontinental Packaging Inc. for 24 safety violations at the company's Opelika plant, including exposing workers to **hazards associated with combustible dust**, among others. OSHA conducted an inspection in May as part of its **national emphasis program on combustible dust**.

Twelve serious violations carrying proposed **penalties of \$47,180 involve improper housekeeping for allowing up to 36 inches of combustible wood dust to accumulate...[click here](#)** to link to rest of news release.

**[Click here](#)** for more information from Air Handling Systems on combustible dust.

#### Fitting Tip

Many dust collection systems require a special fabricated round to round reducer or rectangle to round transition. It is very important to have an allowance when requesting such fittings. Let's say you have a blower outlet that measures 12" X 10" on the outside and you want to transition to 12" round duct. When requesting such a fitting, add 1/16" to the inside of the fitting. Example, rectangle to round transition, 12 1/16" ID X 10 1/16" ID to 11 15/16" OD for 12" ID round duct. We have added 1/16" for the end that fits over blower outlet and subtracted 1/16" from round end to fit into 12" ID duct.

In addition, let's say you have a blower inlet 12 1/8" OD and 11 3/4" ID and want to connect to 12" spiral pipe. Can't fit spiral pipe over, can't fit a spiral pipe to spiral pipe coupling into. If you request a custom reducer 12 1/8" ID to 11 15/16" OD for 12" ID round duct, you probably won't get it over the collar, way too tight. Add that 1/16" to the ID and request the custom reducer with 12 3/16"

#### Tech Tip - "Be sure to check your ID and OD of inlet collar"

Blower and dust collector manufacturers do not adhere to standard dimensions on their inlet collars. Most of them, you cannot slip spiral pipe over or a coupling inside. It is critical that these two measurements (ID and OD) are relayed to your duct fabricator. A construction drawing might state the inlet is 12 inch in diameter, but not whether it is ID or OD. Even if it does, don't trust it. Have your equipment salesperson measure the inlet collar in the factory prior to shipping or field measure it yourself upon arrival.

It is important to get the actual circumferences. For the outside diameter (OD), wrap a string around the collar until it meets itself and measure the length. Then, divide by 3.14. The figure will be the actual outside diameter (OD).

For the inside diameter (ID), stick a piece of masking tape around the inside of the collar until it meets itself, pull it off, measure it, and divide by 3.14. It is a nightmare when the ductwork (spiral pipe, fittings and flexible hose) arrives and the installer cannot make the initial connection.

We find that over 75% of the time a simple custom adapter can easily be fabricated. From that point, the duct system is modular and spiral pipe, fittings and flexible will all connect with ease.

This approach is definitely necessary if an inlet collar is out of round due to damage during transport.

#### FREE Flexible Hose sample Not all hose is constructed the same!


We commonly find customers wanting



ID to 11 15/16" OD to fit into 12" ID round duct.

Proper fully welded dust collection fittings need a minor allowance. Even that minor allowance is a little tight, but that's good. Welded fittings are made of a minimum of 20 gauge sheet stock which creates a fairly solid fitting. I remember asking one customer how his custom reducer fit. He said, "ok, but I had to slice the collar to get it on. I should have asked for a tweak larger." It was a shame to slice up a good quality fitting in order to fit it on the collar.

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to replace clear hose - not all clear hose is constructed the same! Our clear hose is manufactured of urethane and much stronger product than many other clear hoses which are made of pvc.



U30 Urethane Flexible Hose

**Included is our THIS STUFF IS TOUGH, PEN PUNCTURE TEST!!!** First, try to push the Air Handling Systems U30 "Pen Test" Pen through the 2" PVC flexible hose sample provided. Then, follow the same procedure with 3" U30-C Urethane flexible hose sample. Make sure you push a little harder on the U30-C sample. You do not have to spear the hose, just push as hard as you can. Now, is that tough?

If you have existing flexible hose that is wearing out quickly, try the "Pen Test". If the Pen pops right through, it may be time to upgrade to Urethane flexible hose.

Know your hose - [click here for a free sample](#) available to qualified companies. Supplies limited.

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