

Memo Book



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONS



Public Safety Services

V. J. BELLA  
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

I. J. "MIKE" FOSTER, JR.  
GOVERNOR

INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM

To: All Inspection Districts  
All Certified Fire Prevention Bureaus

From: Pat Slaughter *ps*  
Administrative Director  
Inspections and Licensing

Date: February 26, 1998

Subj: Research/NFPA 33: Spray Application  
Using Flammable and Combustible Materials

Re: Spray-In Truck Bedliners  
"Arma Coatings"

As a result of a request for official clarification by this office from Tracey Middaugh of Arma Coatings of Northshore, Inc., Slidell, LA, research was conducted to determine whether the processes and products utilized by Mr. Middaugh's company in the application of spray-in truck bedliners fell within the scope of NFPA 33, Spray Application Using Flammable and Combustible Materials.

The Technical Data sheets provided by Arma Coatings revealed that the process is a two component polyurethane/polyurea spray elastomer system. MSDA sheets were provided on the two components and revealed the following:

1. Component 1 -- Diisocyanate (chemical family), 4,4 diphenylmethane Diisocyanate (4,4 MDI)  
**FLASH POINT: 400 Degrees F (COC)**
2. Component 2 -- Polyethr Polyol (chemical family), Poly(oxymethy 1-1,2 ethanediyl), alpha-hydroomega-(2-aminomethylethoxy), ether with 2ethyl-2-(hydroxymethys)-1,2-propanediol  
**FLASH POINT: 360 Degrees F (COC)**

This particular process provides a flexible monolithic membrane which is designed to provide abrasion and chemical resistance. As such, it serves much the same purpose as does automotive undercoating, with many of the same features and similar method of application. Chapter 12 of NFPA 33, Automobile Undercoating in Garages, establishes firm parameters regarding the flash point of the chemicals used in undercoating operations:

*12-1 Automobile undercoating operations in garages, conducted in areas having adequate natural or mechanical ventilation, are exempt from the requirements pertaining to spray coating operations, when (1) undercoating materials not more hazardous than kerosene (as classified by U. L. Inc in respect to fire hazard rating 30-40) are used, OR undercoating materials using only solvents having a flash point in excess of 100 Degrees F. (37.7 C.) are used, and (3) no open flames are within 20 ft. while such operations are conducted.*

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The chemicals involved in this particular spray-in bedliner process have flashpoints well in excess of 100 Degrees F., and in fact require preheating of equipment prior to actual application for best results.

As a result of this Code research, it is the determination of this office that the Arma Coatings process falls within the parameters established under Chapter 12 of NFPA 33, Automobile Undercoating in Garages, and are thereby exempt from the requirements pertaining to spray coating applications.

**Please note that this determination was made based upon the products utilized by Arma Coatings of Northshore, Inc. and does not necessarily apply to other processes or products utilized by other companies providing a similar product. Should there be any question(s) reference to the applicability of NFPA 33 to any other type of spray applications, the Inspector should request MSDS sheets for all products used in the particular spray process.**

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