

Health and Safety Executive	Operational Circular
Field Operations Directorate	OC 495/4 (REV)
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Author Unit	

To
Agricultural, Factory and Quarries Inspectors (Bands 0-4)
RSG Specialist Inspectors (Occ Hyg, Process Safety and Elec) (Bands 0-3)
RSG Medical Staff
All CHID Inspectors (Bands 0-3)

ELECTROSTATIC POWDER COATING BRITISH COATINGS FEDERATION : CODE OF PRACTICE

This OC advises on a revised and updated code of safe practice for electrostatic powder coating produced by the British Coatings Federation of Great Britain Ltd (formerly the Paintmakers Association of Great Britain).

- 1 A revised Code of Safe Practice *Application of thermosetting coating powders by electrostatic spraying* and associated checklist card has been published by the British Coating Federation of Great Britain Ltd. The Code has been issued to file 495 and a copy has also been sent to regional specialist groups (RSGs) for reference.
- 2 The Code replaces that of the Paintmakers Association *Application of powder coatings by electrostatic spraying* issued in 1990.
- 3 HSE was consulted during production of the revised edition. It provides a general platform to ensure the health and safety of operators and compliance with relevant legal requirements.
- 4 The vast majority of the provisions of the earlier Code remain intact but, in particular the new Code refers to more recent legislation and other relevant standards and guides. As indicated by the title, the new Code now also limits its full application to thermosetting coating powders. While the guidance may still be relevant to thermoplastic coating powders it should not be assumed to apply in all cases. Standard epoxy, epoxy/polyester and polyester coatings are all thermosetting.
- 5 The Code still makes reference to plastic sheeting used to line the walls of spray booths for ease of cleaning being at least 9mm thick so as to prevent high energy electrostatic brush discharges. Some systems use a relatively conductive plastic film to control the ignition hazard. Users of such booths should ensure that replacement rolls of plastic film have a similar degree of conductivity.
- 6 Modern foldaway coating booths are constructed of a relatively thin plastic film or sheet suspended on a metal frame. Manufacturers or suppliers of such booths should ensure a suitable non-combustible conductive film or sheet is used to effectively prevent brush discharges or other equally effective measures taken to prevent danger.

Advice to inspectors

- 7 Every opportunity should be taken to draw the Code of Practice to the attention of firms engaged in these processes. Companies installing new facilities and manufacturers of plant should be referred to

the standards described.

8 Inspectors are advised to consult their RSGs before taking enforcement action on aspects of the Code.

Cancellation of instructions

9 OC 495/4 - **cancel** and **destroy**.

10 FIC 495/1 - **cancel** and **destroy**.

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ASI headings

Electrostatic(s): coatings: code of practice: dust(s): explosions: fire: powder coatings: spraying.