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CRAFTSMAN TOOLS SWITCH COOLANT FOR ALL METALCUTTING OPERATIONS

Craftsman Tools, a supplier of precision toolholding, workholding and subcontract machining services, has replaced its existing coolant with TRIM® SC516 from Master Chemical for all CNC milling, turning and grinding operations. Heavy misting issues that were causing throat and hand irritation have been completely eliminated following the change. Furthermore, Craftsman Tools now uses only half as much coolant, subsequently reducing its costs by around 50%.

“Earlier this year some of our operators expressed concerns about our existing coolant,” says Paul Hobson, Product Manager at Craftsman Tools. “The heavy misting was causing breathing difficulties and leading to hand irritation. We take the health of our employees extremely seriously and so immediately began sourcing an alternative coolant.”

Craftsman Tools, based in Otley, West Yorkshire, had some experience of using Master Chemical products successfully in the past and so made contact with the area sales representative.

“We worked with Simon Young, District Manager at Master Chemical, who recommended TRIM® SC516, a low foaming, biostable, semi-synthetic coolant specifically formulated for the materials we machine every day, such as steel, cast iron and aluminium,” says Mr Hobson. “We conducted extensive cutting trials and could see immediately that our misting problems had disappeared.”

TRIM® SC516 contains no DEA, chlorine, nitrites or phenolic compounds, and can be easily recycled or disposed of without special handling or equipment. Its unique formulation ensures low levels of foam not generally experienced with other semi-synthetic products, especially in soft water areas such as northern England. The coolant is very versatile and works well in mixed metal applications across a range of operations that include grinding, milling, turning, drilling and tapping. Furthermore, extremely fine emulsion reduces carry-off for low total operating cost, while fast wetting transports fluid to the point of cut and fully coats the workpiece and chips for superior corrosion prevention.

“We started using TRIM® SC516 in May 2013 and now it has completely replaced our previous coolant in all of our manufacturing cells,” says Mr Hobson. “The operators say it is far cleaner and smells much better.”

The shop floor at this ISO9001 accredited company houses over 30 machine tools, ranging from standard lathes and vertical CNC mills to twin pallet horizontal machining centres, full five-axis machines and grinders.

“A welcome added benefit of switching to a higher quality coolant is that we use far less of it,” says Mr Hobson. “Before the change we were consuming around three 200-litre drums every month, whereas now we only use around half that amount, sometimes even less. As a result, we have cut our coolant costs by approximately 50%.”

The production area at Craftsman Tools is divided into five manufacturing cells. There are three subcontract machining cells serving their own product lines for a range of multinational OEMs, while two further cells deliver Craftsman’s range of toolholding and workholding equipment. Each cell is run by a dedicated cell manager, providing a single point of contact for every enquiry. The company was established in 1953 and today employs around 60 people.

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About Master Chemical Corporation: Master Chemical Corporation was founded on November 13, 1951. Since then, working closely with the worldwide metalworking community, Master Chemical Corporation has developed and marketed a full line of specialty cutting and grinding fluids, cutting oils, concentrated washing and cleaning compounds, and rust preventives all under the TRIM® brand trademark. These products are both environmentally sound and when used in conjunction with Master Chemical’s XYBEX® Coolant Recycling and Filtration Systems, are the most durable and stable products available anywhere today. Master Chemical has always been committed to the safety of the people who use our products, the protection of our planet, the environment we live in, and the overall impact on our customers’ profitability. Master Chemical serves customers globally. For further information please contact a local distributor near you <http://www.2trim.us/distributors.php>, call us at (44) + (0) 1449 726800, or visit our website at www.masterchemical.com

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