

PCB-containing paints stripped safely

November 2004 - When it came to the choice of a paint remover, 'Scheidel-macs Asur Entlacker' made by Scheidel GmbH & Co. KG of Hirschaid easily won the day. The dichloromethane-free paint stripping product proved its effectiveness in removing surface coatings contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) at the Kopernikus high-school in Beckum-Neubeckum, whilst reducing the impact on the environment. Since 'Asur' is not health-hazardous, the contractor entrusted with the PCB remediation task – STR Sanierungsteam Ruhr GmbH of Bergkamen – was able to treat large surfaces without relying on sophisticated and costly protection technology. The paint remover owes its outstanding effectiveness to the high dissolving power of the biodegradable DBE® Dibasic Esters solvent made by INVISTA™ Intermediates.

To remove the PCB-contaminated paint from door cases and concrete columns, 'Asur' was simply applied by brush to the relevant surfaces. By way of personal protection equipment, only straightforward filtering-type respirator masks had to be worn. By comparison, workers handling the health-hazardous dichloromethane-containing products widely employed as a general-purpose paint remover must wear self-contained respirators which, chemical hazards aside, are clearly more expensive and much less convenient to use.

After a reaction time of just 1 - 2 hours, 'Asur' had dissolved the existing coatings without altering the substrate material in any way. For removing the now soft paint, STR had developed a special high-pressure process using low amounts of water. With the aid of this method, all PCB-containing paint residue could be easily rinsed off the door cases and concrete columns. It emerged that the paint remover left no residue whatsoever on the treated surfaces. Workers performing the high-pressure rinsing operation wore a fan-assisted respirator to prevent them from inhaling PCB-contaminated dust or vapours. A colleague picked up the water-paint sludge using a wet-vacuuming unit.

This press release is based on information from:

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Photo DuPont/INVISTA™

At the Kopernikus high-school in Beckum-Neubeckum, PCB-contaminated coatings were removed from door cases and concrete columns without residue, and at reduced risk to humans or the environment, using the dichloromethane-free paint remover 'Scheidel-macs Asur Entlacker' marketed by Scheidel GmbH & Co. KG of Hirschaid. The main active ingredient of this paint removing product is the biodegradable DBE® Dibasic Esters solvent made by INVISTA™ Intermediates.

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