

443 Lafayette Road N.  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155  
www.dli.mn.gov



MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF  
**LABOR & INDUSTRY**

(651) 284-5005  
1-800-DIAL-DLI  
TTY: (651) 297-4198

February 1, 2012

Robert Hoffner, VP and General Manager  
TCC Materials  
2025 Centre Pointe Blvd, Suite 300  
Mendota Heights, MN 55120

Dear Mr. Hoffner:

The national Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) office became aware of a potential issue regarding material safety data sheets (MSDSs) and labeling of coal slag related products. Based on the existing literature<sup>1</sup> on the use of abrasive blasting grit, trace amounts of hazardous ingredients, such as beryllium, arsenic, and others, could result in exposures to workers during blasting operations above an OSHA permissible exposure limit (PEL) and/or American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH<sup>®</sup>) Threshold Limit Values (TLVs<sup>®</sup>).

It is possible that your MSDS(s) and/or label(s) may not contain adequate information. Please review your MSDS for Black Blast to ensure that all hazardous components greater than one percent (0.1 percent in the case of a carcinogen) are properly identified on them. If your MSDS(s) is deemed to be deficient, you are required to send revised copies to all your customers with the first shipment of product after the MSDS/label is updated.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have questions, please contact me at 651-284-5462.

Sincerely,



James Krueger, Director  
Minnesota OSHA

<sup>1</sup> Crouch, Keith G., Echt, Alan, Kurimo, Robert and Yvonne Gagnon. *Control Technology and Exposure Assessment for Occupational Exposure to Beryllium: Abrasive Blasting with Coal-Slag*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, 2007, File No EPHB 263-13a.

KTA-Tator Inc. *Evaluation of Substitute Materials for Silica Sand in Abrasive Blasting*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, 1998, Contract No. 200-95-2946.

Meeker, John D., Susi, Pam, Pellegrino, Anthony (2006). "Comparison of Occupational Exposures among Painters Using Three Alternative Blasting Abrasives." *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene*, 3:9, D80-D84.

Stettler, Lloyd, Donaldson, Harry and George Grant (1982). "Chemical Composition of Coal and Other Mineral Slags." *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene*, 14:32. (formerly known as *American Industrial Hygiene Association Journal*)

Spear, Terry, Stephenson, Dale and Marie Seymour (2002). "Characterization of the Aerosol Generated During Abrasive Blasting with Copper Slag." *Annual Occupational Hygiene*, 46: Supplement 1:296-299.

Stephenson, Dale, Spear, Terry, Seymour, Marie and Lori Cashell (2002). "Airborne Exposure to Heavy Metals and Total Particulate During Abrasive Blasting Using Copper Slag Abrasive." *Applied Occupational and Environmental Hygiene*, 17(6):437-443.

Henneberg, Paul, Goe, Sandra, Miller William, Doney, Brent and Dennis Groce (2004). "Industries in the United States with Airborne Beryllium Exposures and Estimates of the Number of Current Workers Potentially Exposed." *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene*, 1:648-659.

Hubbs, Ann, Greskevitch, Mark, Kuempel, Eileen, Suarez, Fernando, Mark Toraason (2005). "Abrasive Blasting Agents: Designing Studies to Evaluate Relative Risk." *Journal of Toxicology and Environmental Health, Part A*, 68:999-1016.

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February 1, 2012

Bruce Haslerud, CFO  
ATI- Black Diamond Granules, Inc.  
499 Settlers Ridge Pkwy  
Woodbury, MN 55129

Dear Mr. Haslerud:

The national Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) office became aware of a potential issue regarding material safety data sheets (MSDSs) and labeling of coal slag related products. Based on the existing literature<sup>2</sup> on the use of abrasive blasting grit, trace amounts of hazardous ingredients, such as beryllium, arsenic, and others, could result in exposures to workers during blasting operations above an OSHA permissible exposure limit (PEL) and/or American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH<sup>®</sup>) Threshold Limit Values (TLVs<sup>®</sup>).

It is possible that your MSDS(s) and/or label(s) may not contain adequate information. Please review your MSDS for Black Diamond Gradations to ensure that all hazardous components greater than one percent (0.1 percent in the case of a carcinogen) are properly identified on them. If your MSDS(s) is deemed to be deficient, you are required to send revised copies to all your customers with the first shipment of product after the MSDS/label is updated.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have questions, please contact me at 651-284-5462.

Sincerely,

James Krueger, Director  
Minnesota OSHA

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<sup>1</sup> Crouch, Keith G., Echt, Alan, Kurimo, Robert and Yvonne Gagnon. *Control Technology and Exposure Assessment for Occupational Exposure to Beryllium: Abrasive Blasting with Coal-Slag*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, 2007, File No EPHB 263-13a.

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