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CONVEYING NEWS BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS DEFINING 

FIVE YEARS OF PROGRESS FOR 3-A

A significant chapter in 3-A history has been written in the past five years when an independent, not-for-profit corporation was formed to coordinate work on the standards and oversee a third-party inspection program.

Following years of careful planning, 3-A Sanitary Standards, Inc. (3-A SSI) officially began operations in January of 2003. The founding organizations include:

- 3-A Sanitary Standards Symbol Administrative Council
- American Dairy Products Institute
- International Association for Food Protection
- Food Processing Suppliers Association
- International Dairy Foods Association

The current 3-A SSI leadership also includes the chairs of the 3-A Steering Committee and P3-A Steering Committee as well as representatives from the FDA/PHS and USDA.

Enhancing product safety for consumers of food, beverage and pharmaceutical products is the mission of 3-A Sanitary Standards, Inc. (3-A SSI). By continuing to develop and use 3-A Sanitary Standards and 3-A Accepted Practices, 3-A SSI pledges to build on their history and reputation of ensuring product safety.

Following is a look at some of 3-A SSI's accomplishments over the past five years.

Certified Conformance Evaluators Perform Independent Third Party Verification Inspection Services

To enhance the integrity of the 3-A Symbol, 3-A SSI was tasked with creating a credible third-party inspection program to replace the self-certification program

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used in the past for 3-A Symbol authorization. 3-A SSI established a new accreditation program for qualified independent equipment inspection professionals known as Certified Conformance Evaluators (CCEs). The job of the CCE is to verify that equipment which displays the 3-A Symbol conforms to a 3-A Sanitary Standard.

In late 2007, 3-A SSI introduced two other voluntary inspection programs that also require the inspection services of a CCE: the first, a new program for replacement parts intended for use in equipment built to a 3-A Sanitary Standard; and, the sec-

ond, a 3-A Process Certification for processing systems designed in accordance to a 3-A Accepted Practice.

The CCE credential is a primary requirement for the performance of the voluntary Third Party Verification (TPV) inspection services of 3-A SSI. All CCEs have met specific criteria for basic education and industry experience in a setting where 3-A Sanitary Standards are applied. Every CCE has also passed a comprehensive written exam testing their knowledge of principles of sanitary equipment design for 3-A equipment, the ability to interpret engineering drawings pertaining to manufacturing equipment and instrumentation for the food processing industries, and the ability to review and evaluate complex processes.

3-A SSI maintains a list of the CCEs on its web site for any party in search of third party inspection services. The prospective

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FIVE YEARS OF PROGRESS FOR 3-A (continued)

3-A Symbol licensee, or other certificate holder, is responsible for independent inspection services directly with the CCE of their choice.

3-A Symbol Program Reaches New Stature from Inspection Program

The year 2007 marked the completion of independent inspections for the vast majority of all equipment built to a 3-A Sanitary Standard and holding authorization to use the 3-A Symbol. The TPV inspection requirement for use of the 3-A Symbol has brought new stature and recognition to the 3-A Symbol program.

Since the TPV program began, nearly 500 TPV inspections have been completed for equipment fabricated at sites in the U.S. and 19 countries around the world, including: Austria, Belgium, Canada, China, Denmark, England, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, and Thailand.

3-A SSI maintains a listing of current 3-A Symbol holders on its web site. The public information is intended to assist regulatory sanitarians, processors, equipment fabricators, and other interested parties. 3-A SSI also maintains a separate list of discontinued 3-A Symbol holders. This information lists the reason for discontinuation, such as: the equipment is no longer in production, the equipment was consolidated in another 3-A Symbol authorization resulting from a change in company ownership, or the failure of the holder to maintain the authorization in accordance with the terms and conditions for use of the 3-A Symbol.

3-A SSI Marks Growth in Industry Education

3-A SSI launched a new industry education program which has emerged as one of the leading education events focused on the common interests of equipment fabricators, regulatory sanitarians and processors in hygienic equipment design issues. The well-attended program is held annually in Milwaukee in conjunction with the 3-A SSI Annual Meeting. The 2008 program will be May 19-23.

3-A SSI Launches Major Expansion of Sanitary Design Resources

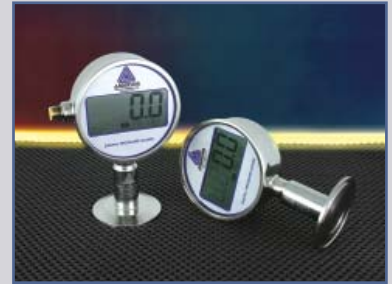
This year 3-A SSI launched a major addition to its web site with a new Technical Resource Center (TRC)—the association's first comprehensive resource on sanitary/

hygienic design, 3-A Sanitary Standards and 3-A Accepted Practices. The TRC consists of four primary sections:

(1) *3-A Resource Papers* feature authoritative papers on key subjects including the 3-A Symbol program and hygienic design

Anderson Digital Pressure Gauge & Switch

Solving customer problems is what Anderson Instruments is all about, and their Digital Pressure Gauge/Switch platform is solid proof. Their "EN" and "EP" product lines were developed specifically to address customer requirements for improved performance, safety and readability in critical pressure applications. The "EN" product line is designed for the food, dairy and beverage industries, and the "EP" series provides the features required for pharmaceutical and biotech applications.



Anderson Digital Pressure Gauges offer a switch option that provides a battery-powered local display of pressure that is up to six times more accurate than their mechanical counterparts. Additionally, this product has three times the over-range capacity and five to ten times the resolution of traditional mechanical pressure indicators. The switch version includes two fully adjustable switches with low-voltage relay outputs for simple control and/or alarming applications.

Anderson Digital Pressure Gauges also offer improved reliability over traditional gauges, because they do not utilize mechanical actuation. Several other features have been incorporated that customers will find beneficial, including a simple, tamper-resistant user interface for easy calibration and programming. The units are programmable for engineering units, and all compound units boast auto-scaling to the appropriate units. There is also a "min/max" data capture feature that facilitates process and equipment troubleshooting.

The Digital Pressure Gauge is powered by two "AA" batteries and will operate up to a year before the "low battery" indicator prompts you. The switch version operates continuously on DC loop power with battery back up possible to support off-site programming.

Like all Anderson products, these instruments are designed to meet the most stringent requirements of the sanitary, biotech and pharmaceutical fluid process industries. They are constructed entirely of welded stainless steel, not simply industrial or test gauges with sanitary seals added. They are designed to be cleaned and steamed in place (CIP/SIP) and meet the current 3A or ASME-BPE standards. All wettable parts are 316L stainless steel, and both the gauge and switch versions carry a NEMA 4X enclosure rating to withstand wash-down. The "EP" version features product contact surfaces electropolished to an Ra of eight microinches.

If you would like more information about Anderson's line of digital pressure gauges, or if you would like a live demonstration, please contact a CSI representative at **800.654.5635**.

as it relates to the 3-A Sanitary Standards and 3-A Accepted Practices.

(2) *Resource Links* is a ready reference of links to other useful technical resources on sanitary design and copies of presentation materials from past 3-A SSI education programs.

(3) The *Question and Answer Forum* posts inquiries about the general aspects of 3-A SSI documents or design criteria with a response from 3-A SSI.

(4) A *Sponsored Links* section helps visitors locate the specialized products and services they need. The links are available to materials testing services, equipment design engineers, facility and systems design specialists, cleaning and sanitizing systems specialists, and suppliers of equipment or materials built to 3-A Sanitary Standards or systems designed to meet 3-A Accepted Practices.

3-A SSI Implements New Consensus Process

New 3-A SSI procedures allow stakeholders to develop a consensus more quickly and efficiently. The new procedures also assure openness and due process consistent with the requirements of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) for accredited standards developer organizations. 3-A SSI maintains ANSI accreditation as a Standards Developer Organization, which signifies that the new procedures meet the Institute's Essential Requirements for openness, balance, consensus, and due process. Formal accreditation provides the opportunity for 3-A SSI to submit new standards developed in accordance with ANSI requirements as American National Standards.

New P3-A Standards Nearing Completion

The first new draft of Pharmaceutical 3-A (P3-A) standards neared completion

in late 2006 under the direction of the P3-A Steering Committee. The three draft documents pertain to pumps, materials and terminology.

The new standards, to be called P3-A Standards, will bring new assurance to pharmaceutical equipment buyers, equipment fabricators and regulatory authorities that the equipment built to P3-A Standards meets specific criteria for the intended use of the equipment.

Key Opportunities for the Future of 3-A SSI

3-A SSI sees many opportunities in the coming year:

- *Expand recognition and demand for the 3-A Symbol.* With the new verification program, the 3-A Symbol is significantly more valuable for all parties. 3-A SSI plans to reach out to current and new audiences to promote the value of the 3-A Symbol.
- *Increase awareness and demand for Third Party Verification inspections.* The voluntary inspection program for replacement parts and for processing systems can help suppliers and processors gain credibility and acceptance in the marketplace.
- *Promote the value of 3-A Sanitary Standards in new markets.* More processors in industries such as cosmetics, nutraceuticals, beverages, and other industries recognize the benefits of specifying equipment built to 3-A Sanitary Standards.
- *Emphasize the benefits of using 3-A Sanitary Standards.* 3-A Sanitary Standards yield measurable savings in equipment design, specification/purchasing, maintenance and regulatory inspections.

For more information on 3-A SSI visit www.3-a.org.

CSI Internship Leads to CSI Career



Senior Designer/Estimator **Ryan Russell** began working as an intern at Central States Industrial while he was

also working towards his Bachelor of Science degree in Drafting & Design Technology from Missouri State University.

Although he has since graduated from Missouri State University, CSI is pleased to announce that Ryan's internship has expanded to his full time occupation as a Senior Designer/Estimator.

At CSI, Ryan's duties are mainly focused as a project manager for fabricated items.

"I work with customers from the initial quote throughout the completion of a project until it actually ships from our building," he said.

This type of "conception to completion" assistance from designers is a benefit CSI is pleased to provide, and a benefit that Ryan appreciates in his job.

"After an order is received, I coordinate the drawing and design process along with the necessary steps involved with bills of material and informational support from the shop. Because I am involved throughout the entire process, customers can call me and I will know the status of their order no matter what stage it is in," he said.

When not assisting customers at CSI, Ryan enjoys working on his house, biking and spending time with his family and friends.

Call Ryan at **800.654.5635**, extension 147 to discuss your next fabrication project.

CSI Seminar Comes to California

On Thursday, May 22 CSI will host Understanding Corrosion in Sanitary Processes at the Four Points By Sheraton in Pleasanton, CA.

For more information about this seminar and other upcoming events, visit us online at www.csidesigns.com or call **800.654.5635**.



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AA (ACRONYM AWARENESS)

All industries utilize an abundance of industry-related acronyms, but how many of them do you actually know? At CSI, we specialize in sanitary and high purity processes; so, we put together a list of acronyms used in engineering systems for food, beverage, bio tech, and pharmaceutical processes.

Test your skills with this final installment of "AA," and check your answers online at www.csidesigns.com/quiz.php.

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| (1) PA _____ | (10) DI _____ | (19) SC _____ |
| (2) IA _____ | (11) CIPS _____ | (20) PCWS _____ |
| (3) CA _____ | (12) CIPR _____ | (21) PCWR _____ |
| (4) CCA _____ | (13) N2 _____ | (22) HWS _____ |
| (5) WFI _____ | (14) O2 _____ | (23) HWR _____ |
| (6) POW _____ | (15) CO2 _____ | (24) PW _____ |
| (7) PUR _____ | (16) VT _____ | (25) CGS _____ |
| (8) SFT _____ | (17) CS _____ | (25) CGR _____ |
| (9) CW _____ | (18) CSC _____ | (25) VAC _____ |