



We say goodbye to a colleague and friend

Steve Stefancic of Postle Industries to retire

A couple of months ago Steve Stefancic of Postle Industries announced his intentions to retire at the end of the year. Steve has been instrumental in positioning Postle's Duraband®NC as the most widely utilized hardbanding wire in the world.

Steve joined Postle in January of 2006 as its General Manager. As the popularity of Duraband began to grow, the hardbanding business needed his help. In 2009 he turned his attention to our efforts in the oil & gas industry. He began by organizing our participation in trade show events and coordinating magazine advertising. In 2010 his impact within hardbanding became even more significant when his involvement in that area became full-time. Over the last 10 years, among other things, Steve has been responsible for operating a sales territory in the northeastern United States, managing our applicator compliance program and coordinating third party product and process approvals. He also holds several patents in hardbanding tools and procedures.

Please join us in wishing Steve a happy retirement. May it be filled with good health and good luck for many, many years.. he will be greatly missed.

What to do with Eccentric Wear of hardbanding

As the distance of horizontal laterals increases, so do the difficulties of managing wear on the tool joints of drill pipe. In a conventional drilling operation, the wear on the tool joint is typically more uniform. With long laterals, the drill pipe spends more time laying on its side and sliding along the well bore. The result is that the hardbanding can be completely worn away on one side while still having a lot of hardbanding material on the opposite side.

In this condition, conventional hardbanding around the entire hardbanding area isn't possible since one side is much more proud. Overlaying additional hardbanding over the already raised area would make that side of the tool joint extremely proud. Additionally, trying to hardband eccentric tool joints makes for a difficult welding process due to the non-concentric rotation changing the distance in the hardbanding unit from the tool joint to the fixed welding torch location.

There are two possible solutions to hardbanding eccentrically worn tool joints. The first, and most common, is to remove the existing hardbanding. This process can be labor intensive and expensive. Another option is to apply partial hardbands only in the area that has worn. This option saves time and the expense of removal, but should only be performed by experienced hardbanding operators. The pipe owner should be notified and agree to the application of partial hardbands.

Postle Industries created a procedure to apply partial hardbands with both of our Duraband® NC and Tuffband® NC products. This procedure is detailed in our Hardbanding Recommended Procedures (HRP) Manual. Postle Industries only endorses partial hardbanding over its own products and not over competitive hardbanding materials. Partial banding is a cost effective way to rebuild eccentrically worn tool joints.

Please contact your Postle, Hardbanding Solutions Representative or Tech Center for more details or assistance.



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