

Equipment Doesn't Ship Until Rick Approves It

THIS MORNING Clemco Quality Assurance Inspector Rick Frick is giving an RPH-2 900 CFM Dust Collector the once over. He checks that the dust collector's motor is running correctly and confirms that the motor-housing welds are secure. Next, he verifies that the controls in the electrical panel are set properly and that its wiring is correct.

Rick has been with Clemco 30 years, but he has been manning Clemco's new Test and Inspection Cell for only one year—the Test and Inspection Cell was established a year ago as part of Clemco's new Factory Acceptance Program. The program ensures that all Clemco equipment passes rigorous testing and inspection before it ships to customers. The Test and Inspection Cell focuses on large equipment such as cabinets, dust collectors, reclaim systems, blast rooms, and custom-engineered projects.

A GOOD FEELING

"It feels good to know I'm helping Clemco's customers get exactly what they expected when they ordered their equipment," Rick says as he tests the dust collector's tubing for air leaks and proper connections. He finishes checking a total of 62 items on the dust collector while cross-checking his results against diagrams and engineering specs.

Up next is the ZERO® BNP-220 Pressure Blast Cabinet that accompanies the dust collector. Rick confirms that the cabinet's CFM measurements and decibel readings are correct. He then takes the cabinet through a test and inspection checklist as thorough as the one for the dust collector before approving both machines for shipment.

TAKING EQUIPMENT QUALITY TO A NEW LEVEL

"We've always had quality control procedures throughout the factory," says Jake Tate, Clemco Quality Supervisor. "And Clemco wouldn't be where it is today if for decades we hadn't manufactured quality equipment. But now we are taking monitoring, measuring, and improving equipment quality to a new level."

"Of course, we'd like to have a flawless production floor," Jake adds. "But anybody who has worked in a factory knows that's unrealistic. However, our quality initiatives have led to about a two-thirds reduction in issues since implementing the program. Incorporating the Test and Inspection Cell as the final step in our process has been a huge help. Our approach is working." ●



Rick Frick, one of three Clemco Quality Assurance Inspectors, has been with the company for 30 years.



Rick examines an RPH-2 Dust Collector's magnehelic gauge for air leaks and proper connections as part of the Factory Acceptance Program's 62-point inspection checklist.



Rick checks that the dust-collector motor is rotating correctly and that the motor-housing welds are secure.