WHAT'S INSIDE THIS MONTH:

- Fall Business Meeting and Seminar.
- President’s Message.
- MICA Future Meeting Dates.
- Dodge Momentum Index Moves Lower in August.
- U.S. Department of Labor Issues Final Overtime Rule.
- MICA Legal Counsel Responds to Overtime Rule.
- Department of Labor Approves New Respirator Fit Testing Protocols to Protect Workers.
- Statement by Acting Secretary of Labor Pizzella on the August Jobs Report.
- New Construction Report Reveals Data Ownership Battle Between Project Owners and Contractors.
- August Construction Starts Decrease 6 Percent.

FALL BUSINESS MEETING AND SEMINAR

Registration forms and room reservation information for the 2019 Fall Business Meeting of MICA have been mailed to the general membership. This year's meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 16, and Thursday, October 17, 2019, at the Embassy Suites Downtown, in Omaha, Nebraska.

The past several years, we have combined an educational seminar with the fall business meeting. This year, the Board decided to host a half-day educational seminar on “Best Practices for Estimating and Project Controls” on Tuesday, October 15, 2019. Registration information regarding this free seminar was included as a separate item in the earlier mailing. Mr. George Shimada, Past President of MICA and a regional insulation manager with Gagnon, Inc., will lead the seminar. During George’s presidency, his newsletter messages read as a “best practices” primer to the insulation industry. George will expand on some of these topics as well as discuss best practices in estimating and project hand-off from estimators to project staff during this half-day seminar on “Best Practices for Estimating and Project Controls”. This seminar is designed for those members in the industry who would like to get a better understanding of the issues that are involved in bidding and managing an insulation project, and for those members who are moving into an estimating or project management role within a member company. If you wish to attend this seminar, you need to register as soon as possible. Space is limited, and registrations are taken on a first come, first served basis.

This year’s fall business meeting will include updates and discussions on several topics crucial to your business operations. The technical sessions will include presentations on workplace violence, the potential impact that changes in the trucking industry may have on our industry, a presentation on mobile time keeping and technology, a panel discussion on industry challenges from a manufacturers’ perspective, and an update on OSHA regulations during the Environmental and Safety Committee’s meeting. We will focus on providing the membership with new insights on these issues as we continue to help you to continue “Moving Forward” in your industry and in your businesses.

The following is a brief sketch on our speakers for the fall business meeting:

Vaughn Baker is President of Strategos International, a Kansas City, MO.- based firm that provides safety & security training, consulting and executive protection services. Vaughn has 20 years of experience in law enforcement including patrol, investigation, SWAT and special operations. He has trained thousands of school, health care, government, law enforcement and military personnel in security practices. Baker has also developed specialized intruder response curriculum for schools and churches, including some of the nation’s leading training on behavior pattern recognition. He is the author of The Church Security Handbook and, with Mark Warren, Active Threat, Workplace 911.

(Continued on page 7)
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

TO: THE MICA MEMBERSHIP

While it’s not quite here yet, summer is winding down and there will soon be a hint of fall in the air. Mowing the yard this past weekend, I noticed a few brown leaves in the yard and a recent trip to northern Minnesota had trees starting to change their hue a bit. I’m certainly ready for some cooler fall weather!

This letter will hopefully find you at our upcoming fall meeting in Omaha, October 15th-17th. We would love to find you there as we are finalizing a great lineup of speakers, topics, and discussions that will benefit all. Hope to see you there.

Last month we ventured into a discussion of the all-to-easy trap of blaming everyone around you for your trials and tribulations. I have a list of eight tips that you can use to help you to keep moving forward. We’ll discuss a couple every month going forward.

1. Change how you think about hardship

The ability to keep moving forward in life greatly depends on your attitude. If you allow setbacks and difficulties to break you, no progress can be made. At the same time, if you are determined not to allow difficulties to stop you, you will be able to get back up on your feet one time after another. But how can you develop the necessary attitude that keeps you moving? In order to have the attitude that keeps you moving no matter what, it’s necessary to change how we think about difficulties, setbacks, and hardship.

It is only too understandable that no one likes hardship. We see absolutely no good in it because it makes us feel uncomfortable and can inflict great pain upon us. However, it is important to realize that setbacks cannot be avoided. We are all confronted with difficulties and setbacks wherever we go. But this does not mean that we are powerless. We may not be able to stop hardship from happening, but we surely can change how we think about it. We can greatly influence how we respond to it. And we always get to decide whether we really want to allow these struggles to break us.

When it comes to suffering, the natural tendency is to try to get over it as quickly as possible. And once this is accomplished, you might give your very best to forget what happened. But that’s the great problem. By trying to forget what happened as quickly as possible, you deprive hardship of its meaning and value.

On the one hand, you can always try to ignore what happened. On the other hand, you can also use the experiences you’ve made in order to grow as a person. If you use these challenges and learn important lessons from them, hardship does ultimately serve you. It is no longer an enemy but a great teacher that provides important lessons about life. At the same time, by finding meaning in hardship, you can prevent it from breaking you. If you take nothing else from my ramblings, know this one thing. LEARN FROM YOUR MISTAKES!

2. Use your experiences to grow stronger

Struggles and difficulties can be truly challenging. They can bring you to your limits and can push you beyond what you thought were your boundaries. The hardship will also confront you with situations in which all hope seems lost. When this happens, it’s important to remind yourself how important it is to keep fighting and to keep moving forward. It’s important to be aware that this intensive test will contribute to your growth – in the long run.

If you accept the fight and if you use these experiences to grow stronger, you will learn to stand firm during the times of great difficulties. Even more importantly, you will use the ashes and ruins that the storm left behind in order to build the foundation for something better.

Dude, I certainly don’t have all the answers. I’m just a lowly insulator. Keep your head up, pick yourself up off the ground AND KEEP MOVING FORWARD!

See ya in Omaha!

Sincerely,

Matt Hymer
MICA President
A Product of MC&I

RIDGLOK®
TANK INSULATION PANELS

MCI-RIDGLOK.com

- Labor Savings
- Small Crew Size
- Minimal to NO Welding
- Minimal Specialty Tools
- No Scaffolding
- Pre-Fabricated Panel
- High Wind Designs
- Longest Lifespan
- Easy Repairs
- Minimum Maintenance
- Freeze Protection
- Strong Weather Barrier

ALL INDUSTRIES—ALL TANKS

Heated/Cold • Large/Small | Welded • Bolted • Concrete • Plastic
The NEW Revolutionary Fast and Easy Way to Seal Butt Seams on Elastomeric Insulation

Cel-Link II™ with SSPT

Eliminate job failure and repair to cut and keep project costs competitive
No fumes – no operational interruptions in odor-sensitive environments
Food processing areas Flammable areas
Perfect for low VOC installations – lower costs, fast and easy
Install faster in any environment – even in cold weather

More jobs won, more jobs done, more jobs billed.

Get your FREE SAMPLE of Cel-Link II™

Just visit www.aeroflexusa.com/cel-link2 TODAY!

Aeroflex USA Cel-Link II™ works when and where standard contact adhesives can’t.

Contact Aeroflex today: 1-866-237-6235 (1-866-AEROCEL) | www.aeroflexusa.com

Industry leading customer service
Quickest turn around time
White indoor/outdoor UVR
E-84 low smoke approved
No up charge for color
18 Colors

PIC Plastics, Inc
2232 North Garrison Ave
Carthage, MO 64836

phone 800-654-0409 • fax 417-359-9899 www.pic-plastics.com
Count on Specialty Products & Insulation to deliver reliable product performance, exceptional customer service and absolute best value.

Serving Commercial, Industrial, Marine and OEM Markets

SPI - A global leader in the distribution and specialty fabrication of insulation products for Thermal, Acoustic, Fire Protection and Refractory applications. From the first contact to project completion, you’ll benefit from our extensive product offering, superior service and value.

Experience The SPI Advantage

SPI - Specialty Products & Insulation
C/O Dunes Point Capital
411 Theodore Fremd Ave., Suite 125
Rye, NY 10580
Phone: 855-519-4044
www.spi-co.com
He is also the director of security for a church of more than 10,000 in the Kansas City area, a position he has held for more than a decade.

Vaughn will open our fall business meeting with a discussion on the importance of training an organization on the risks of workplace violence and provide you with some preventive measures that you can implement in your businesses.

Lisa Bennetts, is Vice-President of Finance and Human Resources with Colorado Mechanical Insulation. Lisa joined CMI in 2013 and oversees accounting, finance, project management processes, human resources, risk management, safety and IT. She has a wealth of experience from various accounting and financial management positions within the construction and governmental sectors. In those roles, she had overall responsibility for financial reporting, planning and budgeting, internal controls, corporate accounting, internal auditing, and managed several software implementations. Throughout her 20 year career, she has established a reputation for aligning business and financial metrics to support business strategy and growth targets. She holds a BS in Accounting and an MBA in Finance and Accounting from Denver’s Regis University.

CMI has implemented the use of mobile time cards in its payroll function. Lisa will share her company’s experience in implementing this type of technology into the workplace.

Abigail White is a Director practicing in the OSHA and Workers’ Compensation defense groups at Auman, Mahan & Furry. Abbie represents employers of all sizes in matters related to occupational safety and health and workers’ compensation. She routinely counsels clients in issues related to compliance with OSHA’s safety and health regulations. She guides employers through all stages of the OSHA inspection process, and has significant litigation experience representing employers across the United States in proceedings before the OSHRC and the various state agencies that administer OSHA-Approved State Plans.

In her workers’ compensation practice, Abbie counsels Ohio employers in the cost-effective management of workers’ compensation claims. She has attended hundreds of Industrial Commission hearings throughout the State of Ohio, representing both state fund and self-insured employers from a wide variety of industries.
FUTURE MICA MEETING DATES

Fall 2019 Annual Fall Business Meeting — October 16 & 17, 2019, Embassy Suites Downtown, Omaha, NE.

2020 Winter Board and Committee Meetings — January 23 — 26, 2020, DoubleTree by Hilton Grand Key Resort. Key West, Florida.

63rd Annual Spring Convention — June 22 — 25, 2020, Lodge of the Four Seasons, Lake Ozark, Missouri.

Fall 2020 Annual Fall Business Meeting — October 20 & 21, 2020, Downtown Omaha, NE.

64th Annual Spring Convention — June 21 — 24, 2021, Out of Region. Site TBD.

MICA MEMBER ADDRESS/INFO. UPDATES

Be sure to inform the MICA office of any changes or corrections to your listing for either the MICA Directory, e-mail correspondence or mailing address. Even if you update your company listing on the MICA website, please inform the MICA office of the changes. We try to be as current as possible with your help.
FyreWrap® New Look
Same great quality and service.

- Larger logo for easy identification
- Improved handling characteristics
- Butt joint - grease duct system
- Saves space, materials; simple, effective technique
- Zero clearance to combustible items
- Listed ASTM E2336 system - code compliant
- Certified online installation training
- Engineering Judgments provided quickly
- Made in the USA

Local Unifrax Contacts:
- Alan Finley - OK, MO, KS, NE, CO 918-640-2459
- Scott Marker - IN, IL, IA 630-235-4352
- Mark Sullivan - WI, MN, Dakotas 414-915-3156
- Tim Walter - South/Central Region 281-203-7553

www.unifrax.com  716-768-6500

Thermal Energy Products INC.
Reusable Thermal and Acoustical Insulation Covers

North Dakota Office
2702 7th Ave South
Fargo, ND 58103
Phone (701) 237-0071
Fax (701) 232-0400

California Office
114 Viking Ave
Brea, CA 92821
Sales@tepinc.com
www.tepinc.com

Abbie will be sitting in for Gary Auman this year, and will provide an extended update on the OSHA rule changes that will be affecting our members during our Environmental and Safety Committee meeting on Wednesday morning.

Kent Grisham is President and CEO of the Nebraska Trucking Association and the Truck Services, Inc. As President and CEO, Kent brings nearly 30 years’ experience in public relations, marketing, public affairs, and organizational development in Nebraska. Most recently, Kent owned a consulting firm that provided public relations and communication strategy assistance to a wide spectrum of clients. He has led several congressional, gubernatorial and local political campaigns.

Kent holds a bachelor’s degree in management and a master’s degree in organizational leadership. He holds certifications in crisis management and communications from FEMA and the NTSB. He is also a graduate of the Disney Institute for Business Excellence.

Kent currently serves as a regional chairman for the ATA’s Trucking Association Executive Council. He is Vice Chairman of the Board of GROW Nebraska, Inc. and serves on the Douglas County Fair Advisory Board. Kent will speak on challenges that the trucking industry is facing currently including new regulations that cause customers headaches with shipping delays, and the driver shortage that is so crucial for the industry.

We will end the fall business meeting with a panel discussion on “Industry Challenges from a Manufacturers’ Perspective”. Robert Thompson, President of the associate members, and Matt Hymer, President of MICA, have put together a panel of associate members who will participate in this most informative session. The Board of Directors anticipates that this initial panel discussion will be the beginning to a consistent effort to allow various associate members to share their experiences for the benefit of the MICA contractor members, The Board’s intent is to allow all associate member firms an opportunity to share their experience and participate on a panel at future MICA meetings. The Board feels that our associates have gathered a lot of “tribal knowledge” that can be shared with the general membership as a whole by focusing on process and “best practices” and not product.

Members for this first associate panel are Mark Smith with Knauf Insulation, Louis Walton with Proto Corporation, Craig Shirley with RPR Products and Brandon Donnay with Rockwool Technical Insulation.

We will continue with the table top displays again this year for our manufacturer member firms. These table top displays will be open for viewing during this year’s Wednesday evening reception. We will continue with the earlier start for the Wednesday reception. In order to accommodate earlier dinner reservations, our reception will begin at 5:00 p.m. and conclude at 6:30 p.m. This will still leave you with plenty of time for dinner and socializing with your fellow MICA members.

Our room block at the Embassy Suites has been released. The hotel is taking reservations on a room available basis at the prevailing rate. If you are in need of a room, you should contact the hotel directly at 402-346-9000.

This year’s program is a must attend for you and your key employees. We have tiered this year’s registration fee to encourage more participation by individual firms. The Board has also voted to keep the registration fee the same as last year. The registration fee is $215.00 for the first attendee from a member company. Registration for a second attendee from a given company is reduced to $205. Registration for all additional attendees is $195 per attendee. Completed registration forms should be e-mailed/mail/ faxed to the MICA office by October 4, 2019. Your prompt response helps us to plan a more efficient and effective meeting for you. Please note that you can pay the registration fee by credit card or by check.

The fall business meeting is designed to help you to become a better, more educated business professional. We have designed a program that not only addresses problems but also provides you with solutions. Do not miss this opportunity to come together to share business concerns with your fellow MICA members. Make your plans now to attend the 2019 Annual Fall Business Meeting this October in Omaha!

Dodge Momentum Index Moves Lower in August

The Dodge Momentum Index dropped 1.3% from July to August to 137.8 (2000=100) from the revised August reading of 139.6. The Momentum Index, issued by Dodge Data & Analytics, is a monthly measure of the first (or initial) report for nonresidential building projects in planning, which have been shown to lead construction spending for nonresidential buildings by a full year. The drop in September was the result of a 16.6% decline in the institutional component offsetting a 9.1% gain in the commercial component.

On a year-over-year basis, the overall Momentum Index is 10.3% below August 2018, suggesting that construction spending will be settling back as the year progresses. However, most of the decline occurred in 2018 – the Momentum Index has lost only 1.8% since the beginning of 2019, indicating that while construction activity will ease it is not in a freefall. On a year-over-year basis, the institutional component is 22.5% lower, while the commercial component is down 2.4%.

In August, there were 11 projects each with a value of $100 million or more that entered planning. The leading commercial projects were a $215 million office building in Mount Juliet TN and a $200 million Amazon fulfillment center in Memphis TN. The leading institutional projects were a $235 million hospital tower in Salem OR and a $150 million dormitory at the University of South Carolina in Columbia SC.
HOT — BUT NOT BOTHERED
CONSISTENT THERMAL PERFORMANCE

InsulThin® HT Hydrophobic Blanket

InsulThin HT is a thin, high-temperature blanket that has been proven through data and testing to offer consistent thermal performance for industrial applications.

- It does not undergo thermal shift, allowing for optimized process control and personnel safety
- Hydrophobicity helps prevent water intrusion and CUI
- Low profile and flexibility makes InsulThin HT ideal for applications with space constraints

JM.com/InsulThin-HT
The No-Dust Alternative to Aerogel Blanket

VARIOUS THICKNESSES AVAILABLE, UP TO 60 INCH WIDTH

HYDROPHOBIC UP TO 600F CONTINUOUS

SUITABLE UP TO 1200F (600F TO 1200F WITH PROPER VENTILATION)

LEWCO

SUPER MAT

Member of

NIA National Insulation Association

WWW.LEWOSUPERMAT.COM  WWW.LEWOSPECIALTYPRODUCTS.COM

PHONE 225.924.3221 • (800)221.6414 • FAX 225.927.2918

BATON ROUGE, LA
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR ISSUES FINAL OVERTIME RULE

The U.S. Department of Labor announced a final rule to make 1.3 million American workers eligible for overtime pay under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA).

"For the first time in over 15 years, America's workers will have an update to overtime regulations that will put overtime pay into the pockets of more than a million working Americans," Acting U.S. Secretary of Labor Patrick Pizzella said. "This rule brings a commonsense approach that offers consistency and certainty for employers as well as clarity and prosperity for American workers."

"Today's rule is a thoughtful product informed by public comment, listening sessions, and long-standing calculations," Wage and Hour Division Administrator Cheryl Stanton remarked. "The Wage and Hour Division now turns to help employers comply and ensure that workers will be receiving their overtime pay."

The final rule updates the earnings thresholds necessary to exempt executive, administrative, or professional employees from the FLSA's minimum wage and overtime pay requirements, and allows employers to count a portion of certain bonuses (and commissions) towards meeting the salary level. The new thresholds account for growth in employee earnings since the currently enforced thresholds were set in 2004.

In the final rule, the Department is:

- raising the "standard salary level" from the currently enforced level of $455 to $684 per week (equivalent to $35,568 per year for a full-year worker);
- raising the total annual compensation level for "highly compensated employees (HCE)" from the currently-enforced level of $100,000 to $107,432 per year;
- allowing employers to use nondiscretionary bonuses and incentive payments (including commissions) that are paid at least annually to satisfy up to 10 percent of the standard salary level, in recognition of evolving pay practices; and
- revising the special salary levels for workers in U.S. territories and in the motion picture industry.

The final rule will be effective on January 1, 2020.

The increases to the salary thresholds are long overdue in light of wage and salary growth since 2004. Nearly every person who commented on the Department's 2017 Request for Information, participated at listening sessions in 2018 regarding the regulations, or commented on the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking agreed that the thresholds needed to be updated for this reason.

The Department estimates that 1.2 million additional workers will be entitled to minimum wage and overtime pay as a result of the increase to the standard salary level. The Department also estimates that an additional 101,800 workers will be entitled to overtime pay as a result of the increase to the HCE compensation level.

A 2016 final rule to change the overtime thresholds was enjoined by the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas on November 22, 2016, and was subsequently invalidated by that court. As of November 6, 2017, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit has held the appeal in abeyance pending further rulemaking regarding a revised salary threshold. As the 2016 final rule was invalidated, the Department has consistently enforced the 2004 level throughout the last 15 years.

More information about the final rule is available at https://www.dol.gov/whd/overtime2019/.

LEGAL COUNSEL RESPONSE TO THE DOL OVERTIME PAY ANNOUNCEMENT

Below is the response from Jessica Ficklin with our legal counsel firm of Auman, Mahan & Furry regarding the DOL’s overtime pay announcement in the previous news release:

Today the U.S. Department of Labor (“DOL”) announced a change to the salary threshold used to determine which employees are eligible for overtime pay. Effective January 1, 2020, employees will be eligible for overtime pay if they make less than $684 per week ($35,568 per year), regardless of whether they perform the types of duties that fall within the executive, administrative, and/or professional exemptions to the federal overtime rule.

The current salary threshold of $455 per week ($23,660 per year) has been in effect for many years. The announced increase is significant, but it is not to the level that had been discussed during the Obama Administration, which had considered potentially doubling the current threshold to over $900 per week.

The new rule also does not alter the “duties tests” for the so-called white collar overtime exemptions referenced above, and it does not contain any automatic increase to

(Continued on page 19)
LIGHT & DURABLE
APPLICATION-DRIVEN INNOVATION

XSPECT™ ISOfoam APF
XSPECT ISOfoam APF is a durable, lightweight board designed to simplify fabrication and installation while maximizing versatility.

- Closed-cell polyisocyanurate foam board with 2-sided foil facer
- Used to make lightweight, tightly sealed systems that are moisture resistant
- Delivers exceptional R-value per inch
- Variety of hot and cold and mechanical and OEM applications

JM.com/XSPECT
Your Project Partner from Design to Operation, providing:

- Guide specifications and installation manuals
- Advanced design software to model all insulation system aspects
- Installation Training / Site Assistance
- Innovative Solutions to existing site problems
- Full system solutions for Thermal, Acoustics, and Jacketing

Worldwide Leader in the production of Elastomeric Insulation for Energy Saving
So what are your next steps as an employer in response to this announcement? First, determine if you have any currently exempt employees whose overtime eligibility may be affected by this change to the salary threshold – i.e., do you have exempt employees making less than $684 week or $35,568 per year? If the answer is yes, the second step would be to determine how your organization wants to address the issue as to each affected employee. Your labor and employment counsel can offer some options, which could include adjusting an affected employee’s salary to meet the new threshold, or reclassifying the employee to non-exempt status and paying overtime. Another step would be to review other currently exempt positions that you may be hiring for in the near future, which also could be impacted by this new rule.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR APPROVES NEW RESPIRATOR FIT TESTING PROTOCOLS TO PROTECT WORKERS FROM AIRBORNE CONTAMINANTS

The U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) issued a final rule that provides employers with two new fit testing protocols for ensuring that employees’ respirators fit properly.

The new protocols are the modified ambient aerosol condensation nuclei counter (CNC) quantitative fit testing protocol for full-facepiece and half-mask elastomeric respirators, and the modified ambient aerosol CNC quantitative fit testing protocol for filtering facepiece respirators. Both protocols are variations of the original OSHA-approved ambient aerosol CNC protocol, but have fewer test exercises, shorter exercise duration, and a more streamlined sampling sequence.

These two quantitative methods add to the four existing in Appendix A of OSHA’s Respiratory Protection Standard, which contains mandatory respirator fit-testing protocols that employers must choose from to protect employees from hazardous airborne contaminants. The rule does not require employers in general industries, shipyard employment, and construction to update or replace their current fit testing methods, and does not impose additional costs.

The rule becomes effective September 26, 2019.
Custom fabrication of rigid insulation into shapes and sizes for all kinds of pipes, fittings, valves, vessels and specialty heads.

- STYROFOAM®, TRYMER®, PHENOLIC, & FOAMGLAS®
- Accessories for all insulation jobs
- We stock cut-to-fit aluminum SE.016
- We specialize in ammonia refrigeration
- We stock RG-2400LT™ and RG-2400NP™

For questions, quotes and orders, email us at sales@cookbro.com

For pricing, product and other important information, visit us at www.cookbro.com
TANIDIVISION

Removable/Reusable Insulation Blankets

- Custom Fit and Fabricated
- Ideal for Turbines, Vessels, Pumps, Valves, Exhausts, Instruments, Expansion Joints, etc.
- Provide Personnel Protection
- 1 Year Payback with Energy Savings
- Welding Cloth & Industrial Fabrics Available
- Over 40 years of Fabricating Experience

Contact Us Today!
320-845-4733 | www.tanidivision.com
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR HANDLES RETALIATION COMPLAINTS UNDER NEW TAXPAYER FIRST ACT

The U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has been granted authority to handle worker retaliation complaints under the Taxpayer First Act (TFA). The statute was signed into law on July 1, 2019.

Under the TFA, OSHA will investigate complaints of retaliation against employees for providing information regarding underpayment of tax; violations of internal revenue laws; or violations of federal law relating to tax fraud to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), another federal entity listed in the statute, a supervisor, or any other person working for the employer who has the authority to investigate, discover, or terminate misconduct.

The TFA also prohibits retaliation against employees for testifying, assisting, or participating in any administrative or judicial action taken by the IRS relating to an alleged underpayment of tax, violation of internal revenue law, or violation of federal law relating to tax fraud.

OSHA will process TFA whistleblower complaints using procedures under the Wendell H. Ford Aviation Investment and Reform Act for the 21st Century (AIR21), 49 U.S.C. § 42121, until an interim final rule is issued.

OSHA’s Whistleblower Protection Program enforces the whistleblower provisions of more than 20 whistleblower statutes protecting employees from retaliation for reporting violations of various workplace safety and health, airline, commercial motor carrier, consumer product, environmental, financial reform, food safety, health insurance reform, motor vehicle safety, nuclear, pipeline, public transportation agency, railroad, maritime, securities, and tax laws, and for engaging in other related protected activities. Visit www.whistleblowers.gov for more information.

NEW CONSTRUCTION REPORT REVEALS THE “DATA OWNERSHIP BATTLE” BETWEEN PROJECT OWNERS AND CONTRACTORS

New York – September 25, 2019 – A ground-breaking new study by Dodge Data & Analytics in collaboration with construction technology provider e-Builder, a Trimble Company, reveals the unintended consequences of increased adoption of project management software by
Long known for its weatherproof cladding and vapor barriers, Polyguard’s Mechanical Division now offers superior insulation systems (including corrosion protection for CUI) targeting below ambient and chilled water applications.

Alumaguard®  RG-2400®  Styrofoam® XPS

PolyPhen®  Insulrap®/ZeroPerm®

- Weatherproof Jacketing • CUI protection
- Vapor Barriers • Insulation

214-515-5000  Mechanical Division

For a complete list of products, visit www.Polyguard.com/mechanical
Manufacturer of the patented IPS Inspection Port, the cost effective way to access piping and vessels when performing CUI inspections.

Features and Benefits:
- Watertight Seal without Screws, O-Rings or Caulk
- Installs Easily without Special Tools
- Reduces Installation Time

MODEL 210
For 6mm+ Pyrogel® Aerogel Insulation

MODEL 95
U. S. Patent #6082576

MODEL 206
For cal-sil, foam glass or perlite insulation. Also PVC jacket.

1-888-236-0408
39421 Highway 929, Prairieville, LA 70769
Ph. (225) 622-6183
Fax. (225) 622-6787
www.ipseals.com

“Please see our website for complete product listings and specifications”

---

VALUE ENGINEERED PRODUCTS

High temperature solutions for refinery, power, nuclear, military, marine, OEM, heat protection, aerospace and automotive applications.

High Temperature Textiles
- Woven Fiberglass Fabrics
- Silicone
- PTFE
- Vermiculite & Acrylic Coatings
- Laminates
- Silica
- Needle Punched Mats

Accessories
- Knitted Wire Mesh
- Woven Fiberglass Tapes
- Tie Wire
- Custom Fabricated
- Welding Blankets
- Welding Gloves
- Welding Curtains

Standard items ship in 3 days or less!
Insulated pipe supports
Thermal hanger shields
MSS type 40 shields
Cal shields

Denver, Colorado
303-715-9990 | sales@valueng.com | www.valueng.com
project owners and the impact it has when contractors use their own, disconnected software workflows.

The study, entitled “Connecting Owners and Contractors: How Technology Drives Connected Construction,” highlights the challenges that arise when owners and contractors manage construction projects using disparate software applications without automated data exchange. For standard processes such as RFIs, submittals and progress payments, this situation can drive increased cost, higher risks and schedule delays. Conflict over data ownership and transparency often results in duplicate data entry and negative impacts to productivity.

Key findings from the study reveal the growing challenge:

- 42% of contractors report using both the owner’s project management application, as well as a specialized project management application designed for contractors. This results in increased risk to the contractor due to duplicated effort.
- Only 45% of respondents are satisfied with the current state of data connectedness. 65% of owners and 51% of contractors see high or very high value in a single data platform that all parties can use for collaboration and sharing.
- 73% of contractors report medium or high impact on the productivity of workers due to double-entry of construction data.

“The need for contractors and owners to use their own project management applications has always been there,” said Steve Jones, Senior Director of Industry Insights from Dodge Data & Analytics. “The problem is, they [the two applications] have not worked together well. The data in this research quantifies the impact of the data silos between contractor and owner.” The problem will only increase as more project owners adopt their own project management system. Trimble’s strategy of connecting construction data, as part of its Constructible Process, seeks to provide efficiencies in building construction.

“The instant the first construction management software was invented, the clash over data ownership and transparency on construction projects was born,” said Chris Bell, Vice President of Marketing at e-Builder. “Unlike some vendors that attempt to serve multiple stakeholders with the same application, the latest technology trend is purpose-built software with connected data. We are proud to be the first to offer this for construction project management.”

A complimentary version of the Connecting Owners & Contractors SmartMarket Brief is available at www.connectedaec.com.

**AUGUST CONSTRUCTION STARTS DECREASE 6 PERCENT**

NEW YORK--(BUSINESS WIRE)--New construction starts dropped 6% over the month in August to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of $807.1 billion, according to Dodge Data & Analytics. August’s decline breaks a string of three consecutive month-to-month gains. By major sector, non-building construction fell 15% in August, reversing the large increases made in the previous month when several notable projects started. The declines in residential and nonresidential building were milder – falling 1% and 3% respectively in August.

The August statistics lowered the Dodge Index to 171 (2000=100) compared to 182 in July, marking the lowest reading for the Index since May. Despite the month’s decline, the Index remains above its 2019 average of 167.

Year-to-date through eight months, total construction starts were 5% lower than the same period a year ago due to declines in residential and nonresidential buildings. Non-building construction activity was 3% higher through the first eight months of the year due to gains in electric utilities/gas plants.

“The August decline was expected after July’s robust level of starts,” stated Richard Branch, Chief Economist for Dodge Data & Analytics. “Furthermore, the year-to-date activity continued to suggest that this year’s levels are easing back from what was seen in 2018 – essentially mirroring the slowdown in overall economic growth.”

**Non-building construction** starts reached $217.4 billion (at a seasonally adjusted annual rate) in August, a 15% decline from the previous month. Environmental public works (drinking water, sewers, hazardous waste, and other water resource projects) fell 43% from July to August, while miscellaneous non-building fell 32%. Both types of construction had shown remarkable strength in July as (Continued on page 30)
Sometimes the best amenities are the ones you don’t see

For nearly 30 years, our fire-rated enclosure systems have been providing peace of mind, while quietly protecting our customers’ lives and investments. From our DryerWrap™ products - extensively used throughout multi-family housing ductwork - to our FastWrap™ XL products - ideal for commercial kitchen exhaust and ventilation ducts - more people trust the FireMaster™ family of products to hold the line.

FastWrap™ XL

- Fire rated up to 2192°F (1200°C)
- 1 to 2-hour UL rated for kitchen exhaust ducts
- Won’t age, become brittle, or shrink
- Zero clearance to combustibles
- Meets ASTM E84 smoke/flammability rating
- FastDoor™ XL panel provides liquid-tight grease duct access for easy maintenance

DryerWrap™

- UL and ULC listed for 1-hour protection inside rated wood frame construction
- Flexible, 1/2-inch thick optimizes installation costs and space
- Tested on 30 gauge, 7-inch round and 26 gauge 10- x 4-inch rectangular duct
- Improved safety with applications specific testing

North America
Morgan Advanced Materials
Thermal Ceramics Inc
2102 Old Savannah Road, Augusta, Georgia 30906. USA
t +1 (706) 796 4200
marketing.tc@morganplc.com

www.morganthermalceramics.com
SureShotII changes your concept of pin welding...times TWO. Be it Cupheads, Weld Pins, or even Weld Studs -- SureShotII can deliver. With updated Hybrid Technology and Dual Operating Power, SureShotII uses the best of all worlds to provide Capacitor Discharge fastener welding second to none. In the lightweight and rugged packaging you’ve come to expect from SureShot (weighing in at 18 lbs.) this Welder has the power to weld virtually any Stud fastener known to the CD application market: with only 110volt (or 220volt incoming power). User-friendly, the system offers multi-level safety and operational designs to get the job done quickly, safely and reliably --- truly delivering the power of "II".
Service that adds Value

Our job is to make your job easier.
Every person in the DI family is committed to delivering the best insulation solutions with an unmatched customer experience, aimed at keeping your projects productive and successful.

Insulation Distribution and Fabrication
Industrial • Commercial • Fabrication • Marine
Fire Protection • Metal Building • Residential • HVAC
Abatement Supplies • Safety & Contractor Supplies
Removable Pads • Refractory Tools & Equipment • Performed Heads

For the nearest location, please visit
www.distributioninternational.com
© 2018 Distribution International
work on several large projects got underway. Offsetting these declines was a 10% increase in street and bridge projects. The electric utility/gas plant category also gained 9% over the month.

The largest non-building construction project to start work in August was the $2 billion Permian Highway Pipeline Project in Texas. Also breaking ground during the month was the $840 million Lynwood Link Extension rail line in Washington and the $625 million Palen Solar Farm in Desert Center CA.

Through the first eight months of 2019, non-building construction was 3% higher than 2018. However, environmental public works and electric utility/gas plants were the only categories within non-building construction registering a positive year-to-date gain.

Nonresidential building starts dropped 3% from July to August, to $283.9 billion (at a seasonally adjusted annual rate). August’s decline was the direct result of a 66% drop in manufacturing starts, which had soared in July when the $1.0 billion Foxconn manufacturing complex broke ground in Mount Pleasant WI. Commercial construction starts rose 7% in August to $135.2 billion (annual), the result of increases in offices and warehouses. Institutional starts rose 2% in August to $138.2 billion (annual) due to increases in health and education facilities.

Several notable nonresidential projects got underway in August, including the $450 million Joan Paul Rubschlager University Cancer Care Center in Chicago IL and two Facebook data centers — a $400 million facility in Altoona IA and a $350 million building in New Albany OH.

Through the first eight months of 2019, nonresidential building starts totaled $188.2 billion, a decline of 7% over the same time frame of 2018. Commercial starts were 3% higher year-to-date, fueled by gains in offices, warehouses, and parking structures. Starts for stores and hotels were lower through the first eight months of this year. Institutional construction was 5% lower year-to-date at $92 billion with declines evident across all institutional categories. Manufacturing construction starts were 46% lower year-to-date.
REASONS TO INSTALL
AP ARMAFLEX® BLACK LAPSEAL™

Fast & Easy
Wider release tab, quick installation

Unique
Lap seal closure, greater seam security

Size Range
3/8” to 6” ID
3/8” to 2” Wall

The easy-to-install, fiber-free, closed cell pipe insulation with a unique lap seal for greater seam security and increased protection against condensation, mold and energy loss.

The angled cut and low profile lap seal deliver a superior bond that installs quicker than ever before.