

# Enhancing the Pressroom

*Solutions for improving safety, productivity and the overall environment in print production facilities.*

## Eliminating Static

*Humidification system proves beneficial for Burlington, Ontario's Battlefield Graphics.*

For more than 40 years Battlefield Graphics has positioned itself as a leader in technology advancement, maintaining a edge over the competition by differentiating its service offering. The high-quality commercial printing company with over 72 employees, located in Burlington, Ontario, produces products for a roster of top-shelf clients throughout Canada and the United States.

In January 2005, Battlefield installed the first Heidelberg Speedmaster SM102 12-colour perfecter in North America, and to maximize the benefits of the new press and optimize the overall performance of its pressroom the company also installed a high-pressure humidification and standardized process water system.

"To stay very competitive in the North American market we have to produce consistent quality, without sacrificing delivery time," says Jerry Theoret, vice president of family-owned Battlefield Graphics. "In order to create optimum conditions for our new 12-colour press, we chose a DRAABE high-pressure air humidification system."

Even before installation of the new press, Battlefield had been researching air humidification and water purification systems. The problem they were looking to address was static electricity. Battlefield prints many jobs on plastic through its 40-inch presses. Press operators were always battling static

electricity problems when handling the plastic sheets.

"We researched many humidification systems and looked at all of them at trade shows," says Bob Smith, general manager of Battlefield Graphics. "We were no longer interested in steam humidification due to the costs of operation and heavy-duty maintenance involved."

Battlefield chose to install the TurboFog system throughout its entire plant, from prepress to press to bindery. The high-pressure



air humidification system uses a pulsating hydraulic flow and titanium nozzles that atomize the water to a micro-fine aerosol. The process is energy efficient and quiet.

The water used in the system first runs through an integrated reverse osmosis unit generating pure, demineralized water to ensure hygienic and trouble-free operation. This same purified water system serves double duty, as it is also used as standardized process water to feed all of the printing presses at Battlefield, protecting them against corrosion and mineral build up.

"The system has allowed us to increase our production in plastic printing with less knock-offs in the feeder, less waste in our premium plastic sheets, and less static generated," says Smith."

"Not only did we have static on press, but our employees in the prepress department complained of electrostatic charges generated from their computers," adds Smith. "They were getting nose bleeds and dry throats from the static. Having the DRAABE system installed in this department has eliminated all of these ailments. The prepress department is ecstatic!"

Smith continues, "I don't think North American printers put enough emphasis on installing a humidification system in their plants but they should. I don't know how we lived without ours!" **CP**



## Now Hear This!

Hearing protection company Howard Leight has redesigned and updated its AirSoft multiple-use earplugs featuring softer material, new design features and new engineering to provide an improved fit and performance. First introduced nearly 30 years ago, AirSoft was the first earplug to use an internal air pocket to dampen sound in industrial environments.

The new design incorporates a series of fins within the internal pocket. As the air pocket compresses in the ear canal, the fins interweave to create a noise-blocking barrier optimized to the wearer's ear canal. A fourth flange has been added to AirSoft's profile, and the center shaft has been stiffened to aid insertion and removal, and to assure a more consistent fit.



The new flange design creates an improved seal in the ear canal and is more tapered, with rounded edges, to increase comfort. As a result, AirSoft fits more comfortably in a wider range of ear canals, eliminating the necessity for multiple sizes.

The original PVC material in AirSoft has been replaced with TPE which also increases comfort, especially during long-time wear.

AirSoft is available in corded and uncorded versions, and at NRR 27, AirSoft provides the industry's highest attenuation available in a multiple-use earplug.

For more information on these and other hearing protection devices for pressroom environments visit <http://www.hearingportal.com>