

Product Focus

Plant Equipment

Hearing protectors help combat hearing loss, improve compliance

Effective hearing protection should be comfortable, effective, and yet still enable people to talk to one another.

Custom Protect Ear's hearing protection devices are made of a medical-grade silicone, and they are designed to be soft and flexible. The advantage of the softer devices is better comfort and function. They change shape slightly as the wearer's ear canal changes shape when talking or chewing, thereby continuing to seal during those activities.



Greater comfort addresses a significant problem facing health and safety managers who oversee hearing loss prevention programs: getting people to wear hearing protection products and policing their use.

Including a filter and vent in custom ear protectors like Custom Protect Ear's can make speech more understandable by reducing attenuation at higher speech frequencies. This allows them to be left in while talking, and isn't possible with typical solid foam earplugs.

Talking by two-way radio is also common in manufacturing settings. But because a radio must be louder than factory noise for a worker to hear it, it usually is the loudest sound source in the work setting, which must be protected against to avoid hearing loss.

To deal with this problem, Custom Protect Ear connects incoming radio audio to the outside of the hearing protector so the device's filter reduces decibel volume and the worker does not have to remove the hearing protector during his or her shift. Because the proprietary filters "squeeze" high and low frequencies to block potentially harmful sound waves, communication comes through, but harmful noise does not.

For more info, call toll-free at 1-800-520-0220 ext 323; Email: hearus@protectear.com; or see www.protectear.com/us. In Canada, call Custom Protect Ear toll-free at 1-800-520-0220 ext 321; fax 604-599-7377; email hear@protectear.com; or access www.protectear.com.

ESAB unveils Smart Plasmarc 200 system for heavy-duty mechanized cutting

ESAB Cutting Systems introduces Smart Plasmarc 200, a new m² plasma system for heavy-duty mechanized cutting. The m² plasma system cuts a broad range of material types and thicknesses using air, oxygen, or nitrogen gases. It delivers high-productivity piercing and cutting in mild steel up to 38 mm (1.25 inches) thick, with capacity to edge start and sever materials up to 50 mm (2 inches) thick, and is engineered for high reliability and easy operation.

High cutting speeds improve efficiency and produce more cut parts per hour. Compared with oxy-fuel, ESAB's m2-200 is more than four times faster on 12 mm (1/2 inch) mild steel. Quick setups and process changes also maximize the productivity of this cutting system.

The m2-200 system provides high cut quality with minimal dross, reduced warping, and a small heat-affected zone,



Miller expands its Welding Intelligence

As part of its Welding Intelligence solutions, Miller Electric Mfg Co has expanded its welding information management software to multiple power sources, including the Continuum advanced MIG welder, Dynasty 280 DX TIG welder, PipeWorx 400 welding system, and SubArc Digital series.

Miller Welding Intelligence is a category of active and passive software that transforms data into meaningful insights and actionable information to drive continuous improvements in welding. The focus of these solutions is to help increase productivity, improve quality and manage costs. Additional benefits include:

- Complete fleet coverage—Solutions available for new and existing Miller equipment, as well as non-Miller machines.
- Complete application coverage—MIG, TIG, pipe, and submerged arc machines available with Welding Intelligence.
- Scalable solutions—The choice of simple passive systems or more sophisticated active systems.

Insight Centerpoint has been upgraded to Centerpoint 9.0 software. This software offers feature improvements, such as a new Library Manager tool that better organizes weldment drawings and photos, and a more visual dashboard layout with speedometer-style performance indicators. Insight Centerpoint 9.0 also offers a persistent operating system that automatically picks up in sequence where the operator left off, following a power cycle. Other improvements include:

- Smart Part Tracking—This feature calculates the deposition required for the weld when the welding operator enters a weld symbol and fillet size.
- Standard AWS weld symbols—These provide annotation of the weldment to help save production and planning time.
- Codes and Standards module—Captures required information relating actual welding parameters to a specific welding operator, contract, joint and weld pass to ensure productivity and quality requirements are met.

For more information, see www.MillerWelds.com/Insight.

resulting in fewer secondary operations and a lower per-part cost than oxy-fuel cutting. A full 100% duty cycle at 200 amps enables the system to handle demanding production requirements with high reliability.

ESAB's newest plasma cutting system is also easy to use. A built-in process database features optimized cutting parameters that help ensure consistent cutting results. Parameters are selected and controlled in one step. Simple and intuitive operator controls reduce the need for operator training, minimize errors, and shorten setup time. Advanced diagnostics simplify troubleshooting and maintenance.

The m2-200 replaces ESAB's mechanized ESP-150 and ESP-200 systems. ESP-150 packages with hand torches and in-line torches remain available for non-automated cutting.

For more information, access www.esab.com.