

Keeping welders safe

Companies that look after the health and welfare of their employees are the ones that will remain sustainable in the future. This is according to Wim Dessing, managing director of Apex Strip Curtains & Doors who says the demand for Apex welding and safety screens has increased significantly over the last number of years.

“While providing a visible barrier, standard tinted PVC material does not give the required protection,” he says, citing this as the reason for the increase in demand for the company’s screens.

The welding and safety screens are made from a specially formulated PVC material, which incorporates a heavy-duty ultraviolet light absorber, ensuring that dangerous ultraviolet radiation is safely contained in the curtained-off area. This provides a high level of protection for workers in close proximity to welding activities. Extensive tests conducted by the SABS have proved that the Apex welding and safety screens are far superior to conventional material. Tested for ultraviolet transmittance, the conventional material gave readings of 0,0005%, 0,008% and 5,0% as opposed to Apex readings of 0,005%,



Apex welding screens are available in several configurations with the most popular being the freestanding frame.

0,001% and 0,005%. The conventional material allows 78%, while the Apex material allows only 15,5% light transmittance.

“The figures speak for themselves,” Dessing says. “The welding screen is available in several configurations to suit individual requirements, but we have found that the most popular version is the freestanding frame as it allows easy handling and portability. The screens’ angled feet allow optimum utilisation

of floor space and the screens can be butted together at a 90° angle,” he explains. Where customers choose to use traditional hanging curtains, mobility is still provided by the patented Balledge®. This means that while allowing easy access to cordoned off areas, the strips easily part on contact and return to their original configuration afterwards to ensure an efficient close.

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Messer earns ‘brand of the century’ recognition

Messer, along with 280 other brands, has been designated one of the ‘brands of the century’ and included in the new edition of the identically named standard work on German economic history.

The 16th edition of the classic work from the ‘Deutsche Standards’ publishing house, provides a portrait of the best-known and biggest German brands. By virtue of their productive capacity, these companies make a special contribution to the German economy while at the same time, set a benchmark for foreign competitors.

The fact that the Messer brand has been included in the top group of German manufacturers for the first time, underlines the company’s successful return to the German gas market in 2009.

www.messergroup.com

Specialist welders repair chain gypsies

Cape Town-based welding company Allweld Marine & Industrial has, since 1992, been the preferred repairer of ship and oilrig chain gypsies and anchor fairleaders in the Western Cape. This welding procedure is now offered not only to vessels visiting Cape Town but as an on-site service to all vessels throughout West Africa.

A chain gypsy is a wheel with cast pockets for hoisting chains; while a fairleader is a device that guides chains towards the gypsy and chain locker. Due to the nature of anchor operations, these steel components tend to wear when the chain is raised and lowered – caused through heat, abrasion, impact and steel-on-steel erosion. The unique profiles of these components are then reclaimed either through the fluxcored arc welding or shielded arc welding processes, and the final shaping of the component back to its original specifications is obtained using templates.

Dedicated welding teams that have been specifically trained on the recla-

mation of these components are available for on-site deployment, with senior supervision, as and when required.

Allweld Marine & Industrial:
+27 21 511 7473



Gypsy with chain in situ.

Welding systems for arduous conditions

Fronius has launched its steel transfer technology in the form of completely digitised TransSteel 3500 and TransSteel 5000 inverter power sources. Introduced at the recently held Schweissen & Schneiden trade fair in Germany, the intuitive functions and wire-feed system are ideally suited to steel welding.

The innovative approach to wire feeding in particular leads to further efficiencies in the steel transfer technology system. This lightweight, robust module comprising hosepack, torch and display ensures that the filler wire advances reliably. The 'comfort wire' function automatically takes care of wire threading. The user is able to easily remove the portable wire-feed unit making it easily accessible in difficult welding locations. The welding parameters remain stable regardless of the position of the hosepack.

A special ignition control feature prevents drops from forming at start up. In addition to the standard arc, two other types of arc can be selected: steel root has a fine, soft arc for applications including root runs or the filling of wide gaps; while steel dynamic with its extremely hard, stable spray arc is suitable for components requiring an especially strong joint.

The Fronius System Connector (FSC), which is suitable for both manual and robot applications and with gas- or water-cooled systems, improves quality with one central connector for all media – no external control plugs are required. The ergonomically designed torch can be changed quickly and safely using a lever.

www.fronius.com



The lightweight TransSteel power source is easy to use in difficult spaces.

High-speed oxygen plasma cutting systems

Auto-Cut O₂ systems from Thermal Dynamics are conventional, automated plasma cutting systems optimised for cutting mild steel at high speeds using oxygen.

These systems feature patented XT-301 torch technology with quick-change consumable parts, reliable and efficient inverter design, excellent parts life and a separate gas control module which allows for precise gas and current control. They are capable of good quality cuts on non-ferrous metals up to 30 mm using the unique water mist secondary system, which utilises water and nitrogen to produce excellent results at high speed and with low operation costs.

www.thermadyne.com

You know the brands...



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