

Dear Readers,

As you all well know, at many companies, inspection-related activities fall under the heading "quality assurance." That's a fitting place for it because, in essence, that's what inspection is all about: assuring customers that there's nothing about the item being inspected to prevent it from performing as it's supposed to. When the potential exists for people's lives to be at stake, inspection takes on a special significance. The theme for this issue of *Inspection Trends* is "Inspection in the Transportation Industry," and it contains three articles dealing with how industry fulfills its quality assurance pledge to the traveling public.

"Inspecting Welds in Rail" by Bertil Eklund and Bob Crocker details the weld discontinuities and defects that show up in railroad tracks and the methods used to detect them.

"Ultrasonic EMATs for Weld Inspection," by Borja Lopez and Pam Green gives an overview of ultrasonic electromagnetic acoustic transducer (EMAT) technology, which is often used to inspect tailor-welded blanks for the auto industry.

I recently had the opportunity to visit United Airlines' San Francisco maintenance facility and this issue includes an article describing some of the many facets of that airline's inspection activities.

In addition, you can preview the 16th World Conference on Nondestructive Testing to be held in Montreal, Canada, August 30 to September 3. Raymond Shepard wraps up his series on steelmaking in "Continuous Casting Produces High-Quality Steel." And in "Inspecting for Galvanization-Related Cracking in Steel Structures," Richard Beldyk discusses cracks hidden beneath galvanizing and which inspection methods work to detect them and which do not.

As you can see, this issue is jam-packed. I'd like to know what information you find most useful and any topics you'd like to see covered in future issues of *Inspection Trends*. So send me an e-mail or give me a call at the address or phone number below. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Mary Ruth Johnsen  
Editor

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