It is important for all of us to stay current with technology, products, procedures, and certifications as the hardbanding industry continues to improve the quality of applications. It is our goal through these bulletins, to help keep our customers and relationships informed of any industry changes as they occur. We would like to share some thoughts and a recent change that is important.

For Postle, the rules for the manufacturing and distribution of hardbanding products are relatively straightforward.
1. The product (wire) should be reliable & applicator friendly.
2. The product should be easily reapplied over itself and over other stable hardbanding products.
3. The metallurgy & properties of the hardbanding wire must be consistent.

Fearnley Proctor International Ltd. has recently modified their NS-1™ certification for hardbanding products to emphasize the above rules. The Fearnley Procter NS-1™ Accreditation Program is an independent evaluation service that is available to all suppliers of products, services and equipment to the Oil & Gas Industry. Trusted by end users and suppliers, it provides an independent assessment of the welding procedures and a qualification process for the initial application and re-application of hardbanding products and a comparison of its casing wear test results versus bare pipe.

From Fearnley Procter’s website:

Product – Hardbanding
An NS-1™ Approved Hardbanding Wire must hold both an NS-1™ Product Approval for its Initial Application onto bare tool joints and an NS-1™ Process Approval for its re-application, as a minimum over itself.

To summarize:
1. An NS-1™ approved hardbanding wire must hold an NS-1™ product approval for initial application onto bare tool joints.
2. New re-application requirement: An NS-1™ approved hardbanding wire must hold an NS-1™ product approval for re-application over itself.
3. An NS-1™ approved hardbanding wire must not alter it's metallurgical composition without going through the process of re-approval.
4. Any company with an NS-1™ approved hardbanding wire is asked to report to Fearnley Procter, any complaints, positive feedback from clients, and quantity of usage of the product during the re-approval process. Fearnley Procter however encourages end users of their NS-1™ approved products to give feedback whether good or bad at any time while the product is under approval.

Some hardbanding wire suppliers will have a hard time complying with revision to the NS-1™ approval. They may have a concern regarding the re-application properties of their products or they may not be able to guarantee consistent metallurgical properties.

Why would a hardbanding wire supplier allow their approvals to expire?

Hardbanding Solutions by Postle Industries will continue to support the NS-1™ certifications for Duraband®NC and Tuffband®NC. It is important to recognize the value NS-1™ certifications and what it means for your drill pipe. NS-1™ certification is your assurance that the product has been independently tested for initial applications, re-applications and that it is casing friendly.

Shown below is current information from the Fearnley Procter Website. These certifications continue to be valid. Both Duraband®NC and Tuffband®NC were already NS-1™ for initial application and re-applications since they were first introduced 10 years ago.

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