



SKOLNIK is a "specialized" manufacturer of carbon steel drums and stainless steel drums for highly valued contents.

From custom wine barrels to drums for hazardous materials (hazmat) and dangerous goods, we are a leader in specialty packaging.

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View Skolnik's History at
www.skolnik.com/history.shtml

PLAN TO SEE US IN JANUARY AT THE 2009 WINE SYMPOSIUM IN SACRAMENTO

Just a quick reminder, we'll be exhibiting our stainless steel wine drums at the Unified Wine & Grape Symposium January 28th and 29th in Sacramento. We are at booth number 241. Looking forward to visiting with our existing, and soon to be, customers. — Jason Snow

COSMETICS MANUFACTURER FINED A WHOPPING \$350,000 FOR HAZMAT VIOLATION

The penalties for negligence when shipping hazardous materials by air were emphasized recently when Benefits Cosmetics, a San Francisco based beauty retailer, admitted to breaking the law back in March 2006. Known for its brightly colored, candy themed color cosmetics, Benefits failed to follow guidelines for handling the toxic substance isopropyl alcohol. Better known as rubbing alcohol, isopropyl alcohol is commonly used as a cleaning fluid, and is also used to dissolve other ingredients in a variety of formulations by reducing the thickness of liquids and creams. On or about March 23, 2006, a Benefits employee recklessly caused isopropyl alcohol, a flammable liquid, to be transported in air commerce in violation of law. Probably drawing on lessons learned from the Value-Jet crash in 1996, the Californian law courts found that the company's employees were not properly trained or certified to prepare hazardous materials that were destined for air transport. The unusually large fine is intended, in part, to raise awareness in the beauty industry of hazardous material transportation regulations. — Howard Skolnik

IF YOU THINK YOU HAVE A SAFETY CULTURE - YOU PROBABLY DO NOT!

At a recent workshop hosted by the Department of Transportation, Vice Chairman Robert Sumwalt, of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), challenged all participants to promote a safety culture within their organizations. Drawing on his extensive professional experience and academic scholarship, Sumwalt delivered an inspiring presentation, reminding us that technological innovation and improved oversight cannot alone deliver optimum safety outcomes. He focused on NTSB investigations of serious hazmat incidents attributable to a lack of procedures or training of employees involved in safety sensitive activities. He stressed that a safety culture starts at the top, with leaders who embrace, promote, and communicate safety values at all levels in the organization, creating an environment in which employees do the right thing, "even when no one is watching." He challenged managers to assess their own safety culture, asserting that those who think they have a safety culture probably do not. Finally, Sumwalt closed by saying that a safety culture is more about the process than the product. It depends on the integrity and core values of leadership and how those values are communicated and enforced by the organization. — Howard Skolnik

A USEFUL 2-PART NASA TECHNOLOGY THAT IS UNRESOLVED!!!

Part 1 - US aerospace agency NASA has announced that it is developing a brain-monitoring hat for airline pilots to wear. The idea is that the hat sensors will know when pilots become "mentally overloaded" and help them to "realize" their condition. The hats are being developed at NASA's Glenn Research Center using "functional near infrared spectroscopy" and "other imaging technology". The spectroscopy hats work by measuring blood flow in the cortex and the concentration of oxygen in the blood. NASA describes them as "non-invasive, safe, portable and inexpensive". What we hope to achieve by this study is a way to sensitively – and unobtrusively - determine when pilots become mentally overloaded

Part 2 - There is no word on just how the mind probe hats would actually help a maxed-out pilot to cope. It is presumed that triggering a flashing light and sounding a loud recorded voice shouting "YOU ARE MENTALLY OVERLOADED! CALM DOWN!" would not be of much assistance. Alternatively, some kind of mechanical arm able to slap a panicking pilot or throw water in his face might be in order! NASA is, obviously, still working on a solution..

— Howard Skolnik