FAQs

Q. As the owner of a food processing plant, am I required to have the letter of FDA Direct Food Contact certification of compliancy on file?

A. FSIS inspectors from the USDA can demand the "Letter of Guarantee" that the product has met all compliance qualifications of CFR 175.300 including which Food Conditions and Food Types. A product data sheet alone may not be sufficient, third party confirmation of compliance is best and usually can be supplied by a lining vendor to support their claims. Additional information can be found here.

Q. Is only the finish coat required to have direct food contact compliance to CFR 175.300?

A. For steel tanks, the entire lining system, primer/intermediate/finish can over time be exposed to the food/beverage materials and become an "indirect additive" therefore it is safest and good practice to have all materials tested "in the finished form", including all colors of the product(s). Resurfacing materials for concrete/masonry substrates are not usually considered part of a lining system but should be finish coated with a CFR 175.300 compliant lining.

Q. Do you have written recommendations available that can be offered to an owner, contractor or specifier for food grade service?

A. Yes. We have complete guides for lining food grade direct contact tanks and vessels. We prefer to discuss the service to match appropriate products and thicknesses before issuing. Short form recommendations are available by downloading our Food and Beverage Processing Systems Guide here.

Q. The webinar is moving too fast for note taking, is there a copy of the presentation available?

A. Yes. Contact ist@tnemec.com for a copy of the presentation.

Q. One of our products is used in the making of animal feeds, that we store in steel hoppers, do we need FDA compliance for this service?

A. The FDA has minimal involvement with livestock and pet feed but has become more proactive with issues from imported animal consumables. FDA does require CFR 175.300 compliance for wet food processing in pet food production when vessels are used for "low acid canned foods" (LACF). However, most animal feed plants/owners are following USDA and FDA guidelines as a "best practice standard" for linings, floors and wall systems.

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Q. We have 316L stainless steel food tanks that have corrosion pitting what can be done?

A. The pitting can not only cause structural issues from corrosion but has now become an area for harboring pathogens and may no longer meet the "smooth and non-absorbent finish" requirement. Many stainless steel vessels have been refurbished with Tnemec ProPolymer linings. Preparation is key and discussed in our system recommendations.

Q. How do you deal with saw cuts, cracks and expansion joints in the substrate of your high performance floors?

A. Dealing with saw cuts and cracks in the substrate:

- Saw cuts are placed in the concrete designed to allow the concrete to crack through the remainder of the slab due to shrinkage. When applying coatings, that crack can be filled with products like our Series 215. Surface cracks can be treated the same way when there is no potential or expected movement.

- Surface hairline cracks that are a result of substrate movement need to be routed out with a v-blade or a crack chasing diamond blade then cleaned out. You can then fill those cracks with products like our Series 206 a flexible epoxy and apply a fiberglass mat or mesh to help bridge the movement in those cracks. Most of the time when there is movement in the substrate contractors will apply the mesh to the problem areas, then apply a flexible epoxy over the whole area. That will help with any or most of the future movement and cracking in the substrate.

A. Dealing with expansion joints:

- True expansion joints are two individual concrete slabs placed next to each other that are not tied together by continuous rebar. The adjacent slabs are often tied together with greased slip dowels. Those dowels are designed for lateral movement not vertical movement, and to keep the two individual surfaces flush.

- With the expected movement in the two slabs, I would always honor that joint through any coating system. Then apply a calking material in that joint, making sure that calking material can handle any chemicals it could come into contact with.

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