

## Handling Hot Bitumous Adhesive

As a supplier of equipment to the Roadmarking Industry, Kadcam Enterprises has a vested interest in keeping up to date with legislative changes and policy developments that relate to roadmarking equipment.

Of current interest is the area around the use of hot materials for markings and hot adhesives for RRPM placement, which focuses on areas such as heating methods, product design, hazard identification and elimination. To complicate matters, the industry is also faced with cross boarder trade in marking equipment and the need for compatible standards to be applied.

The New Zealand Roadmarkers Federation has taken a proactive role (in conjunction with the New Zealand Transport Agency) in setting the wheels in motion to establish a robust testing regime for roadmarking equipment, that will give operators and owners the security of knowing they have done everything possible to ensure the safe operation of equipment and a safe working environment for their employees.

On the other side of the equation is the security in purchasing equipment that is already manufactured to a high standard and is also compliant with industry standards and regulations.

At Kadcam Enterprises we have taken the view that the safest way to handle hot products is to utilize processes that are inherently safer than alternative options.

In our production of Bitumen Heaters for RRPM placement we have made a preference for electrical powered heating with oil jacketed pots to eliminate the potential hazards of toxicity from poor combustion of liquid or gaseous fuels, fire or explosion from ignition of accumulated gasses in un-purged combustion spaces, and precise temperature control to prevent damage to product from over-temperature. An additional benefit is the ability to safely preheat product without requiring oversight by personnel.

Our second preference was to maximize safety by isolating the hot product from the operators, right up to the point of placement on the road surfaces. To achieve this Kadcam Enterprises chose to use electrically heated hoses and guns to deliver the bitumen to its spot. The benefits of this are multiple and include accurate fast positioning independent of vehicle placement, improved heat retention in bitumen to ensure positive adhesion to RRPM and road surfaces, and the prevention of burns due to contact with hot tar.

By combining these features Kadcam is able to provide a safe practical, efficient bitumen heating and placement system that will meet your obligations as an employer.

While Gas is still an option for heating, Kadcam has experienced the difficulty and complexity of making proprietary equipment compliant with regulations. To exacerbate the complexity, New Zealand LPG and Australian LPG differ dramatically in composition to the extent that there are real dangers in failing to meet compliance in either country.

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