



Allerton Steel Case Study

Hilti DX 462 CM Powder-actuated marking tool

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Company: Heavy bespoke steel fabrication and bridges. Projects include work on The Shard, the ArcelorMittal Orbit at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, the expansion of Anfield's Main Stand and offshore oil rigs. The company is proud of its reputation for using leading innovation and technology. They invite clients to the shop floor to witness EDM 3D modelling, plasma bevel cutting and Hilti DX 462 marking systems. Clients are impressed. Offshore clients particularly approve and comment upon the proactive approach to health and safety topics. Allerton Steel partner with Hilti via their Account Manager and Hilti Online.

Application: Marking steel for purposes of identification and traceability. The cast number of the steel is on every cut to meet CE marking legislation and provide traceability. For internal records the job number is also marked. Structural steel tends to be grade s355 and offshore is s460.

Traditional method: Every letter/figure marked upon the steel manually with a metal stamp which was stuck with a hammer to make indentation. Each character applied one at a time.

- Accidents and injury common, striking of the thumb and hand
- Inconsistency in the force of strike and depth of indentation
- Very time consuming

Hilti method: Customer uses a DX 462 CM Powder-actuated marking tool (characters are 8 x 12 mm), to now stamp every steel piece, with a combination of alpha-numerical characters, as it comes off the cutting bed with one trigger press of the tool. Tool is used with DX Clean-Tec cartridges for a full solution approach. Clean-Tec cartridges come as numbered strips to ensure no cartridges are wasted and are free of lead and other heavy metals for easy disposal.

Legislation: The need for customers to mark their steel in some way has increased dramatically due to section 6.2 of the CE marking EN1090 regulation (At all stages of manufacturing each piece or package of similar pieces of steel components shall be identifiable by a suitable system).

Customer cites benefits as:

- "Massive benefits for health and safety"
- Offshore clients have been impressed with pro-active approach to improving health and safety
- Cordless system means no trip hazard on the shop floor from cables or wires
- Considerable increase of speed and productivity
- Consistent marking on variable grades of steel with power adjustment setting and cartridge selection
- Compliance with CE marking legislation
- Increased accessibility and reduced strike span compared to manual methods
- Reduced the number of accidents on the shop floor
- Reduced number of absences due to accident/injury on shop floor

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