Safety in Floor Matting

The environment we live in today is loaded with advertisements from all types of attorney’s going after slip, trip and fall victims. If it involves an entrance mat from a rental service, be prepared to be named as a defendant. You should be more concerned if this incident happens to be captured on security cameras and the mat appears to be buckled or defective in one way or another. Do not be too surprised to see your route service representative named as a defendant also. This has become a big business and shows no signs of slowing down. Attorneys are using every type of media there is to get their message out.

Our industry needs to be positioned to provide its prospects and customers with highly knowledgeable and professional, floor safety consultants who know and clearly understand those ANSI standards, OSHA regulations, ADA and ADAAG guidelines which insurance companies and businesses expect and demand from its service providers.

A number of years ago, manufacturers of mats took a bold step, providing their products to the NFSI (National Floor Safety Institute) for certification under the NFSI 101-C test method for measuring dry TCOF (Transitional Coefficient of Friction) of floor mat backing materials. Industrial laundries recently took another step and commissioned additional testing of mats (new vs. in-service) to prove our commitment in providing the safest product, exceeding our customer’s expectations. The results of these tests have proven to be beneficial in establishing our expertise to the legal and insurance industries alike, showing the need for floor mats in all types of environments.

Founded in 1997, the NFSI started with a mission to aid in the prevention of slips, trips, and falls through education, research, and standards development. The “B101.6-2012 Standard Guide for Commercial Entrance Matting in Reducing Slips, Trips and Falls” sets the standards for the proper selection, inspection, backing and sufficiency of commercial entrance matting. This standard has become “the tip of the iceberg” in providing our customers with the highest quality product, backed by service professionals second to none.

By embracing these standards and providing your personnel with the proper training, our industry is poised to gain the trust of not only those governing agencies, but the insurance industry who already notes...
the necessity of floor mats in the many White Papers they have published on this subject. Insurance companies know that proper entrance floor matting is essential in reducing and eliminating slips, trips, and falls for their insured. Providing safe floor mats will prove to be the best insurance policy for any companies who choose to do business with our industry. Those who choose to follow this standard can leave themselves exposed to many unnecessary litigious situations. Providing the highest quality product, placed by trained route professionals, who provide the final inspection and assure your customers that their mats are compliant, and meeting the highest “standard of care” set forth by our industry only increases your worth to your customer/prospect. Delivering value is what your business is all about.

On April 10, 1990, OSHA published Proposed Rules which are about to be approved and implemented. These new rules affect any customer who falls under OSHA oversight. Subpart D of 29CFR part 1910, Walking and Working Surfaces will require that only a “qualified person be permitted to inspect, maintain or repair walking and working surfaces...” Our industry needs to position itself to provide “Professional Floor Safety Consultants” who can assist customers in protecting their employees from these dangers. Slips, trips and falls in the workplace are a leading cause of lost time accidents. Insurance companies have measured these costs at $70 Billion Dollars a year! These slips, trips, and falls can happen every day in your own facility!

In a recent CSCNetwork training session, the Route Growth/Mat Sales Skills Workshop, those who attended received “the tip of the iceberg” on floor safety training. Those who benefited from this session should be looking to enhance those skills and use them to strengthen the many strong relationships they have with their current customers and prospects. There is no other service industry whose commitment to constant improvement matches that of the textile rental companies in CSCNetwork. Let’s continue to build on the strength we have! The training we provide, will be a key factor in whether we succeed or not.

Fred Anderson has 38 years of textile rental industry experience in facility services, healthcare, uniform, and hospitality services. He is an ANSI Accredited Walkway Auditor Certificate Holder and OSHA Outreach Trainer in Occupational Safety and Health Standards for General Industry. He is also an Expert Witness for slip trip, and falls, and has provided assistance to independent textile rental companies.

Contact:
(678) 644-9658
f.anderson@pilgrammats.com

**INTRODUCING LOIS: LAUNDRY OPERATION INFORMATION SYSTEM**


Meet LOIS, our new mobile app that lets you view plant operations anytime, anywhere! With dashboards for each Softrol product line, you can view today’s production information at a glance. Drill down capability lets you review more extensive reports for comparisons and past performance. To learn more about LOIS, visit our website and see LOIS for yourself.

www.softrol.com 1-888-SOFTROL