

tmta

talk

A Publication of the Tooling, Manufacturing & Technologies Association

From Rob's Roost

by: Rob Dumont,
President & CEO



Value Added

The TMTA is proud to say that after some effort, we now have a "FULL SERVICE" insurance agency. So, what does that mean to you the member? Our agency now offers virtually every kind of insurance you might need in your operation. In addition we can similarly provide those types of coverage you need personally such as home and auto insurances. These same policies are available to your employees as well.

We are very pleased to say that the TMTA Insurance Agency is now in a position to market the truly superior workers' compensation coverage offered by the Manufacturing & Technology Mutual Insurance Company (MTMIC). If you already have your insurance through the MTMIC, there is no change at all in the existing manner in which you get your coverage in terms of the agent you use or the fact that you get it directly from the MTMIC. The TMTA Insurance Agency *is not* the exclusive agent for the MTMIC and will focus its efforts relative to workers' compensation on marketing to those members who are not already getting that coverage through the MTMIC.

In terms of those types of insurance other than employee benefit coverage or, general property and casualty insurance, our agency now handles all applications internally by virtue of our relationship with the Ralph C. Wilson Agency. Now we can offer you the best coverage at the best price as we have direct access to a large number of carriers in the property and casualty area. For those who have limited familiarity with how insurance is placed, be assured that the availability of various

carriers is a major advantage. Many agencies have access to as few as two carriers.

On the employee benefits front (health insurance) we continue to be associated with the Blue Cross Blue Shield network of coverages. But we now offer 'VALUE ADDED' components of that coverage not previously available through our agency. For example, every employer is subject to the regulations of the Federal Department of Labor that mandates there must be a Summary Plan Description (SPD) in place. Note that this requirement is not optional and in the absence of the SPD an employer is exposed to some very substantial penalties. We are now able to assist you to be or become in compliance with the mandate.

For those member companies who by law must provide COBRA coverage to a departing employee, we now offer administrative services in that area as well.

In addition, for the aging population among member company employees, Medicare compliance services are now available. We can assist you with the various, often confusing, mandates of the Medicare system such as applications for coverage under Part B and/or Part D of the program and when an application is required. An employer must also provide, annually by the 15th of November a letter to Medicare eligible employees relative to what is known as 'CREDIBLE COVERAGE'. Many of these issues are at once confusing and burdensome but our agency is now in a position to provide relief. Contact the TMTA Insurance Agency with questions or requests for assistance.

Going forward we anticipate more and positive changes in the near term and you can be assured we will keep you advised as these develop. Expect to hear about seminars on current insurance issues in both the Employee Benefits arena and the Property and Casualty area.

(Rob's Roost continues on Page 7)

Inside This Issue

- Page 2 TMTA Insurance Agency - Health News
- Page 4 From the Desk of Gary Wood
- Page 5 In Memoriam / Legislative Update
- Page 6 Answering China
- Page 7 Currency Manipulation / Rob's Roost continued / OSHA Chemical Database / Marketplace
- Page 8 FYI / TMTA Endorsed Providers List / CPI-U/W-Inflation Talk

TMTA Calendar of Events—August 2007

Remember, visit the TMTA website Calendar at www.thetmta.com for detailed, up-to-date information on all events.

- 14 TMTA / Plante & Moran Seminar on the MBT
7:30 am - 10:00 am @ the Troy Hilton
- 16 MTMIC Board of Directors meets
- 22 TMTA Board of Directors meets



BCBS 2007 Pharmacy Initiative Delayed

The 2007 pharmacy initiative slated for July 1st will now debut in September 2007. This gives the Blues more time to communicate with their customers and more time for their customers to communicate with their employees.

Below is an overview of the new pharmacy initiative:

1—MEMBER EDUCATION THERAPEUTIC INTERCHANGE—A member-directed initiative that educates members about generic drugs and over-the-counter equivalents of expensive brand-name drugs.

Important: The physician must write a prescription for BCBSM to cover the OTC drug and have the member pay a generic copay.

ADDED VALUE:

- Lowers members' out-of-pocket copays;
- Members learn about less costly generics and OTC alternatives to expensive brand-name drugs; and
- Reduces benefit costs.

HOW IT WORKS:

- When a drug is part of this initiative, BCBSM encourages members to switch to a lower-cost alternative or OTC medicine by offering an incentive to cover their generic copay when they switch.
- BCBSM is targeting expensive brand-name drugs that have lower-cost generics, OTC alternatives or other brand-name drugs with the same effectiveness.
- The first drug BCBSM is targeting is Nexium®:
 - BCBSM has about 100,000 members using Nexium, accounting for 37% of BCBSM's book of business in 2006.
 - A month's supply of Nexium is approximately \$140, while Prilosec OTC® is approximately \$24 and the alternative generic, Omeprazole, is \$38.
 - Projected savings for the targeted drug Nexium:
 - Prilosec OTC: \$116 monthly or \$1,392 annually.
 - Omeprazole: \$102 monthly or \$1,224 annually.
- *The Blues expect this initiative to save \$31.5 million in the first year.*

WHAT IT MEANS TO MEMBERS:

- The first time a member fills a prescription for a target drug, BCBSM sends a letter to both the member and physician encouraging the prescribing of an OTC or generic alternative.
- If the member switches, his first prescription is free (copay waived).
- The member can continue receiving the higher brand-name drug for up to 90 days. After 90 days, the member's physician must provide evidence of medical necessity for the brand-name drug to be covered; otherwise, the member pays the full cost of the brand-name drug.

2—DOSE OPTIMIZATION—A physician-directed initiative encouraging a dosing regimen of once per day, instead of smaller doses throughout the day.

ADDED VALUE:

- May improve patient compliance leading to better medical outcomes;
- For some drugs, there is a potential cost savings of up to 50%; and
- Reduces benefit costs.

HOW IT WORKS:

- When a drug is part of this initiative, BCBSM works with the member's physician to switch the member to single daily dose of the same drug.
- Initial targeted drug classes are proton pump inhibitors (heartburn/GERD), statins (cholesterol lowering drugs), ARB inhibitors (high blood pressure) and antidepressants.

- An example of the cost savings this initiative will generate:

- Prescription: 30-day supply of Crestor®
 - 10mg, 2 times a day, 30-day supply: \$200.
 - 20mg, 1 time per day, 30-day supply: \$80.
- Savings: \$120 monthly or \$1,440 annually.

- *The Blues expect this initiative to save customers \$1.8 million the first year with a projected savings of \$5.9 million after three years.*

WHAT IT MEANS TO MEMBERS:

- The first time a member has a prescription filled for a target drug, BCBSM contacts the member's physician encouraging the physician to switch the member to a once-daily dosage of the same drug.

3—BRAND TO ALTERNATE GENERIC INTERCHANGE—A physician-directed initiative that encourages the replacement of brand-name drugs with less costly generic alternatives.

ADDED VALUE:

- Lowers out-of-pocket copays for members;
- Members learn about lower-cost generic alternatives to more expensive brand-name drugs; and
- Reduces benefit costs for groups.

HOW IT WORKS:

- When a drug is part of this initiative, BCBSM works with the member's physician to encourage a less costly generic alternative that is as equally effective as the brand-name drug.
- For some prescriptions this is a voluntary initiative and the member can switch back to the brand-name drug.
- A copay waiver is not offered with this initiative.
- Initial targeted drug classes are proton pump inhibitors (heartburn/GERD), statins (cholesterol lowering drugs), ARB inhibitors (high blood pressure) and antidepressants.
- An example of the savings this initiative will generate:
 - Cost of Prevacid®: \$112 monthly.
 - Cost of generic alternative Omeprazole: \$38 monthly.
 - Savings to the group: \$74 monthly or \$888 annually.
- *The Blues expect this initiative to save \$5.7 million in the first year with a projected savings of 18.5 million after three years.*

WHAT IT MEANS TO MEMBERS:

- The first time a member has a prescription filled for a target drug, BCBSM contacts the member's physician encouraging the physician to switch the member to a less-costly generic alternative.
- The member will only receive a letter if the physician agrees to change the prescription.
- For some prescriptions, this is a voluntary initiative and members do not have to have medical necessity to remain on the brand-name drug and can choose to switch back to the brand-name drugs at any time.

4—GENERIC COPAY WAIVER—A one-time copay waiver offered when members switch to the generic equivalent of a multi-source brand drug or single-source brand drug.

ADDED VALUE:

- Lowers out-of-pocket copays for members;
- Members learn about lower-cost generic alternatives to more expensive brand-name drugs; and
- Reduces benefit costs for groups.

HOW IT WORKS:

- This initiative targets multi-source brand drugs that have a generic equivalent already on the market and encourages members to switch to the generic by offering a copay waiver on a one-month supply of the generic drug.
- This initiative also targets single-source brand drugs that do not have a generic, but have a therapeutic equivalent. (For example: Lipitor® does not have a generic equivalent, but there are therapeutic equivalents.)
- Members receive prescriptions with the same effectiveness of the higher-cost drug and benefit from lower copays.

- An example of the savings this initiative will generate:
 - Cost of Lipitor: \$110 monthly or \$1,320 annually.
 - Cost of generic Simvastatin: \$6 monthly or \$72 annually.
 - Savings: \$104 monthly or \$1,248 annually.

- **The Blues expect this initiative to save \$5.2 million in the first year with a projected savings of \$16.7 million after three years.**

WHAT IT MEANS TO MEMBERS:

- The first time a member has a prescription filled for a target drug, BCBSM sends a letter to the member to have a discussion with a physician about switching to a generic alternative.
- If the member switches, the first prescription is free because the copay is waived.

5—BRAND TO BRAND THERAPEUTIC INTERCHANGE—A physician-directed initiative designed to encourage the replacement of targeted high-cost drugs with lower-cost branded drugs equal in strength and efficiency.

ADDED VALUE:

- Lowers out-of-pocket costs for members with percent copays and triple-tier benefit plans;
- Members learn about lower-cost equivalents to more expensive brand name drugs; and
- Reduces benefit costs for groups.

HOW IT WORKS:

- This initiative targets high-cost brand drugs that have many lower-cost therapeutic equivalents within a therapeutic class (i.e., migraine, high blood pressure).
- Members receive prescriptions with the same effectiveness and benefit from lower copays.
- Targeted drugs under consideration for this initiative include:
 - Xert[®] to Zomig[®] (migraine headaches)
 - Avapro[®] to Benicar[®] (high blood pressure)
 - Teveten[®] to Benicar[®] (high blood pressure)

- **The Blues expect this initiative to save \$12 million in the first year with a projected savings of \$39 million after three years.**

WHAT IT MEANS TO MEMBERS:

- The first time a member has a prescription filled for a target drug, BCBSM will contact the member's physician encouraging the physician to switch the member to a less-costly brand within the therapeutic class.
- The member will only receive a letter if the physician agrees to change the prescription.

6—QUANTITY LIMITS—Initiative that aligns dispensing of targeted drugs in quantities consistent with FDA-approved labeling or published clinical criteria for the drugs.

ADDED VALUE:

- Helps ensure patient is using medication appropriately; and
- Reinforces appropriate use and recommended guidelines.

HOW IT WORKS:

- This initiative targets drugs in the following therapeutic drug classes:
 - Topical estrogen
 - Erectile dysfunction drugs
 - Anti-migraine drugs
 - Osteoporosis drugs
 - Testosterone replacement drugs
- Initiative limits quantities of prescription drugs to the manufacturer-recommended dosing guidelines.
- Quantity limits will be a predetermined number of doses per one-month or 90-day supply.
- An example of the savings this initiative will generate:
 - Recommended dispensing limit-Viagra: 12 tabs at a cost of \$120.
 - Prescription written for 20 tab at a cost of \$240.
 - Savings: \$100 monthly or \$1,440 per year.

- **The Blues expect this initiative to save \$10 million in the first year with a projected savings of \$21.5 million after three years.**

WHAT IT MEANS TO MEMBERS:

- When the member goes to have the prescription filled, it will be filled only up to the quantity limit.
- For quantities greater than the quantity limit, the member must have evidence of medical necessity. If there is no medical necessity, BCBSM will cover the prescription only up to the quantity limit and the patient is responsible for the cost of the additional drug quantities.

7—EXCLUDE OFF-LABEL COVERAGE—Initiative that requires medical necessity for drugs prescribed for uses other than those approved by the FDA.

ADDED VALUE:

- Ensures patient is using medication appropriately and safely;
- Reinforces appropriate use and recommended FDA guidelines; and
- Reduces benefit costs for groups.

HOW IT WORKS:

- Targets drugs prescribed for uses for which they are not intended, such as growth hormone drugs for anti-aging purposes.
- Specific physicians or specialties may be exempt from need to prove medical necessity (i.e., pediatric endocrinologist for growth hormone).

WHAT IT MEANS TO MEMBERS:

- If the prescription is for other than what is recommended by the FDA, the member will be responsible for the cost of the prescription.

8—HIGH UTILIZATION MANAGEMENT & POLY-PHARMACY—Physician-directed program to identify and monitor potential misuses and excessive use of prescription drugs.

ADDED VALUE:

- Helps ensure patient is using medication appropriately and safely; and
- Designed to prevent adverse drug reactions by alerting a patient's physician of dangerous situations.

HOW IT WORKS:

- Targets situations where a patient is taking multiple medications that can become dangerous when:
 - Multiple prescribers are involved;
 - One medication effects another drug; and/or
 - Prescriptions are borrowed or hoarded.
- Under this initiative, the Blues will also concentrate on:
 - Potential misuses and excessive use of prescription drugs by poorly coordinated care.
- Narcotic fraud and abuse:
 - When a patient meets the following criteria, BCBSM will send a letter to the patient's primary care physician or the last physician to write a prescription:
 - More than 10 chronic medications.
 - Seeing three or more physicians within a three-month period.

- **The Blues expect this initiative to save \$15 million in the first year with a projected cost savings after three years of \$48.5 million.**

WHAT IT MEANS TO MEMBERS:

- This is a quality initiative that will be transparent to the member unless his or her physician recommends a change.

9—EXPANDING AGGRESSIVE MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE COST—Program to add more drugs to the MAC list.

ADDED VALUE:

- Benefit cost saving to the groups.

HOW IT WORKS:

- Expands our existing MAC pricing list.
- **The Blues expect this initiative to save \$13 million in the first year.**

WHAT IT MEANS TO MEMBERS:

- This is transparent to members except if they choose a brand-name drug in which they would be responsible for the difference between the MAC drug and the brand-name drug.

From the Desk of Gary Wood

MTMIC, Chief Operating Officer



Did you ever hear something that sounded so unlikely that you were not sure you heard it right? That happened here during July when an employee fell in the parking lot of one of the policyholders and landed on his head.

The witness said the claimant lost his balance while riding his bike across the parking lot of the employer while simultaneously carrying his lunch box after he had already punched in for the day. A couple of things to learn in regard to this claim:

1. Wear a bike helmet.
2. Don't ride a bike while carrying something in your hand.
3. Designate an official entry to the facility.
4. Don't assume nothing bad could happen and be prepared.

Fortunately there were paramedics on-site and he received excellent care, but it was an extremely serious incident that will not go unnoticed in our "claims of note" file.

MTMIC OPERATIONS

The Board of the MTMIC has chosen to adopt a program to further ensure the safety of payments made to the MTMIC. Beginning in September, all payments to the MTMIC (except ACH) must be directed to the **Lock Box** address:

MTMIC
PO BOX 673911
DETROIT MI 48267-3911

(The entire address must be in capital letters with no punctuation.)

Failure to follow this direction may cause a delay in payments being credited to the proper account. Payment made to any other address must be forwarded by us to the Lock Box without being opened to ensure the integrity of the system.

Policyholders also have the opportunity to pay premium through an **Automatic Cash Handling** program. Once registered with us, payments will automatically be withdrawn from the policyholders checking account saving the time and expense of generating a monthly payment check. This is the best way to handle payments: automatic payment on the due date with no opportunity for the check to be lost in the mail.

Chris Doebler at extension 1012 should be contacted to register for the program.

As previously announced, we have welcomed back **Ray Duff** as the Loss Control Manager. Ray was formerly associated with the MTMIC when we were the Fund and he returns with a wealth of knowledge and experience. Ray is now on staff and can be reached at 248-444-5398 or by email at either ray@mtaonline.com or rayduff@wideopenwest.com.

If you have any comments or suggestions on how the Loss Control staff could further assist in controlling claims for the MTMIC and you, please contact either Ray or Gary Wood.

The offices of the MTMIC were closed for training on July 17 and 18, 2007. The Board had taken the necessary steps to upgrade the claims and policy programs used by the MTMIC. Part of the staff underwent further training on July 23 and 24 and the entire computer system will be "off-line" late in August and early in September while the full conversion takes place.

The staff will be in the office while this conversion is taking place but no computer information will be available from the system during that time. The new system should be functioning again after a few days.

This conversion is not just a program for new claims and policies; the entire history of the group must be converted and maintained for at least thirty years under state law. We have to convert every claim and every bit of information currently in our old system to the new and improved program. We believe this will be handled with just small processing delays and minimal inconvenience but please be understanding of our situation.

We remind you that the **Annual Meeting** of the MTMIC will be held on Thursday, October 18, 2007. Please mark your calendars for the luncheon which will be held at Red Run Golf Club in Royal Oak. The Staff will make maps available to those attending the function.

The **MTMIC Board Planning Session** is scheduled to be held on Thursday, September 20, 2007. The planning session is designed for the Board to collectively plan for the future of the MTMIC. If you have comments or suggestions, contact Gary Wood.

MONTHLY THOUGHTS

A moment of inattentiveness can be devastating; don't let unsafe acts in your shop kill or maim a valuable employee!

When you listen to the press do you believe you are hearing unbiased information?

There was a significant profit at General Motors for the second quarter of 2007; Ford also reported a profit for the second quarter of 2007. Let's not count them out yet.

Toyota and Lexus had a durability problem with their four cylinder motors yet they are considered high quality vehicles.

General Motors has a 100,000 mile warranty on all vehicles. Chrysler now offers a "lifetime" warranty on most of their vehicles. If quality and value were the real issues everybody would be lining up for their share of the lifetime warranty.

It was reported that they are finding man-made tools after the ice melts from receding glaciers.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports that the number one cause of death for people in the 4 to 34 age group is Motor Vehicle Traffic Crashes.

The U.S. government through tax codes and incentives actually encourages the construction of offshore manufacturing facilities.

Welfare and other tax supported government assistance programs may need to find additional sources of funding if more businesses move offshore.

The Government of the United States operates in a deficit spending mode and so does a large part of the population (but the citizens cannot print money).

"Survival of the Fittest" is not just a saying.

In Memoriam

It is with great sadness and regret that we note the passing of Marguerite E. Demmer on July 1, 2007 at the age of 87. Marguerite was married to John Demmer, owner of **Demmer Corporation** of Lansing, for 65 years. She was a major partner in the company's success through the years.

Marguerite was a very reserved person who lived a life of integrity, kindness and grace. She loved northern Michigan, music, theater and dance. She is survived by her husband, John and children, Bill, Peg, and Ed. She was preceded in death by sons John and Tom.

Our sincere condolences to her family and friends.

Legislative Update

by: *Judy Augenstein,*
Legislative Consultant, Lansing



The House and Senate are scheduled to be in session on Wednesdays only during the month of August. Governor Jennifer Granholm has signed SB 94 into law, officially enacting the Michigan Business Tax (MBT). Business lobby groups are now working with House and Senate policy staff and Department of Treasury officials in an effort to clarify questions concerning the calculation of the new Michigan Business Tax law as it impacts the business community. Meetings continue with legislative leaders in their effort to oppose a proposed 6% sales tax on "luxury services" as a means to balance the 2008 state budget.

Most Democrats want to raise taxes while most Republicans want to cut state programs. The Michigan Taxpayers Alliance has threatened to recall legislators voting for tax increases which has added a new dimension to the budget debate.

Governor Granholm has announced that a Massachusetts based company, Mascoma Corporation, will build a cellulosic ethanol plant in Michigan in its race to be the first in the nation to produce ethanol from wood on a commercial scale. The Michigan Economic Development Corporation is working with the company on a tax incentive package for the project. Governor Granholm is scheduled to make her fifth overseas investment mission to Sweden and Germany on August 19-25 in an effort to bring new investments and jobs back to Michigan.

Senator Randy Richardville, R-Monroe, has introduced SB 680. The bill amends the Renaissance Recovery Zone Act by allowing companies with 75 employees or more to participate in the Act, provided they negotiate with local governments a portion of their special services tax, i.e. police and fire. The text of the bill will be internet available on the next regular Senate session day scheduled for August 22 and will be referred to committee on that day.

Senator Richardville has also agreed to submit a resolution to urge the U.S. Congress to address the issue of unfair foreign trade practices. He will request the Legislative Service Bureau draft language for the resolution.

Answering China

by: Peter Morici

The rash of dangerous Chinese imports, ranging from defective tires to tainted toothpaste, makes apparent the perils in U.S. and EU policies toward China.

Since President Nixon, the United States has sought constructive engagement to encourage economic and political reform. By opening commerce, the United States seeks to expose Chinese citizens to democratic values, instigate systemic change, and eventually add another responsible, prosperous state to the community of western nations.

The United States is betting that opening American markets to China's products, through membership in the World Trade Organization, will lift millions from poverty and create a government that respects human rights. The Communist Party is betting it can manipulate WTO rules to its unique advantage, accomplish export-led growth, and deliver prosperity that allows it to hold on to power indefinitely.

China's economic miracle is giving capitalism a bad name. By offering manufacturers export subsidies through a 40 percent undervalued currency, cheap bank loans, generous tax rebates, lax product-safety and environmental enforcement, and technology extorted from western multinationals seeking Beijing's permission to sell products in China, China is flooding U.S. and EU markets with artificially cheap, and too often dangerous, products.

Aside from wholly corrupting the notion of free trade based on comparative advantage, these policies have created a profits-at-any-cost culture.

Chinese factories exploit workers, purposely endanger consumers, transform lakes and rivers into noxious reservoirs of industrial waste, and create the filthiest air on the planet. Lacking the accountability imposed by open elections and a free press, Beijing ignores these abuses until U.S. public outrage occasionally puts an export market at risk. Even worse, provincial governments encourage this degradation.

China has tough national environmental laws, but Communist Party officials in Beijing and the provinces are rewarded for meeting growth targets, not enforcing abatement standards, and the resulting corruption offers them great opportunities to amass personal wealth.

To limit dissent, Beijing censors the internet, with the cooperation of principled western companies like Google. It jails political activists and members of "subversive religions," such as Falun Gong. Prison and military hospitals harvest organs for

the lucrative transplant market. The atrocities Beijing encourages are endless and beyond shame.

China, with the third largest GDP among nations, holds \$1.2 trillion in hard currency and securities. Yet, Beijing says it is too poor to provide clean drinking water, sewers and decent housing for its rural population. The income gap between rural areas and large coastal export centers grows each day, as sure as the pollution and poisons spewed from its factories multiplies.

All we get from Beijing are vague promises, vacant of transformative actions. Meanwhile, leaders in Washington counsel diplomacy instead of concrete steps, and apologists among U.S. multinationals profiting from the China's criminal behavior warn against disruptive consequences of curbing the peculiar enterprise called U.S.-China free trade.

China's behavior is not without its consequences for U.S. and other western economies. Its export juggernaut is closing factories in the United States and EU, and casting into unemployment workers that would be competitive but for China's mercantilism. For example, technology-intensive auto parts factories, semiconductor plants and software development labs moving to China gain little from cheap labor. The resulting lost productivity in the United States comes to nearly \$2000 each year for every employed American, has helped create a \$6 trillion foreign debt, and is lowering sustainable U.S. GDP growth from about 4 percent a year to about 3 percent.

By 2008, China will be the world's largest source of greenhouse gases, and its reckless industrialization strategy is adding the equivalent of one new Japan to the global warming equation every two years. At that pace, the United States and EU, even by adopting the most aggressive emission curtailment programs, could do little to derail global warming.

It is high time for the United States and EU to exclude, on a broad and comprehensive scale, Chinese products that are heavily subsidized, that are made in factories that poison the atmosphere, or that are potentially dangerous to consumers regardless of where they live. Only then can the West hope to instigate positive change in China.

If the Americans and Europeans do not act, eventually China will become too strong to resist, and our shared future will darken.

Civilizations do not collapse under the weight of age. They fail when they become too complacent to act on real threats.

Peter Morici is a professor at the University of Maryland School of Business and former Chief Economist at the U.S. International Trade Commission.

Currency Manipulation Legislation Heats Up

U.S. Senator Elizabeth Dole

Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs

Markup on: “**Currency Reform and Financial Markets Access Act of 2007 (S. 1677)**,” “Housing Assistance Authorization Act of 2007;” “Private Student Loan Transparency and Improvement Act of 2007;” “Commission on Natural Catastrophe Risk Management and Insurance Act of 2007.”

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Opening Statement

Thank you, Chairman Dodd for holding this markup today. Among the other bills being considered, I am pleased that we have before us the “Currency Reform and Financial Markets Access Act of 2007.” The issue of China currency is important to me and my state, North Carolina, and that is why I have become a cosponsor of S. 1677. As this Committee is aware, North Carolina’s economy has been heavily impacted by thousands of textile and furniture jobs moving overseas.

We must ensure that other countries play by the rules when it comes to their currency value, so that American workers are not put at a competitive disadvantage. This bill will help clarify the definition of currency manipulation and give the United States a plan of action to remedy the situation.

Lastly, trade remedies are intended to provide recourse for U.S. manufacturers against unfair and illegal trade practices by other countries. As the Senate moves forward in developing a remedy to address currency manipulation and other mercantilist policies that put U.S. manufacturers at a disadvantage, I hope we can all agree that these remedies should be as strong as possible and that we should provide multiple tools, including anti-dumping and counter-veiling duty remedies, to ensure that this problem is addressed in a comprehensive and meaningful manner.

Chairman Dodd, thank you again for holding this markup and including the “Currency Reform and Financial Markets Access Act of 2007.”



Remember to visit the TMTA website at www.thetmta.com for all your up-to-date news and information!

(Rob's Roost continued from Page 1)

Finally, a word about our Endorsed Provider FEDERATED INSURANCE: the TMTA (MTA) has had a long relationship with Federated and that continues. Federated is an insurance company and they market a very good line of Property and Casualty insurance. The TMTA agency does not market the Federated product line simply because Federated has captive agents. These agents are located throughout the country and are professional, well trained and highly skilled. Many of our member companies get insurance from Federated and by all reports those members are very satisfied with both the product and the service. The reality is that insurance is a competitive marketplace and one size does not fit all. Federated has many sizes and we encourage members to consider their offerings as part of any property and casualty insurance review or acquisition effort.

OSHA/EPA Occupational Chemical Database

OSHA recently launched a database of information on more than 800 chemicals commonly found in the workplace. The OSHA/EPA Occupational Chemical Database allows users to quickly and easily retrieve information on chemicals such as their physical properties, exposure guidelines and emergency response information. The data base compiles information from several government agencies and organizations including the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and the Department of Transportation.

The OSHA/EPA Occupational Chemical Database can be accessed at www.osha.gov/web/dep/chemicaldata/#target. TMTA will also be providing a link to this important database on our website at www.thetmta.com, along with links to state and federal required posters.

The Marketplace



Personnel Available:

Maintenance Supervisor with attention to detail seeks position utilizing his experience in maintenance and maintenance supervisory skills. He also has experience as a mill machine operator and in computer operated machinery repair.

Ask for **Resume #07-05**.



The TMTA Insurance Agency fax number has changed to (248) 488-0500. Please make a note of this change in your files.

Remember, if you have any **questions about your health, dental or life insurance, contact Dennis Campbell** at the Ralph C Wilson Agency at 248-355-1414 ext. 159.

Dennis is a senior benefits consultant and the agent for the TMTA Insurance Agency. He stands ready to assist with any need your company may have in regards to health insurance, dental insurance, life insurance and much, much more!

In an effort to deliver TMTA Talk to you as quickly as possible and in keeping with 'being green', we are now **offering to send TMTA Talk to you via e-mail**. If you would like to take advantage of the new electronic edition of TMTA Talk, contact Ron at 248-488-0300 ext. 1306 or e-mail to ron@thetmta.com.



List of Endorsed Service Providers

- ❖ **Reliance Standard/Ameritas** (life/dental insurance)
TMTA contacts: Dennis Campbell 248-355-1414
Stella Krupansky 248-488-0300 ext. 1310
- ❖ **Blue Cross Blue Shield/BCN** (health insurance)
TMTA contacts: Dennis Campbell 248-355-1414
Elaine Burger-Laskosky 248-488-0300 ext. 1309
- ❖ **Federated Ins.** (property & casualty insurance)
Provider contact: Joseph Busby 800-428-4143
- ❖ **Freedom One Financial Group** (401(k) programs)
Provider contact: Lesley Goodwin 248-620-8100
- ❖ **John M. Packer & Associates** (unemployment)
Provider contact: Nathan Wiest 800-482-2971
- ❖ **Custom Telecom** (phone/communications)
Provider contact: Kathy Schaumburger 866-332-1200

TMTA receives a benefit from its Endorsed Providers when you, as a member, patronize them. This is one way we are able to maintain the level of dues.

Inflation Talk

CPI-W Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers

Month	82-84	1967	57-59
June 2007	203.906	607.374	706.37*
May	203.661	606.643	705.52*
April	202.130	602.083	700.22*
March	200.612	597.561	694.96*
Feb	198.544	591.403	687.80*
Jan	197.559	588.467	684.38*
Dec 2006	197.2	587.3	683.1*
Nov	196.8	586.1	681.8*

CPI-U All Urban Consumers

Month	82-84	1967	57-59
June 2007	208.352	624.129	725.85*
May	207.949	622.921	724.45*
April	206.686	619.140	720.05*
March	205.352	615.145	715.40*
Feb	203.499	609.594	708.95*
Jan	202.416	606.348	705.17*
Dec 2006	201.8	604.5	703.0*
Nov	201.5	603.6	702.0*

Note: June 2007 CPI-W represents a 2.7% increase from one year ago; CPI-U a 2.7% increase.

* Base Year 1957-59 is no longer released. BLS has issued the following conversion factors from the 82-84 year:

CPI-W—.2886674 CPI-U—.2870447

TMTA TALK®

A Publication of the Tooling, Manufacturing & Technologies Association

**P.O. Box 9151 Phone (248) 488-0300
Farmington Hills, MI 48333 Fax (248) 488-0500**

*President and CEO — Robert J. Dumont
Copy Editor, Layout / Design — Elaine F. Burger-Laskosky*

TMTA TALK is distributed free to all TMTA members.
Copyright © 2007 Tooling, Mfg. & Tech. Association All Rights Reserved

Deadline for submission of news, articles, letters, cartoons and Marketplace items is the 15th of each month.
Send/Fax to TMTA—Attention: TMTA Talk Editor.