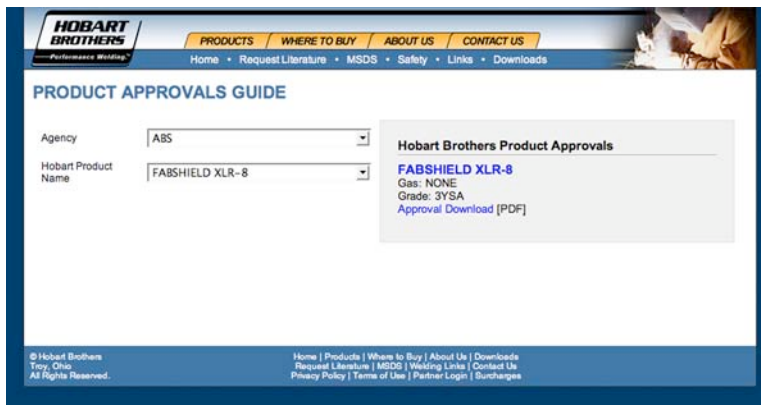


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New Online Product Approval Guide Eases Filler Metal Selection

- Downloadable PDFs of certifications
- Approvals for six regulatory agencies
- Immediate documentation for critical welding jobs



TROY, Ohio. February 12, 2008—A new interactive Product Approval Guide on Hobart Brothers' Web site, www.hobartbrothers.com, offers visitors a quick and

easy way to locate filler metals that have been approved by the American Bureau of Shipping (ABS), Lloyd's Register, the Canadian Welding Bureau (CWB), Bureau Veritas, Germanischer Lloyds and Det Norske Veritas (DNV). Located at www.hobartbrothers.com/product-approvals/, the new Guide features two drop-down menus: the first lists the featured agencies and the second lists Hobart Brothers' filler metals bearing a specific agency's approval. Upon making an agency and filler metal selection, visitors can then download a PDF of the product approval certification.

“This new resource is designed to expedite not only filler metal selection, but also the process of providing the necessary certification for critical welding jobs,” explains Hobart Brothers product manager, Keith Packard. “End-users can get the documentation they need for their records immediately.”

Hobart Brothers new Product Approval Guide complements the many other resources on the company’s Web site, including a comprehensive database of filler metals searchable by keyword, AWS classification or part number. The Web site also includes a step-by-step, interactive search that helps visitors identify prospective filler metals according to base metal, welding process and position, and gas or gasless preferences.

Additional resources include spec sheets, educational articles and press releases for Hobart Brothers’ newest products.

Hobart Brothers is dedicated to the highest level of Performance Welding™. For product spec sheets or to learn more about Hobart Brothers’ products, visit Hobartbrothers.com, call 1-800-424-1543, fax 1-800-541-6607, or write Hobart Brothers Company, 101 Trade Square East, Troy, OH, 45373.

Hobart Brothers Company of Troy, Ohio, is a leading manufacturer of welding filler metals marketed under the brand names Hobart, Tri-Mark, McKay and Corex. Hobart Brothers Company is a wholly owned subsidiary of Illinois Tool Works, Inc., Glenview, Ill., a diversified multinational manufacturer of highly engineered components, assemblies and systems.

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