Book Review

Metalworking Fluids, Second Edition


Reviewer: Dr. Robert M. Gresham, Contributing Editor

When the first edition of Jerry Byers’ book, *Metalworking Fluids*, was originally written 10 years ago, it was considered to be one of those key industry references often referred to as “the Bible” for the metalworking industry. Last month when TLT, in its monthly Sounding Board survey, asked readers to list a book that helped them professionally, the Byers book was cited several times.

One of the reasons the book acquired this status is that it is one of a few books that covers the broad range of topics important to the industry such as metalworking fluid technology, application, maintenance, testing methods, health and safety, governmental regulations, recycling and waste treatment. Indeed, STLE’s Metalworking Certification Committee cited this book in its body of knowledge as a key reference for the Certified Metalworking Fluid Specialist (CMFS) certification examination, and, being a peer-reviewed document, as a source for verification of examination questions.

Now the second edition of this valuable reference is available. Considerable technical process has occurred in some MWF areas during the last 10 years, and this second edition reflects this progress. For example, we understand more of the microbiology of metalworking fluids and its impact on performance and employee health and safety. In addition, the waste treatment section has been thoroughly updated.

Finally, as would be expected, the chapter on government regulation, which is 10 years out of date, has been totally rewritten. Thus, the second edition is very much on target for today’s metalworking industry and replaces the first edition in the STLE CMFS certification program’s body of knowledge.

The second edition is intended for anyone in the metalworking industry and is written in a style that is easy to read and readily understandable by people with a basic technical background. Machine operators, plant managers, foremen, engineers, chemists, biologists and hygienists all will find this book appealing and informative. Especially important are the many references at the end of each chapter and the extensive glossary of more than 400 terms at the end of the book.

Today’s metalworking fluids are, in fact, sophisticated materials. All they have to do is provide lubrication, cooling and corrosion control to help machine or form parts at the highest rate of speed, maximize tool life and minimize downtime with the fewest possible rejected parts, all while maintaining dimensional accuracy and finish requirements. This book does a great job of putting all that into perspective, especially as it impacts value-in-use for a given operation, which further includes the cost of mist control, regulatory compliance, employee health and safety and waste treatment.

This well-written book should be on the highly recommended reading list for anyone interested in the metalworking industry. STLE is proud to have partnered with CRC Press (Taylor & Francis Group) in co-publishing this important book.

For more information about ordering this book for your technical library, log on to www.stle.org.

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