

## Color Dynamics® Systems in Industry

### PROJECT:

Alcan Aluminum Corporation  
Sheet and Plate Division Plant  
Oswego, New York

### DESIGN ENGINEERS:

Alcan Aluminum Company  
Pittsburgh Project Engineering Group

### CONSULTING ENGINEER:

Auburn & Associates, Inc.  
1051 Brinton Road  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

### MANAGERS OF CONSTRUCTION:

Wigton-Abbott Corporation  
1225 South Avenue  
Plainfield, New Jersey

### PAINTING CONTRACTOR:

The Almega Company  
2462 Huntington Drive  
Bridgeville, Pa.

### COLOR STYLING:

Lambert A. Wise  
PPG, Pittsburgh, Pa.

### SALES COORDINATION:

S. E. Miller  
PPG, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Rolling mill area demonstrates use of Vista Green color on machines and Safety Yellow on railings and moving objects. While girders are usually painted to blend with walls and ceilings under the usual Color Dynamics system, Alcan plant management chose Safety Blue up to crane rails to match their Corporate colors and for added eye-appeal.



Overall plant view shows the Color Dynamics painting system in action. Machine colors feature Vista Green, while safety area and traffic lanes are plainly marked. Bright yellow calls attention to moving cranes, while safety colors pinpoint machine switch boxes.



## GENERAL INFORMATION:

When Alcan Aluminum built its new cold mill at Oswego in 1969, careful thought was given to the planning of color systems for interior building surfaces, machines and equipment.

Research had shown that proper lighting when combined with coordinated, eye-appealing colors in work and utility areas did have a marked effect on worker morale and efficiency. A PPG *Color Dynamics* System was laid out, modified somewhat by plant officials, then approved with the aim of increasing productivity and cutting down on housekeeping costs, absenteeism, accidents and other undesirable conditions.

## PROJECT BENEFITS:

According to Production Manager Dennis Jones, the objectives of the *Color Dynamics* System were generally achieved.

The plant itself is a bright, cheerful place to work. Proper and pleasant color choices have kept worker morale high. Absenteeism has been low right from opening day. In addition, the plant doubles as a "silent salesman" for Alcan products when customers and prospects tour it.

Colors and lighting work together to improve product inspection. Defects are pinpointed early in production before major problems arise.

Color coding on all utility lines — water, gas, and compressed air — aids in fast identification, isolation of line trouble, and also identifies by-pass lines and

shut-off valves. In addition, any obstacles which might cause accidents, such as materials handling equipment, like cranes and lift trucks, are brightly colored to focus worker attention on the hazard.

Aisles and passageways are clearly identified for safe, efficient travel through the plant — both for visitors and workers. Housekeeping, too, it has been found, is easier and more complete.

Finally, employees know that the entire *Color Dynamics* concept was engineered and applied primarily for their safety and benefit. The result is high morale and productivity.

Vista Green color on machinery contrasts with the yellow safety colors on projecting roller and casings, providing eye-appeal as well as a practical use. Moving cranes are also coated in Safety Yellow. Orange colored lighting conduit lends an accent color to the area.

Control panel area shows coordination between good lighting and appropriate colors. Vista Green is again used on machines, panels and piping for its eye-rest value. Safety Yellow highlights the projecting control levers.





# PITTSBURGH PAINTS



Use of yellow on stair handrails is part of the *Color Dynamic System* safety color recommendations. Also specified are the stair tread colors (Cruiser Gray) — with the stair tread "nose" in Safety Yellow. Fire extinguisher stations are clearly identified with Safety Red.

Brightly colored fork lift truck can easily be distinguished in the traffic aiseways — an important safety factor when it is moving heavy coils.



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