

Anti-explosion system blasts into world markets

Ignite it, shoot it, burn it, store it for years and a gas can still will not explode, provided it is equipped with Explosafe, Canada's only explosion suppression system developed by Explosafe America Inc. of Rexdale, Ontario.

"It's an exciting new product," says Richard Turner, president of Explosafe. "In 1982 we recorded sales of \$750 000, but by 1987 we project sales to top \$31 million."

Explosafe America Inc. is 50 per cent owned by Vulcan Industrial Packaging Ltd., Canada's largest industrial packaging company. It holds exclusive rights to Explosafe and operates in a joint venture with another Canadian firm called Explosafe Corporation.

The product is made of heavy aluminum foil, sliced and stretched into a honeycomb of cells, constructed to dissipate heat and suppress complete combustion. When cut to shape, it can fit into any container of volatile liquid or gas with less than 2 per cent displacement.

The device seems to have found a ready market. Early in 1983 it was exhibited in Madrid, financially assisted by the Ontario International Corporation. Explosafe America Inc. signed an agreement with Spain's Santana S.A., a firm which has been supplying the world market with special Land Rovers. These vehicles, like the one used by Pope John Paul during his Spanish visit, are now supplied with main and auxiliary fuel tanks equipped with Explosafe. The agreement is valued at \$6 million in sales over the next five years.



With a flick of the gas can, Explosafe president Richard Turner (right) lights vice-president Bill Tindall's cigar.

Explosafe has recently been approved by the United States Air Force and the American Medical Association. It carries a US government military specification number and is currently installed or under contract in more than 28 US and Canadian military systems.

After thorough testing and blessings from the American government, Explosafe will now be listed in its "who's who" of military suppliers, an essential key to export sales.

Other military institutions are following suit. Gas can sales continue to increase in the territory of Australia and the Pacific Rim.

In Britain and Italy, final negotiations are under way for the joint-venture establishment of local manufacturing facilities, which will supply Explosafe products for England, Ireland, Belgium and other European countries.

One-time dream

It has taken \$4.5 million and five years to deliver the product from the dreams of inventor Joseph Szago to standard approval, but Mr. Turner is confident of success. "These things work slowly," he says.

Before Explosafe, nylon foam was the only explosion suppression system available. Because it would decompose, foam had to be replaced twice a year and would melt if exposed to high temperatures.

(From Ontario Business News.)

Auto trade surplus with US jumps

Canada posted an \$816-million surplus in trade in automotive products with the United States in the first quarter of 1983, up \$281 million from the first quarter of last year, according to Statistics Canada.

Canadian imports from the US rose 21.6 per cent or \$668 million to \$3.7 billion, while US imports from Canada rose 26.2 per cent or \$949 million to \$4.5 billion when the two quarters are compared.

The higher surplus reflected a slight increase of \$55 million to \$1.8 billion in Canada's surplus on cars, trucks and other vehicles and a decline of \$215 million to \$1.09 billion in Canada's deficit on parts trade.

The country's deficit on trade in automotive products with overseas countries more than doubled, rising to \$345 million from \$140 million, due mostly to a 53 per cent drop in exports rather than a rise in imports, which were up only 4 per cent.

Exports

Canadian exports to overseas countries fell \$190 million to \$166 million and Canadian imports from overseas countries rose \$18 million to \$512 million.

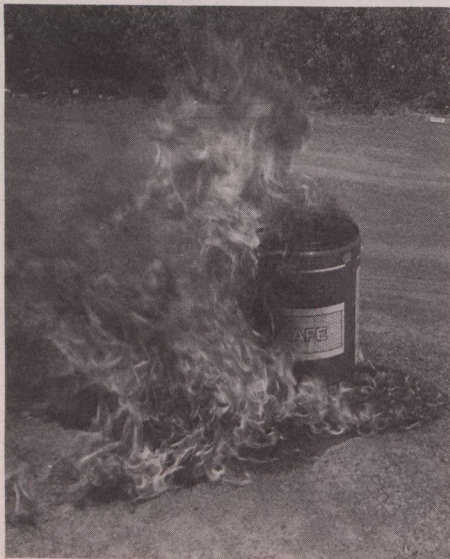
Exports of passenger cars to the US were up 27 per cent or 36 000 to 166 000, while imports of passenger cars from the US were up 80 per cent or 43 000 to 97 000.

Population hits 24.9 million

Canada's population reached 24.9 million in 1983 and one of every ten Canadians had reached the retirement age, according to Statistics Canada. It also estimated the nation's population on June 1, 1983 at 24 889 800, compared to 21 568 300 in 1971.

Women outnumbered men, 12.6 million to 12.3 million, confirming a trend first noted in 1976. Statistics Canada attributed the imbalance to higher male mortality rates.

Although the percentage of the population aged 65 or older rose to 10 per cent in 1983 from 8.1 per cent in 1971, the strain an aging population might be expected to put on Canada's economy was alleviated by a decline in the proportion of the young, school-aged population.



Ministry of Industry & Tourism photos

In any kind of fire, a gas can protected by Explosafe will still remain unexplodable.