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INSIGHTS

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TRUE OR FALSE?

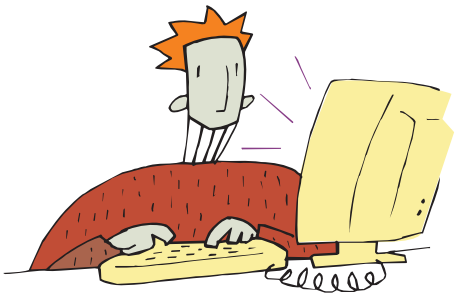


Henry Ford's first Model T's were available in any color, as long as it was black, right? Not true. When the car was first made available to the public on October 1, 1908, there were two types – a Touring version (painted red) and a Roadster (painted gray). In June of the following year, a change was in order. Once the current stock was depleted, all future Model T's would be painted Brewster Green, a very deep green that almost looked black at certain angles.

A shade of blue was also made available for a while, but from 1913 until the end of the car's run in 1926, the adage held true that all Model T's were, indeed, painted black. Careful study indicated to Ford that black paint dried more quickly than any other color, and so it was used to cut down on the production time for the vehicles.

The vehicle industry has come a long way from the early days of red, gray, green and black paint. But, the need to keep them clean hasn't. From bugs to road salt, windshields to rear bumpers, whatever your vehicle cleaning needs happen to be, ChemStation can do it. Whether you're cleaning a fleet of cars, semi-trucks or heavy-duty equipment, ChemStation has the solution for removing all types of vehicle soils.

Unlike Henry Ford's limited selection of paint for his Model T's, ChemStation can custom formulate an environmentally safe product based on your specific needs. Contact your ChemStation Account Manager for more information. ■



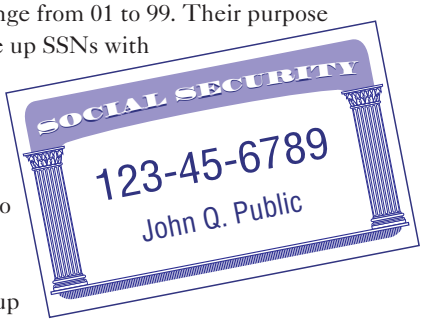
SAFETY INFO ON-LINE

Compliance Magazine's Web site, complianceregs.com is a great way to access information on government regulations that apply to workplace safety, especially if you're in a hurry. The Web site also has notices, proposed rules and other documents from the *Daily Federal Register*; downloadable compliance forms; safety checklists; required OSHA forms; and a complete list of state and federal OSHA offices with full contact information. ■

JUST ANOTHER NUMBER?

If you think your Social Security Number (SSN) has something to do with your birth date, think again. This is one of history's biggest bureaucracies we're talking about, so you know the system has to be more complicated than that. First, SSNs are not assigned consecutively; the first one was not the lowest, and the most recent isn't the highest. However, there is some rhyme and reason to the numbers. There are three parts of your nine-digit SSN:

- The first three numbers of the sequence, called "area numbers," are assigned based on the ZIP code that you provide on your application. So these can be connected to particular states.
- The fourth and fifth numbers are called "group numbers," and range from 01 to 99. Their purpose is simply to divide up SSNs with the same area numbers into smaller blocks. If you were a part of the first batch to be issued a particular area number, your group number is odd (from 01 and 09). The second batch receives even numbers from 10 to 98. The final two groups consist of the remaining even numbers (02 through 08) and then the remaining odd numbers (11 through 99). This is the Social Security Administration's idea of creating cliques.



- Finally, the last four digits are called "serial numbers" and simply run consecutively within each group designation from 0001 through 9999.

So while you now know that you're nothing but a number to Uncle Sam, at least you can rest assured that you're still an individual. ■

Source: "mental_floss"

JANUARY IN REVIEW

January 1 is not only the most celebrated holiday around the world, it's also the anniversary (January 1, 1892) of the opening of Ellis Island in New York harbor where 20 million new arrivals to America were processed until its closing in 1954. On January 3, 1959, Alaska was admitted as the 49th U.S. state with a land mass almost one-fifth the size of the entire lower 48 states. January 13, 1957 was the day the famous Frisbee was launched by Wham-O. It was January 19, 1903 when a new bicycle race was announced in Paris. The "Tour de France" covered more than 2,500 miles. The Concorde supersonic jet began passenger service on January 21, 1976 with flights from London to Bahrain and Paris to Rio de Janeiro. The Concorde cruised at twice the speed of sound (Mach 2) at an altitude up to 60,000 feet.



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Soapbox

Considering all the lint you get in your dryer, if you kept drying your clothes would they eventually just disappear?

America has twice the number of shopping malls as it does high schools.

Commercially-speaking, there are 339 networks trying to capture consumer attention today – in 1980 there were only 28.

The average American produces 1,637 pounds of garbage per year.

Youth is when you're allowed to stay up late on New Year's Eve. Middle age is when you're forced to.

You have to marvel at the unique lunacy of a language in which your house can burn up as it burns down, in which you fill in a form by filling it out, and in which an alarm goes off by going on.

English muffins weren't invented in England.

Why is it that no matter what color of bubble bath you use, the bubbles are always white?

The statistics on sanity are that one out of every four Americans is suffering from some sort of mental illness. Think of your three best friends. If they're okay, then it's YOU.



Send your comments to:

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