

# Nameplates For Industry, Inc.

# IMPRESSIONS

The Newsletter From The Company Whose Printed Impressions Identify Your Products & Services



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## NFi Embraces 5S Program

Continuous improvement is one of the key elements in remaining competitive in today's marketplace. Recognizing an opportunity to realize significant improvement, NFi organized several teams to implement a **5S Program**.

### What is the 5S Program?

It's a method to create stability and repeatability in work areas.

1. **Sort out** - Get rid of the stuff you don't need.
2. **Set in order** - Place the stuff you do need where it's best for you.
3. **Sweep, scrub, shine** - Eliminate clutter and dirt to improve quality and safety.
4. **Standardize** - Set up a system that's easily used.
5. **Sustain** - Follow the system every day to keep up.

For example, every printing press now has the inks, screens, materials and tools they need, when they need it. Each

work station is laid out identically, significantly reducing the time spent setting up. No longer does a printer search and borrow, as everything needed is laid out and in order.

You can see some of the improvements made in the photographs. Our production manager, Mark Smith, would be pleased to share some of the techniques utilized to help with your own efforts.

### After implementing the 5S Program



Backside of Printer's station



Before  
Printer's station



Front of Printer's station

**NFi HAS ELIMINATED CLUTTER AND SET NECESSARY TOOLS AND SUPPLIES IN ORDER**

## NFi Website Revamped www.nfi.name



### Visit Our Website For:

- Detailed design concepts
- Facility photos
- Customer comments
- Spec sheets
- Industry links

## NFi Is Ready To Make A Winner For You!



AWARD WINNING  
NAMEPLATE ENTRIES

When the best printers in the world competed in the Specialty Graphic & Imaging Association (SGIA)'s Golden Image competition last fall, NFi stood out, leaving with two gold awards, one for a screenprinted and one for a digital imaged nameplate.

More than one hundred companies from around the world entered the competition, submitting over five hundred prints in thirty-nine product categories.

"The judges had a very difficult time this year. Judges told me the entries were so good that choosing winners was a real challenge," said Johnny Shell, SGIA Vice President.

"Winning these awards puts NFi among the top screenprinters in the world in terms of quality and capability. The ability to consistently print such high quality products indicates that NFi is expert at controlling the many variables involved in specialty printing," Shell added.



## New Technology at NFi Saves Time and Improves Environment

Inpro Silk Screen, based in the Netherlands, recently installed its first North American Inkmaster machine at Nameplates For Industry (NFi) of New Bedford, Massachusetts. This equipment has had a dramatic affect on NFi's screen cleaning operations.

Previously, an operator would completely clean out all of the ink from the screen using harsh chemicals. Then someone needed to suit up with goggles, gloves, face mask, apron and so on, applying more harsh chemicals to remove the screen emulsion with a power washer.

Presently, with the new Inpro machine, all that needs to be done is to wipe out the ink, put it onto a conveyor and away it goes into an automated cleaner. A few minutes later it comes out on the other end-cleaned and ready for the next order.

Not only is it faster, cleaner and less hazardous than before, but we have eliminated the use of our two harshest chemicals.



## NFi Awarded Training Grant



Mark Smith, Production Manager, and Jo-ell MacDougall, Press Room Lead, with their Green Belt Certificates

NFi has been awarded a Massachusetts State Training Grant through the Greater New Bedford Workforce Investment Board. The aim is to make the manufacturing sector more competitive by enhancing the technical skills of the work force.

The grant will be used to train 11 of 50 employees in lean manufacturing. Several will be selected for special courses in Six Sigma Green Belt Certification training. Companies must provide a matching amount of the grant, but the return on investment should be significant. The nameplate industry used to be quality driven, but today it is price driven.

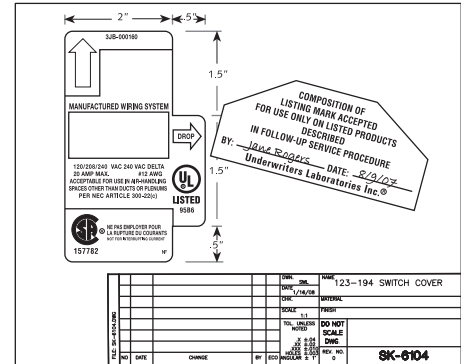
NFi hopes to reduce costs by 2-10% utilizing lean concepts, thereby helping to keep prices in line.



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## UL Tightens Listing Mark Use

Beginning in 2008, Underwriters Laboratories (UL) is quadrupling the on site inspection of printers under its Authorized Label Suppliers Program. The change is being made due to concerns over proper distribution of the UL Mark, counterfeiting and compliance with UL's terms and conditions. The UL Mark may only be used with products certified by UL under terms of written agreement with UL.



Prior to production, the final layout of the most common Type R Mark, must be provided to UL for review and acceptance. A copy of the label drawing (which may be the NFi proof) is stamped by UL's Label Center. This is our authorization to print the UL Mark. Further information is provided on our website at: <http://www.nfi.name/pages/ul.htm>. A detailed explanation is given on the UL web site: <http://www.ul.com/mark/design.html>.

Marking and labeling systems are also tested as a component by UL. NFi has some unusual capabilities that are UL recognized. These include polycarbonate (that can be digitally printed with bar codes) for outdoor use and a printed adhesive system for economical zoned adhesive applications.

NFi's customer service team can provide personal assistance in meeting your UL labeling requirements.

## Is Your Comment Here?

**\$250.00 off your NEXT ORDER-Just Let Us Know!**

August 2, 2007

"Thank you. We appreciate all that NFi does for us."

Dave Mellon - Zippo Corp.

September 7, 2007

"The overlays work fantastic for us. Exactly what we needed. Couldn't have been more pleased with what you did for us. Thank you very much for that."

Dan Rohwer-Nutter - President and CEO of Beecher Instruments, Inc.

June 28, 2007

"The labels are perfect! Excellent detail! ... Thank you again for the expedited service."

Kevin Palmer - Continental Automotive Systems Division

January 24, 2008

"I chose to go elsewhere the last time, to have it made, and found out the hard way that the [other company's] quote was not "apples to apples"

Curt Bonville - Gunther International