

PRESS RELEASE

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HODGE CLEMCO BLAST-ROOM ENSURES THE PERFECT FINISH

The manufacturer of two of the most iconic brands in grass-care and grounds maintenance equipment used at international sports venues around the world has upgraded production with a self-contained blast-room from Hodge Clemco.

Dennis mowers were used at stadia for the FIFA World Cups in South Africa and Brazil and will be in action again in Russia this year. Like SISIS ground-care machinery manufactured by Howardsons, Dennis mowers are also used by top sports clubs in many countries as well as local authorities and education establishments.

The durable, high-quality finish expected by customers requires effective surface preparation of the mild steel components before they are powder-coated. The company previously used sub-contractors for this work but has now brought the process in-house in order to improve production flexibility and quality control and reduce damage to components in transit.

The new blast-room is designed for work on fabrications weighing from 2kg to 50kg, using chilled iron abrasive. Located inside an existing building, the chamber is 6 metres long x 4.5 metres wide, with walls and roof manufactured from double-skinned insulated steel panels, which reduce sound transmission. The floor is lined with steel plate. Air inlet ducts and exhaust points around the chamber ensure effective dust extraction and air ventilation.

The blast machine is a high-production direct-pressure unit that feeds a 10mm ID tungsten-carbide-lined nozzle that provides maximum blasting velocity, uniform abrasive distribution and a high work-rate. It also allows low-pressure blasting when required. The machine is joined directly to a three-tonne storage hopper, forming a totally enclosed feed system.

The abrasive recovery system consists of a large floor hopper into which operators sweep used material and which is linked to a separator system that removes contaminants, fines and dust. Clean abrasive is returned automatically to the main storage hopper. Dust is collected on filter cartridges and automatically deposited in bins for disposal.