



Re: Pole Inspection and Maintenance Notification

February 25, 2010

To Our Valued Customers and all Sports Lighting Pole Owners,

During the past year, the industry has seen a number of high mast and sports lighting poles collapse. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) recently issued an alert related to outdoor steel stadium light poles. For further details, please reference the CPSC website: www.cpsc.gov/CPSCPUB/PREREL/prhtml09/09321.html.

While steel poles have proven to provide a long and reliable service life, they do not have a permanent life span. A strong wind event, metal fatigue due to wind induced vibrations, corrosion, or an overloading of the structure can damage a pole and lead to a catastrophic failure. Pole failures have occurred throughout the country involving poles of several different manufacturers. In most of these cases, a lack of inspection and maintenance played a critical role in contributing to the collapse of these lighting poles.

Valmont has been manufacturing lighting poles for over 35 years. As a leader in the industry, Valmont is providing guidance to its customers to address the risk of injury or death from a fallen pole. Valmont strongly recommends that pole owners perform regular inspections of all pole structures to ensure that nuts on bolts are tight, welds are crack free, and that the surface is free from any rust or corrosion. If cracking or other damage to the pole is observed, appropriate maintenance should be immediately undertaken. For more information regarding pole inspection procedures, please review our inspection guideline document, *Basic Guidelines for the Self-Inspection and Maintenance of Valmont Sports Lighting Poles*, located on our Valmont inspection and services website: www.valmontservicesgroup.com/spg.

In addition to these basic guidelines, sports lighting pole owners should develop and document a routine scheduled inspection and maintenance program. An inspection program should include frequent visual examination. When visual inspection uncovers any suspected areas of concern, then a follow-up inspection should be conducted using nondestructive testing (NDT) performed by technicians knowledgeable in ultrasonic, magnetic-particle and liquid-penetrant test methodologies. Tests such as these are useful in detecting hairline cracks, internal corrosion and other structural integrity issues which can be difficult to detect through basic visual inspection techniques. Frequency of inspection depends on many risk factors including your geographical location, age of the structures, and data collected from the initial inspection. Inspection should always occur immediately after a major wind event.

If you have any questions pertaining to the above or require any additional information on pole inspection or maintenance, please feel free to contact Valmont Industries at (800) 825-6668 ext. 6761.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Sanderson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tom Sanderson
Vice President
Market and Product Development
Valmont Structures Division

Americas Lighting and Communication Structures

Valmont Industries, Inc. 7002 North 288th Street P.O. Box 358 Valley, Nebraska 68064-0358 USA
402-359-2201 800-825-6668 Fax 402-359-6221 valmont.com valmontstructures.com