**FLOOR CLEANING GUIDELINES – SaniCrete Urethane Cement Flooring Systems**

**WHY CLEAN YOUR FLOOR?**

**Sanitation: The durability of SaniCrete flooring, based on urethane cement, is designed to withstand the aggressive cleaning and sanitation methods required of the Dairy and Food Processing Industries.**

**Service life: Controlled standards of housekeeping, proper slope to drain, prompt spill clean-up and employee training are all factors that will determine the life expectancy of your floor.**

**HOW TO CLEAN YOUR FLOOR**

**Broom:** **Sweep and clean your floors regularly with an appropriate push broom or vacuum. This will remove abrasive dirt and debris that may otherwise abrade the surface.**

**Mechanical scrubbers: Self-contained mechanical scrubbers with vacuum suction drying, are the most efficient and cost effective method. Pay particular attention to the type of cleaning pads or brushes you use. The pad/brushes should not mark or scratch the surface of the floor.**

**High pressure/steam cleaning: Highly effective but difficult to contain and remove the water. In most cases, pressure washing is combined with chemical cleaning. Water under pressure is insufficient to emulsify oils and greases. Proper slope to drain and squeegee drying is recommended. Don’t allow concentrated cleaners, sanitizers, chemicals to puddle on the floor or aesthetic staining may occur.**

**Mops: Mops are generally ineffective except for smooth finish floors in the mildest cleaning solutions. It is important to change the cleaning solution and rinse your mop often. Use mops made of rayon as cotton mops tend to snag and fray.**

**Wet vacuum: In areas that do not have drains (if mechanical scrubber is not available), a vacuum designed for water pickup should be used. It is important to remove all of the cleaning solution from the floor.**

**Squeegee: Use a flat rubber, neoprene or foam squeegee to move the water to drains. A flat squeegee will leave the floor fairly dry.**

**CLEANERS**

**The choice of cleaning agent and process depends mainly on the type of soiling. In principle, all alkaline cleaning agents are suitable whether sodium or potassium hydroxide based, as our flooring systems are not sensitive to high pH values. Nor are surfactants and hypochlorite additives harmful. If an acidic cleaner is preferred, one based on phosphoric acid should be used. To remove lime specks, dilute hydrochloric acid or a weak acetic solution (up to 10% if subsequently neutralized) can be used.**

**High concentrations of ammonia or ammonium chloride can cause yellow or brown discoloration on the flooring but the cleaning products we have encountered so far contain only very small quantities which are not at all critical (1% ammonia).**

**For disinfections purposes, any product with a hypochlorite, formaldehyde or hydrogen peroxide base can be used. Regarding the latter, it must however be mentioned as a precaution that incorrect use eg. Subjecting the flooring to a concentrated form (30% Hydrogen Peroxide) for several hours, leads to irreversible red discoloration.**

**In dairies and similar locations, it is sometimes stipulated that steel components should be cleaned with a 0.7% nitric acid solution at 70° C. Here it needs to be noted that the acid in the form described above does not harm the flooring. Concentrated nitric acid (commonly sold as 54% concentration) will lead to a red/orange discoloration (scorching). We recommend good housekeeping to ensure these spills are promptly wiped up. Though our flooring systems may be “resistant” to a given chemical, it must be noted that staining may be inevitable without compromising physical properties.**

**BREAK-IN PERIOD**

**SaniCrete urethane cement flooring systems are designed to cure quickly to allow for minimal downtime. However, though our floors can be returned to service quickly, they do not necessarily reach their full degree of cure for several days. Thus, optimum chemical and abrasion resistance properties are not necessarily present during the first few days. We recommend taking this information into consideration whenever possible. Don’t allow concentrated cleaners, sanitizers, chemicals to puddle on the floor and squeegee floors dry during this break-in period or aesthetic staining may occur. If staining does occur, it is only aesthetic; the overall flooring system will not be compromised.**