

ICL INQUIRY STATEMENT

JAMES McGOLDRICK

1. On 11 May 2004 I was employed as a Foreman/Spray Painter with ICL Tech Limited based in their premises in Grovepark Mills, Hopehill Road, Maryhill, Glasgow.
2. I started with the company in April 1974. At that time it was called ICL Technical Plastics. Before I started with the company I first met with Roger Woodford, one of the Directors. The second meeting that I had was with Campbell Downie, the Managing Director of ICL Plastics. My original interview had been for a job with Stockline Plastics but I was offered a job with the coating shop.
3. Stockline had started up but was only working on a small scale. Stockline worked out of what became the Goods In/Goods Out area of the ground floor of the premises.
4. They had a large saw down in that end of the building. One the ground floor Stockline worked at what would be the Hopehill Road end at the stair tower. The coating shop was all up at the opposite end of the building nearer to what was eventually Gael's Paints.
5. There was a door from the despatch area into the stairwell. That would have been there in the '70s. Originally there was no door at the access point from the stairwell down to the basement but eventually Andy Galloway and Kenny Murray put a door on.

COATING SHOP AND PROCESSES

6. Originally the powder coating division wall was half height and if you were standing at one end of the building you could see up to the other. I worked the large electric oven at the back of the coating shop. This was alongside Gordon Bell's batch oven which was fired

by LPG. There were other electric ovens in the ground floor. This has varied over the years but in recent times there were three small electric ovens, my large electric oven, Gordon's batch oven and the big oven which was natural gas. (This was what was referred to by people at the time of the disaster and since as the Clenny oven but we knew it as the big oven). There were spray booths in the coating shop and a chemical store which consisted of two large yellow cabinets which Stewart McColl, our Managing Director in recent years, had put in. In the chemical store only paints were stored. We used Whitfords to supply paints and we had a book of everything that we used.

7. Bill Masterton was the Coating Shop Manager. I was the Foreman Spray Painter. There was also a solvent clean area which was up beyond the powder bag store wall in the Goods In and Out area.
8. We used to use an industrial solvent which we called Genklene (I am not sure if that was its actual name) for cleaning parts prior to plastic coating. Everything requires to be cleaned. There would be many jobs which we do not only require to use solvent for but also the parts required to be shot blasted. This would give a roughened surface for plastic to adhere to if necessary.
9. We used fluidised beds for dip coating. These were at the rear behind the ovens. These were at the back of my oven and Gordon's oven.
10. The powder bag store consisted of racking with pallets on top and the powder bags were put on top of the pallets. These were bags normally about 25 kg in weight.
11. No powders were ever stocked in the basement. They were always on the racking except if we brought a couple of them down to the coating shop end. We would never have kept powder in the

basement as it was far too damp and it was always kept on the ground floor.

12. I used the spray booth to the rear of my oven. A rack ran right through the oven on the floor from front to back and this meant that two of us could work the oven at the same time as there was a door at each end.

13. My electric oven was mostly used for jobs involving spray painting onto hot components. The electric oven was also used for flashing off after coating.

14. If I was working on parts which required to be cured, I would take them to one of the electric ovens, either at the rear or at the side of where I was working.

15. If the parts were larger, for example, some of the oil industry parts that we worked on, we would put them into the big oven.

16. We used to work on floodlight casings for the company Chalmit.

The Big Oven

17. The big oven was fuelled by natural gas which came in from the Stockline end of the building. The natural gas pipe came in at the area of the compressor/generator at the Stockline end of the building. The natural gas pipe came in at ceiling level and ran for a short distance along the back wall where the clean room and electric oven were then turned and ran along the line of, but not hard up against, the dividing wall with the fabrication department. The pipe was bracketed onto the ceiling at the beams which crossed the ceiling above the coating shop floor. The pipework went past the electric oven, the spray booth, Bill Masterton's office and the chemical store then crossed down around the line of the dividing wall between the coating shop and the Goods In and Out area to the

opposite side of the coating shop to the big oven where it dropped down at the rear of that oven and went in horizontally at the rear. I don't know if the natural gas pipe fuelled anything else.

18. Jim Smith worked on general maintenance of machinery.

19. There was a fire a few years ago, as a result of which Andy and Kenny checked the pipework for leaks then they got someone else in to check. The fire was in adjacent premises not in the coating shop and it was just to check if there was any problem with our natural gas pipe.

LPG Oven (Batch Oven)

20. The batch oven was operated by Gordon Bell who did the same kind of work as me.

21. The LPG tank was fuelled by a pipeline which came into the cellar of the building. There was a tank in the yard. I am shown [\[Image 0405-060/9 \[ICL/ 013137\]\]](#) and [\[Image 0405-060/11 \[ICL/ 013139\]\]](#).

22. I have no idea how the pipework ran from the tank to the building but I know that it entered the basement and there was a valve inside an alcove there which you used to turn the gas on and off. I was shown [\[Image 0405.077/10 \[ICL/ 08925\]\]](#).

23. The pipework then came up through the despatch area floor to the ceiling of the coating shop. The pipework then ran along the ceiling, bracketed onto the ceiling at the beams. It ran along the length of the coating shop towards Gordon's oven and then ran across the coating shop floor to Gordon's oven where there was then a drop at an angle to the side of the oven from which the gas supply was operated.

24. In relation to the layout of the building, there were windows in the coating shop when I started but they were bricked up in time. In relation to the stairwell at the Hopehill Road end of the premises, there were windows on every level with bars on. This was on the start of the stairwell facing towards the LPG tank.

LPG

25. The pipework for the LPG ran along the ceiling of the coating shop. It was bracketed onto the ceiling at the beams then ran down to Gordon's oven at the side from which it operated.

26. The gas was only turned on and off by me in the basement. About 8 years ago I went on holiday and am sure at that stage there was a white tank but when I came back there was a grey tank.

27. Normally I would put the gas on and off. If I was on holiday, Gordon or Bill would do it.

28. In recent years, the procedure for putting the gas on in the morning would be for me to check in then go to open the large roller shutter door in the coating shop. I would then go to the tank and switch the gas on. After that I would make my way to slide open the large door or gate at the front of the premises.

29. I would then open the roller shutter door near to the despatch area and make my way back through the coating shop. Once in the coating shop I would put the compressors on for air pressure going through the factory for spray painting and also for the use of the fabrication shop. I would then, in the coating shop, put on whatever electric ovens we needed for the day. The large electric oven which I operated was always on as was Gordon's LPG oven.

30. At night I wouldn't put the gas off outside first as Gordon might have parts in his oven. He would put off the oven first and give me a shout to let me know that he had done so.
31. The pipework carrying the LPG had started to look a bit corroded. Gordon spoke about it. We knew Bill was getting quotes to get the pipework replaced but don't know what stage it had reached.
32. The two cylinders which were beside the tank and can be seen in Image 0405-060/12 [ICL/ 013140]
33. were there as back up for the tank, if it was to run out. These went in as back up only when the new tank went in. To my knowledge we never had to use them. I was shown Image 0405-060/21 [ICL/ 013149],
34. This is a view of the top of the tank. The gauge on the top would tell you how much gas there was. I would only have occasion to check the gauge on the top if we had extra work, like a night shift, and wanted to ensure we had enough gas for the job.
35. I never saw the gauge low ie between 5 and 20 where you can see the red line on the gauge. It was normally sitting about 70 when I saw it.
36. I would maybe look at it if we were working at a weekend but I never had to order any extra gas in.
37. I was shown
- a. Image 0405-060/24 [ICL/ 013152]
 - b. Image 0405-060/25 [ICL/ 013153]
38. This photograph shows the pipework coming down from the tank which went into the ground. The handle is shown in the off position

in the photo, ie it is down. Up was on and when you put the lever up to put the gas on, the lever would sit in front of the pipe.

39. The last time I was in the basement was two months before. Three or four of us were down there as we kept jigs there for use in the coating shop and we had gone down to get them.
40. As far as keys to the basement were concerned, I had keys as did Andy Galloway and the office had a set which were used if anyone had to go down to the basement.
41. Kenny had a tobacco tin and that day he didn't have his tin in his top pocket where he normally did. I would say he never had it on the day of the tragedy so I surmised he never had any tobacco. There was a no smoking policy on the ground floor of the building. Stewart had increased tea breaks by 5 minutes morning and afternoon and a smoking shelter was built a few weeks before the disaster. There were buckets of sand outside for putting out cigarettes.
42. I never saw Kenny smoking in the basement.
43. With regard to entering the basement, in the stairwell to the Hopehill end of the building there was a door down to the basement. The door, when unlocked, pushed in the hinge to the right and the door would stay open once pushed open. The light switch was to your left. After you had switched the light on you went downstairs and on the turn under the platform above you was a fluorescent strip light. The strip came on pretty quickly.
44. When you got down to the basement there was a light switch to your right just inside the basement opening. Someone familiar with the layout could switch on the light as they went in. The switch operated a fluorescent light.

45. There was another fluorescent strip light inside Kenny and Andy's room which lit up that area.
46. LPG Oven - To put on Gordon's oven, there was an electrical box at the side which operated the power. I would then turn the valve on for the gas to get to the pilot lights. I would light the pilot lights with a gas lighter especially for the purpose.
47. I would then go to the electrical box where you turned on a lever and as you did so the burners would come on. The oven normally was set by LED. It was virtually always set to 200 to 250 degrees C but if a different temperature was required and Gordon remembered, he would set it to that different temperature.
48. Gordon had had a few problems with temperature. They seemed to think the solenoid valve, which is to do with the temperature, was the problem and I think Jim Smith, the maintenance man, took to do with that.
49. I have been asked about areas of the coating shop floor being painted blue. The area which was blue ran in front of where the spray booths were and where the trolleys were used. The paint was gritty for non-slip purposes. I have been asked about the area inside the roller shutter door nearest to the stairwell but as far as I remember it was grey and not blue.
50. The burners on the gas oven were not noisy. My oven was a lot noisier.
51. As far as maintenance of the equipment was concerned, a firm called MacNicols normally dealt with the electrical ovens, for example, fan replacement.

52. As far as health and safety training was concerned, I was sent on a course about 25 years ago to Queenslie Estate. The course was basically concerned with good housekeeping.

53. Bill Masterton was involved a bit on health and safety but I don't know to what extent. It was not my concern.

54. Bill was involved in testing the air a bit. He had equipment to do this. Someone from Whitfords may have come in to test.

55. In the event of an accident I would report that to Bill to have it logged as there was a main accident book.

56. I have been asked if I told the police about a tunnel at the Stockline building. I think it might have had something to do with a boiler – it looked like a wee train tunnel and I think that Andy bricked it up.

57. On the day of the disaster there was nothing unusual at all, no unusual smells. After 31 years I knew all the smells and there was nothing.

58. Date of the Tragedy

I have been asked about the events on the day of the disaster. If I can go back to the Monday, I think it was quite a nice day. If it was really sunny we would open the shutter at Gordon's oven but it had to be quite calm to do that.

59. On the day of the disaster there was nothing unusual at all, no unusual smells. After 31 years I knew all the smells and there was nothing. On the morning of the disaster Bill was out at a customer.

60. John Alexander hadn't come in. Matthew had been up at the shot blaster. He had finished working on the parts there and I told him to go and clean the blaster but then changed my mind and asked him to

go to dip coat at the small rotary oven at the opposite end of the coating shop from the blaster. The shot blaster is up at the Despatch store end (also known as Goods In/Out). I often think about it, as if he'd been at the blaster he'd have died too. Tam McAulay, who died in the disaster and Danny Fraser worked in the Despatch under Archie Lindsay who had an office upstairs on the second floor.

61. The majority of Tam (McAulay) and Danny (Fraser's) job was to pack for fabrication.
62. Bill had a rule that coating did our own packing in case any damage was caused to any parts which we had worked on. I don't remember seeing Tam that day.
63. About 11.45 I was speaking to Danny Fraser, Archie Lindsay and Matthew (whose nickname was Chewy). We were at the despatch end having a chat. Gordon had just being doing electro-static work. He had put the parts on the trolley to put into the oven and the oven was closed to maintain the heat. The door to Gordon's oven was on a pulley system operated by an electric button.
64. The big gas oven was being used that day for de-gasing for floodlights casings for Chalmit. I had been spraying Chalmit cases and I had put them in the trolley to flash off in my oven.
65. Danny Gilmour was working at the end of my oven near to Bill's office and I was working at the spray booth end at the opposite end of the oven. Chic Robertson, the cleaner, had gone into the coating shop but I did not know that at that time. Bill was still out at this point. Archie then went up to the office on the second floor (Peter Ferguson, who lost his life, was in overall charge of goods-in)

77. I tried to get back to the building. A lot of people initially were trying to get onto the site to help. The emergency services were all arriving and they were clearing people away from the site.

I confirm that the contents of this statement are true.

Witness signature _____

Date _____

James McGoldrick

1. **Paragraph 31** – You refer to "corroded pipework" - can you clarify and expand on this? Do you know how long the corrosion was present? Where exactly on the pipes do you recall there being corrosion?

Pipework in question had changed colour. I was only made aware there was corrosion by another colleague. The corrosion was above the batch oven.

2. **Paragraphs 32 -33** – You refer to the "two cylinders" beside the tank. Can you expand on the use of these cylinders?

These cylinders were only used for back up if the tank supply in the batch oven ran out of gas.

3. **Paragraphs 34 - 35** – You discuss "workload" when you comment that you would have to check that there was enough supply for a particular job. Did the overtime and late working occur in the period just prior to the explosion?

No. There was no overtime

4. In your statement given to the police, you referred to pipework being replaced. This is not replicated in your Inquiry statement. Can you please clarify your position on whether or not there was pipework being replaced? For example, do you know what pipework was being considered for replacement, and why?

As per paragraph 31, quotes were being gathered to replace the pipework, consistent with both police and inquiry statements.

I confirm that the contents of this statement are true.

Witness signature _____

Date _____

Mr James McGoldrick – Additional questions

ICL Plastics Ltd and ICL Tech Ltd's understanding is that you used to go down to the basement first thing in the morning to switch on the valve and would switch it off last thing at night. This practice changed when ICL got a **new LPG tank**. Can you clarify the following: -

1. Was this the change of tank by Calor from the single tank to the two tanks in 1991 or was it when J Gas became the suppliers of LPG?

Mr McColl changed the practice when J Gas became suppliers

ICL Plastics and ICL Tech Ltd understand that the practice thereafter was for you to turn on the gas at the LPG tank in the yard.

2. Once the practice changed, was the valve in the basement removed or was it simply left permanently in the "on" position?

It was left permanently on