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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **FINAL GOVERNMENT REPORT EXPECTED TO HIGHLIGHT HEALTH RISKS OF SPRAY-ON BEDLINERS**

*NIOSH Alert in Final Stages of Review; Draft Report Focused on  
Severe Risks of Worker Exposure to Isocyanates Used in Many Spray-on Linings*

LAS VEGAS, NV, Nov. 1, 2005 – The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) in the coming weeks is expected to issue its final report concerning the health risks facing unprotected workers who apply many types of spray-on bedliners. NIOSH in February issued a draft report that criticized the “highly unregulated and irregular environment for workers” in the spray-on market.

The NIOSH report, spurred by a growing number of worker health and safety complaints and at least one death directly attributable to the application of a spray-on lining, will call for increased oversight of spray-on facilities by state-level health officials. NIOSH has concluded that exposure to methylenebis phenyl isocyanate (MDI) and other dangerous chemicals found in many spray-on bedliner fatalities can cause respiratory issues that could result in injury or death.

In February 2003, the 45-year-old manager of a spray-on business died after applying the product to a cargo van. The medical examiner concluded that the victim died of “acute asthmatic reaction due to inhalation of chemicals.”

In spite of reports of worker risks associated with spray-on linings, many spray-on businesses continue to apply these products without requiring the use of ventilated spray booths and supplied-air full facemask respirators and other equipment.

“We applaud NIOSH and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for their attention to an issue that could severely impact the truck accessories industry,” said Penda Corporation President and Chief Executive Officer Ulf Buerger. “We urge industry leaders, including the Specialty Equipment Markets Association (SEMA), to develop and promote strict

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standards that will protect the thousands of workers exposed to these chemicals. As an industry, we owe it to these front-line professionals and their families to provide safe working conditions.”

According to the Coalition for Automotive Isocyanate Reduction (CAIR), isocyanates are most dangerous when they form a mist or dust – a common occurrence when spraying an automotive finish or bedliner material. According to the California Department of Health Services, approximately one in 20 persons who work with isocyanates becomes "sensitized" to them. Continuing to work in contact with these chemicals following sensitization can cause permanent asthma. CDHS also warns that daily exposure to even low levels of isocyanates can cause reduced lung capacity and function.

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