

READING EAGLE
BUSINESS WEEKLY

HOME BUSINESS WEEKLY



Reading Eagle: Lauren A. Little | Heyco Metals Inc. President Michael P. Jemison is looking for more help at his family company's Bern Township manufacturing facility.

Made in Berks: Bern Township manufacturer's metals end up in power cords and airplanes

Since 1969, Heyco Metals Inc., Bern Township., has been serving customers across the country from its 86,000-square-foot Berks County manufacturing facility.

Michael P. Jemison, Manheim Township, Lancaster County, appointed president in September, is a new generation of leadership in the family business. The company traces its roots to a business founded by Jemison's great-grandfather in 1926. The company became known as a metal stamper and a dominant supplier for the brass contacts in electrical power cords.

Today, the company makes quality copper, copper alloy and light-gauge stainless steel coil and strip. Its products have a variety of uses, from building a power cord to designing a high-end connector for an airplane.

"It's all over the map," Jemison said.

What seems to be a simple process of Heyco receiving a coil of metal from a supplier or customer and then shipping out a similar coil of metal to a customer is deceiving. The metal alloys, including brass and copper, are custom-altered in thickness and hardness in multiple stages for job-specific applications.

Despite Jemison's pride in the quality and response time provided by his company, the resulting demand for Heyco Metals has not come without struggles.

"We're averaging 20 percent overtime. We need to hire people and add a shift," he said. "We like to hire people we can train and groom."

Jemison said he needs several new employees to begin training.

Jemison wants to grow the company by meeting with customers to see if new product lines could be added.

"I want to leverage our brand name," Jemison said.

Contact **Karen L. Chandler**: 610-371-5049 or money@readingeagle.com.

Heyco Metals

Produces: quality copper, copper alloy and light-gauge stainless steel coil and strip.

Location: 1069 Stinson Drive, Bern Township

Executive: Michael P. Jemison

Employs: 80

Revenue: \$50 million to \$100 million

History: The company traces its roots a business founded by Jemison's great-grandfather in 1926. The company became known as a metal stamper and a dominant supplier for the brass contacts in electrical power cords.

Web: heycometals.com



Reading Eagle: Lauren A. Little | John Kurtyka, rolling mill operator, moves a roll off of the rolling mill at Heyco Metals Inc.



Reading Eagle: Lauren A. Little | (L-R) Heyco Metals president Michael P. Jemison and VP of operations John Lamastra chat Friday at Heyco Metals. Photo by Lauren A. Little 10/27/2017 /Made in Berks Heyco Metals



Reading Eagle: Lauren A. Little | Material comes off the slitting machine.

Process steps at Heyco Metals

Process steps

Tuesday November 14, 2017 12:01 AM

1. Rolling reduces the thickness of the metal alloy.

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2. Annealing helps finish the metal to customer specifications and softens it to allow it to be made thinner for further rolling.
3. Leveling ensures that the metal is smooth for a top-quality product.
4. Slitting cuts wide single coils into multiple-width narrower coils per customer needs.
5. Continuous coiling provides one continuous coil from cut coils for greater ease of use.
6. Inspections of metal products are made in the lab at multiple steps throughout the rolling process for quality assurance.
7. The customized coils are inventoried and then shipped to customers throughout North America.
8. Roll grinding reconditions the rolls that form the metal in the rolling mill.