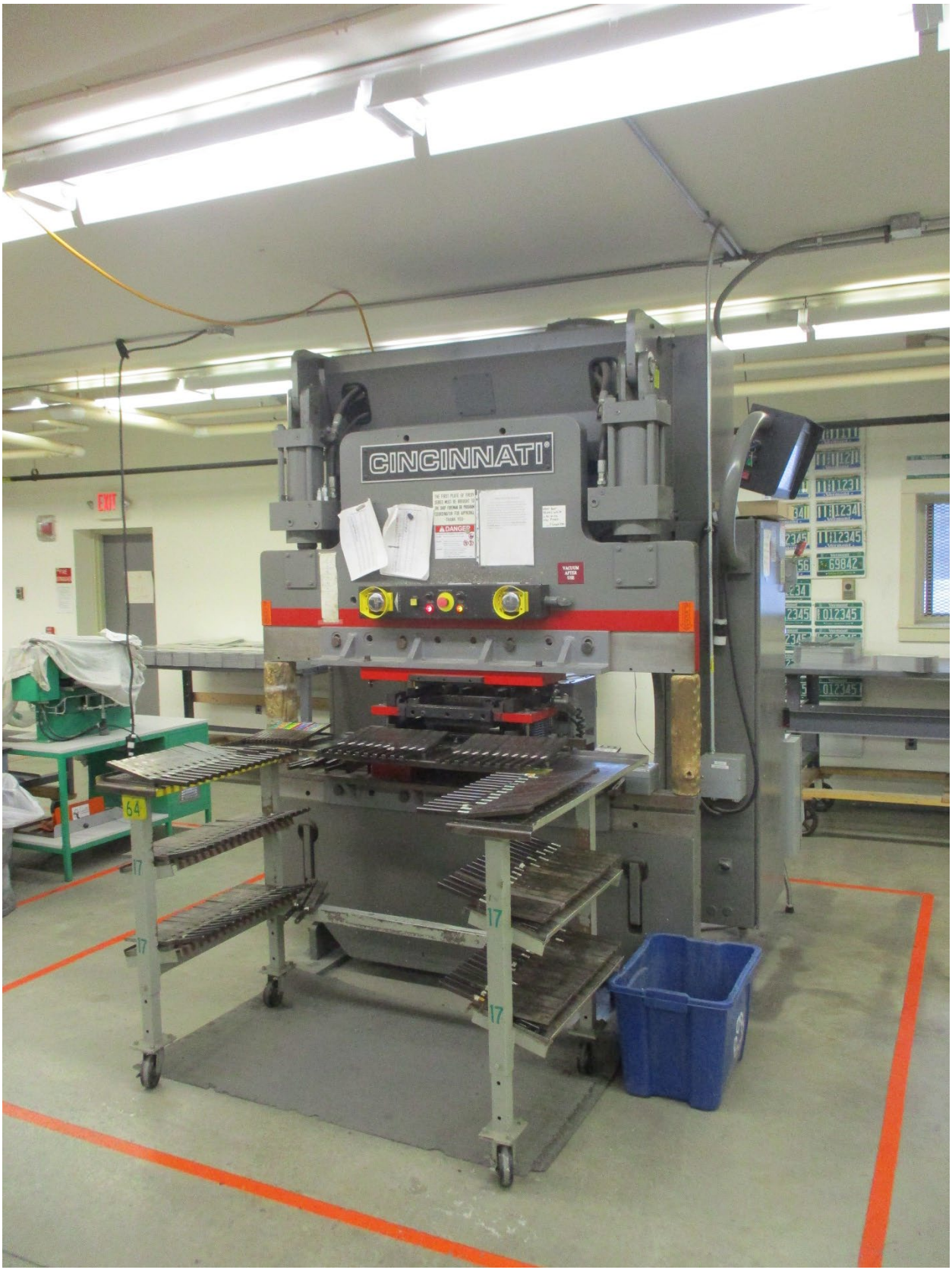
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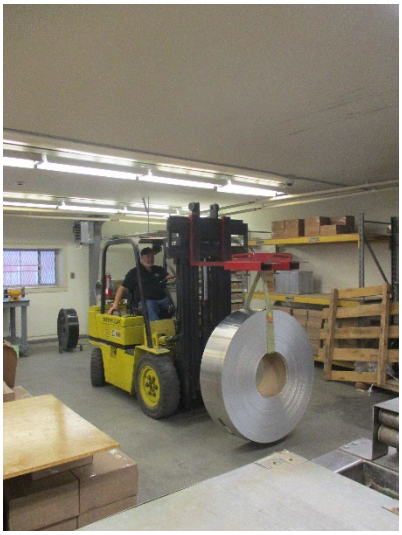
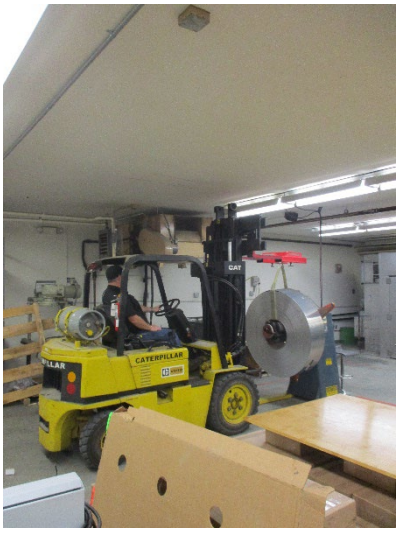
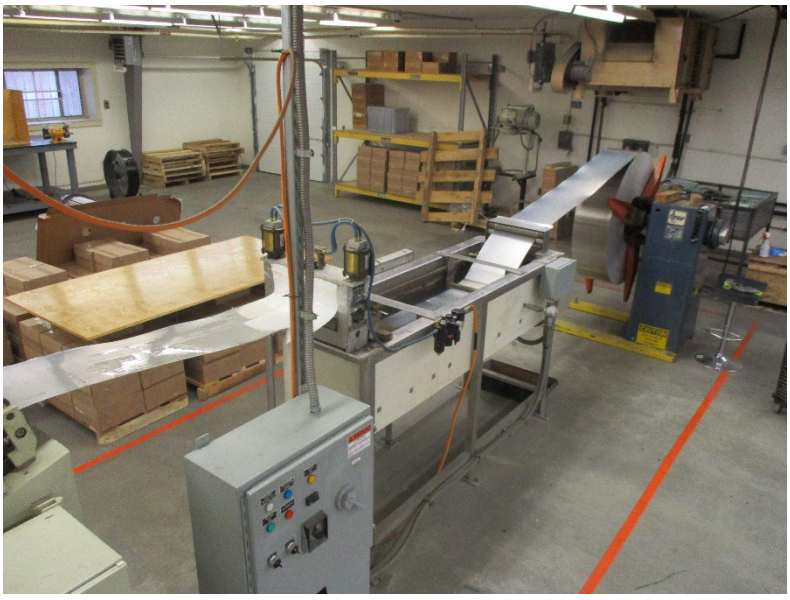
Plate Production Process

- An aluminum coil of Aluminum is taken from our warehouse and loaded onto a “spooler”. This device allows the coil aluminum to be unrolled in a controlled manner as to prevent unwinding and is fed into the blanking line.

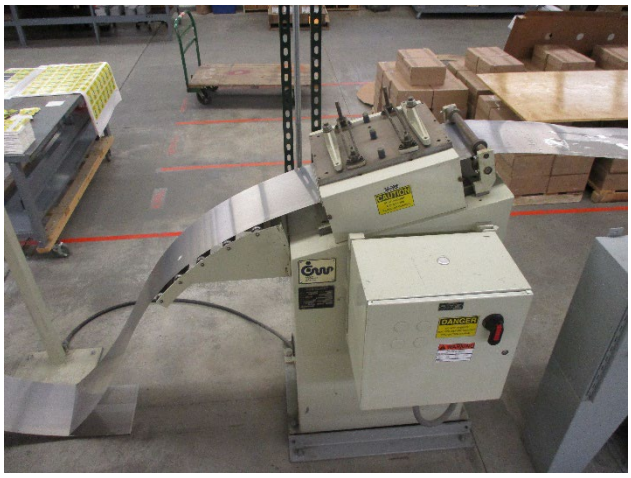




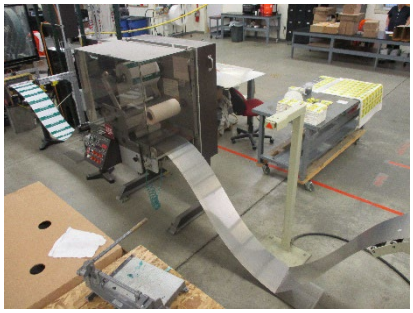
- From the spooler, the aluminum goes through a heated water bath to preheat the aluminum for better adhesion once the aluminum reaches the laminator.

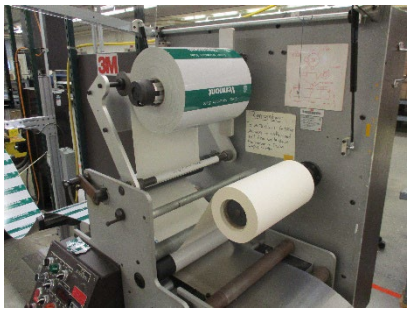


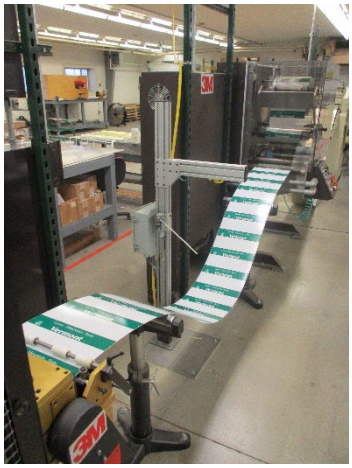
- After the water bath, the aluminum goes through another machine that is responsible for ensuring all aluminum has a flat even surface for proper adhesion of the plate graphic before it enters the laminator.



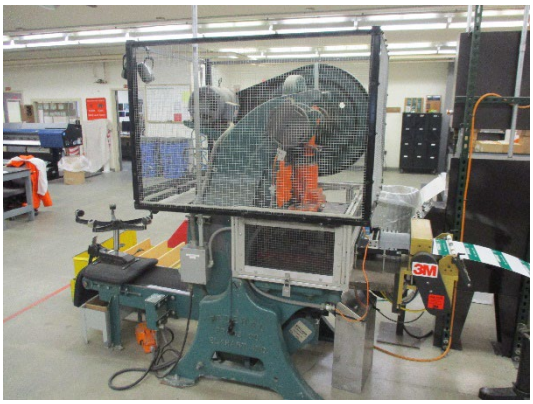
- The aluminum now enters the Laminator. Through a series of rollers, the adhesive blank Vermont sheeting is applied to the aluminum.



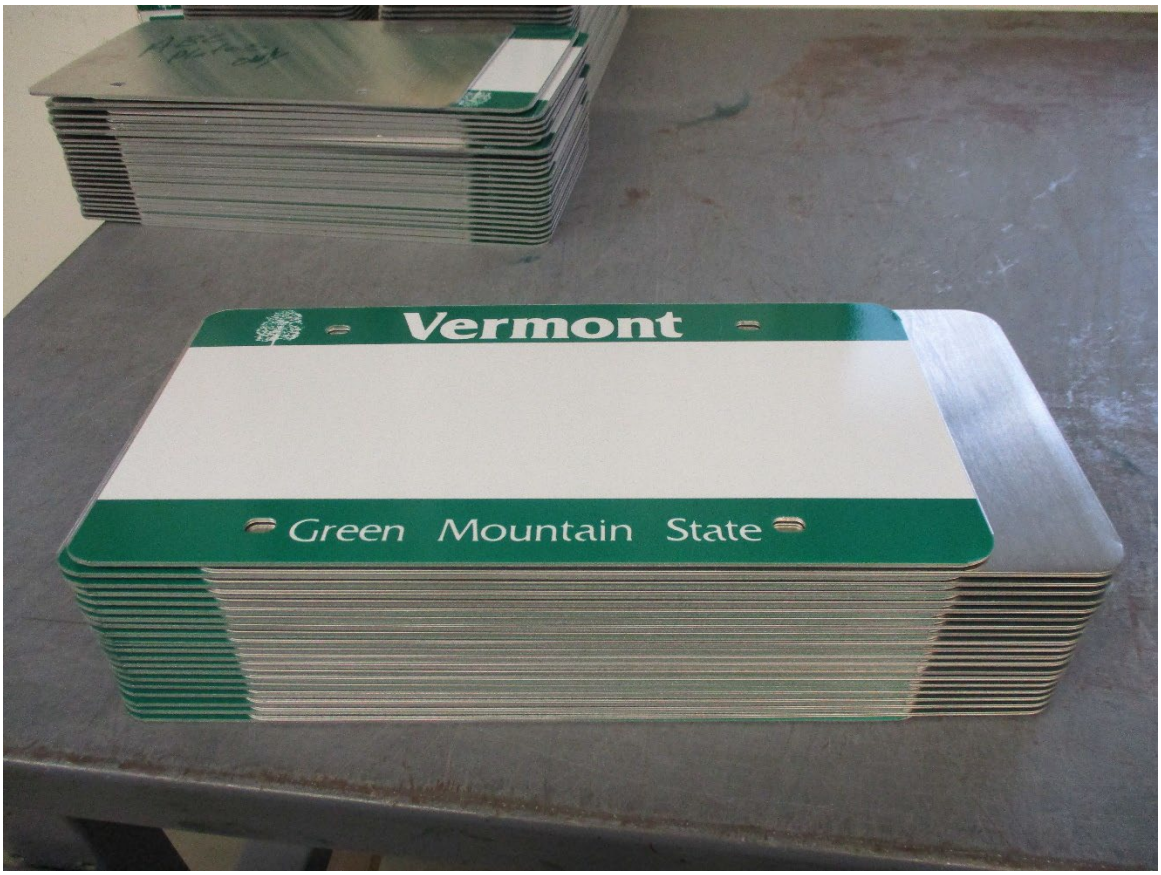




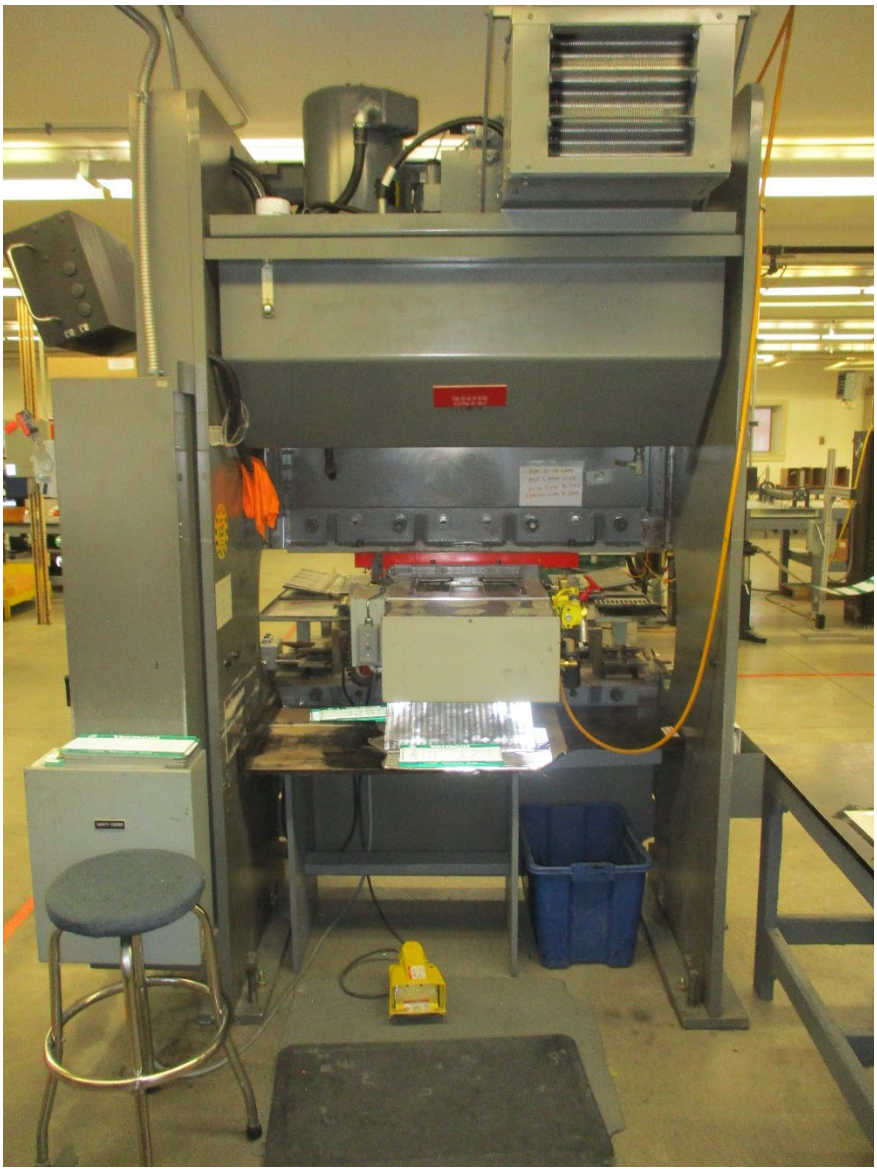
- The last stage in the blanking line is the actual cutting press itself. This is where the plate has its shape cut out as well as the bolt holes for plate mounting.



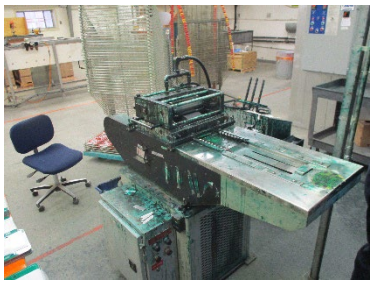
From there, the plates are now ready to be “gauged”. This is where VCI workers will stack pairs of plates into piles of 50 pairs in preparation to be pressed with digits/characters.



- The blanks are fed through a safety feeder on the back on the press by one worker while another worker on the front of the press inserts dies into the safety feeder and presses plates 1 pair at a time.

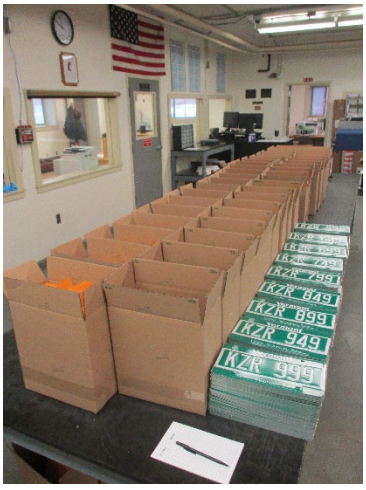


- The pressed blanks are then run through a roll coat inker to place the green needed in the center of the plate so the digits/characters can be seen.



- The pressed and inked blanks then go onto a rack that is then loaded in a batch oven for curing. 2 racks holding approximately 800 plates go into a batch oven to cure at 250 degrees F for 20 minutes.

- When the curing is complete, the plates are then cooled, unloaded from the racks.



- The last step in the process is for VCI workers to then inspect each pair of plates, remake unacceptable plates, and place plates in their respective envelopes for shipment.