

Adapting EU standards

Ukrainian Paint and Coatings Association starts a new era

The economic downturn that began at the end of 2008 had a serious impact on the paints and coatings sector around the world, and Ukraine's was no exception. In terms of volume, production in 2009 dropped 31 % compared to 2007, and this may well have been a factor in speeding up the creation of the association in February 2009.

The members of the newly-created association understood that it would not solve all existing problems simply by virtue of existing.

Rather, it would act as a forum for Ukraine's paints and coatings sector, where members could pursue their economic and other interests while cooperating rather than clashing with state bodies, non-governmental organizations, and each other. This is especially important in a country with a developing economy and a sector in which state ownership no longer exists but where state bodies continue to exert a huge influence on businesses.

Structure of the Association

At the moment, the association has 27 members. Of the total, 19 are manufacturers of paints and coatings, five are producers and suppliers of raw materials, and three are departments of leading Ukrainian universities. These departments train chemical engineers who go on to work in the sector and also conduct research on technology and raw materials.

The association is non-commercial. It is registered as a voluntary, non-governmental, and non-profit association of manufacturers and producers and distributors of equipment, raw materials, and services for the manufacturing of paints and coatings. The aim of the association is to defend the economic, social, and other interests of its members. The association does not interfere in the manufacturing and commercial operations of its members.

The association is governed by its Board, which is headed by the President of the association. The day-to-day management of the association is carried out by the executive directorate. Important decisions are made at the association's general meetings, which include an audit team.

Our association's first steps were aimed at creating a system of technical regulation in a sector which had been ignored by the state for 20 years.

This is why the association initiated the creation of the Technical Standardization committee TK-168 "Varnishes and Paints", which is now part of the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine. Our association carries out the functions of the committee's secretariat. Not a single standard in the manufacturing and

testing of paints and coatings can now be introduced in Ukraine without the committee's knowledge. There are also four subcommittees, which deal with technical regulation for architectural and industrial paints, coatings for wood, and anticorrosive coatings.

Adapting EU standards in the Ukraine

Two years ago committee members took a momentous decision: to adapt standards, identical to those used in the European Union, rather than developing new national standards. The committee has already prepared fundamental standards relating to manufacturing, testing methods, and use of water-dispersion materials for implementation. By the end of the year the association plans to prepare more than 150 ISO- EN standards for implementation in Ukraine in the original language. This is one of the requirements for Ukraine of its Association Agreement with the EU.

The next area on which the association will focus is preparations to implement the conditions of Directive 2004/42/EC. This is a hugely important task for us and the experience of EU states in implementing this directive is invaluable. The members of the association believe that the transition to manufacturing environmentally-friendly products that do not pose a risk to human health is the strategic direction of the development of Ukraine's paints and coatings sector. We do have some "hotheads" of our own, some of whom believe that VOC regulations are populist and a tool for corruption among bureaucrats, while others would put off implementation for the foreseeable future.

An important facet of the association's work is building up and maintaining cooperation with the legislative and executive branches of Ukraine's government. Over the course of our three year existence this has proved to be the most difficult task we have faced. Nevertheless, the association has been successful. At the same time we are working to amend the draft customs regulations which growth the duties on almost 90% of imported raw materials for paint and coatings industry that contradict WTO principles.

Our main principles remain the same and they are: attracting new members; cooperating with legislative and executive bodies to protect our interests; cooperating with universities and the Ministry of Education in training new workers for the sector; introducing European and international paint and coatings standards and directives in Ukraine; improving the information network for our companies, experts and customers; restarting the publication of "Ukrainian Coating Journal". ◀

Contact: info@ukrfarba.info or info@auvlp.org.ua



Alexandr Brichko
Executive Director
Ukrainian Paint and
Coatings Association



Happy formulating with our wide selection of defoamers.

Finding the right defoamer is a lot easier when you add Air Products' defoamer samples to your bench. Our wide selection of high-performance defoamers (silicone, organic, mineral, molecular) help you meet the technical demands of a wide range of water-based coating or graphic arts formulations. And they achieve their high performance without increasing cost-in-use.

Air Products has been a leader in specialty additives for over 40 years. We've applied our proven experience to a product selector tool, which can eliminate your formulating frustrations by matching the best Air Products defoamer to your specific project need and application. Call +31.30.2857 100 to request the tool and a free sample. And see why adding our defoamers to your bench will certainly add a smile to your face.

AIR
PRODUCTS 