



Site Improvement Winner

SOPPEC was the winner of the award in the category of Site Improvement in 2001. The project was to design and construct a new production site for the formulation, manufacture and packaging of special paint aerosols. SOPPEC were assisted by INERIS, consultants in safety issues to both the French Government and Industry.

The plant was designed to ensure minimum impact on the environment and on the health and safety of employees and the local community. Solvents are recycled and cleaned and emissions are kept below 3% of incoming volumes. Amongst other safety considerations, SOPPEC has installed fire and gas detection systems, video surveillance equipment and specially designed safety caps for aerosols. Furthermore, SOPPEC was one of the first aerosol companies in France to install a sloped reservoir for safe storage of Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG), used in the production process.



Solvents are blanketed with nitrogen and stored in double walled underground tanks with automatic management of leaks and levels. Emissions have been reduced at the source by the use of so-called Pouyes rings and articulated arms in production, packaging and the laboratory. SOPPEC is an active member of the Coatings Care Programme, a progressive health and safety initiative for the paints, inks, and adhesives industries, and regularly participates in other safety work with the Federation of Paints, Inks and Adhesives (FIPEC) and the Comite Francais des Aerosols (CFA).



The preventative management of risks linked to the inflammable nature of certain constituents (solvents, LPG), control over procedures, and a considerable investment, particularly in R&D, allow SOPPEC to offer European markets high-performance and reliable products. These products are adapted to the prescribed requirements and specific sensitivities of the German, Austrian, and Swiss markets.

Most of the described improvements (procedures, products, factory design) can be applied in the various fields of the paracheimical industry (industries with discontinuous processes using volatile solvents or inflammable gases such as manufacture of paints, inks, adhesives, cleaning materials, cosmetics, aerosol industry, etc.). The products brought onto the market are more reliable (complete mastery of the manufacturing, packaging and development process), traceable, and less harmful.

