

CONTENTS

FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL	1
ESIG FLAMMABILITY GUIDE PROVES USEFUL AMONG DOWNSTREAM USERS	1
PARTNERING TO ENSURE SAFER WORKPLACES	2
DOWNWARD TREND FOR SOLVENT INHALATION EXPOSURES	2
9 TH ESIG PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP AWARD	3
RoSPA PRESENTS SIA WITH SME ASSISTANCE TROPHY	3
YOUR SOLUTIONS READ AND ESIG WEBSITE	4
BOOSTING ENERGY EFFICIENCY ACROSS THE EUROPEAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRY	4
SEASON'S GREETINGS	4

FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

Dear Readers,

Health and safety are our most valuable assets, whether it is at home, at leisure, whilst travelling or at work.

ESIG has been supporting a safe and healthy work environment for producers, distributors and downstream users of solvents for many years. In this winter edition of Solutions, we will tell you about some of our latest efforts in this area; the recently published Flammability Guide, our partnership with EU-OSHA during the campaign 'Working together for risk prevention' and the positive outcome of the last Institute of Occupational Medicine report, which revealed a downward trend in exposure to solvents. Please do visit our website on www.esig.org to receive more information on new safety materials, such as our updated Best Practice Guidelines and our DVD on using gloves, which will soon be added to our DVD series.

Beginning of 2014, you will also find details on our website on how to apply for the 9th ESIG Product Stewardship Award for downstream solvent user companies. The award is a great opportunity to have efforts in health and safety recognised and to benefit from Europe-wide publicity.

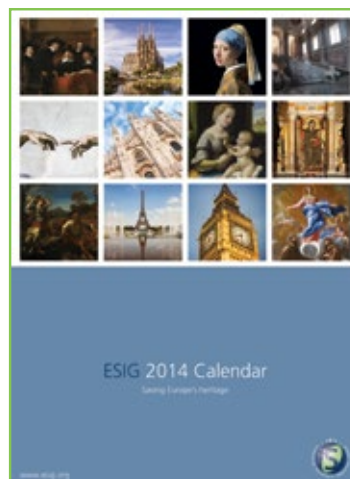
Thanks to our partnership with the European Commission Agency EU-OSHA, we expect the award to benefit from an even higher amount of visibility.

Next year's ESIG calendar, which is also available for viewing online, focuses on the crucial role solvents play in saving Europe's heritage when used in restoring paintings and monuments.

We have slightly changed the format of the calendar to ensure it is more user friendly and hope that you will find a good place for it on your desk.

We wish you a peaceful Christmas and Happy New Year!

Antoine Brossier



ESIG FLAMMABILITY GUIDE PROVES USEFUL AMONG DOWNSTREAM USERS



As part of ESIG's promise to continuously uphold best practice and ensure a safer working environment, we reviewed and updated our Safe Working with Industrial Solvents Guide. This guide provides safety procedures on how to handle flammable solvents as well as general information on flammability and potential ignition risks.

The Guide is proving to be an essential tool among our downstream users who view this document as an essential reference when communicating safe practice to employees.

This Guide is available in English and can be downloaded from the ESIG library section on our website: www.esig.org

“ At Banner Chemicals we value and use ESIG safety materials which provide excellent support to ensure the safe use of many solvents we transport, store, blend and decant into various approved containers daily. The Flammability Guide is another excellent tool for the safe handling of flammable solvents with good advice on how to reduce the risks associated with static electricity. ”

Chris Hall
Business Director - Oxygenated Solvents
Banner Chemicals Ltd

PARTNERING TO ENSURE SAFER WORKPLACES



Healthy Workplaces Summit 2013

On the 11th and 12th of November, a two day summit in Bilbao closed the EU-OSHA campaign¹ 'Working together for risk prevention'. Among the participants were leading occupational safety and health professionals as well as representatives from the European Commission, the Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, the EU Presidency and representatives from national and local governments.

The campaign, which ran from April 2012, involved a wide range of stakeholders at both national and European level dedicated to improving Europe's workplaces so that they are safer, healthier and more productive places to be. In order to raise awareness and share good practice on health and safety at work, events

¹ The European Agency for Safety and Health at Work

were held locally and at Member State level. Many European and international organisations also promoted the campaign through their supply chains, attracting involvement from a significant number of organisations. The campaign highlighted the importance of working together in order to implement risk prevention and brought to the fore that active participation by workers and managers is essential to ensure health and safety is implemented. Occupational safety and health should not be seen as an 'administrative burden', but as a key driver to improving business performance. Credit was given to a campaign which has enabled the exchange of good practice as well as paved the way for future commitment to continue improving working conditions.

ESIG is proud to have been an active partner throughout this campaign and took the opportunity to showcase some communications materials, which were very well received by participants from across Europe.

“ Partnering with ESIG during the campaign was a real win-win. It enabled us to advertise our health and safety activities through ESIG to the chemicals industry and it allowed ESIG to use the EU-OSHA platform and support to communicate their activities and share these with other partners. ”

Brenda O'Brien
Manager Brussels Liaison Office
European Agency for Safety and Health at Work

DOWNWARD TREND FOR SOLVENT INHALATION EXPOSURES



In June 2011, the Institute of Occupational Medicine (IOM)², an independent research institute, undertook a two year European study for ESIG to identify likely drivers for change in levels of solvent inhalation exposure. The research involved analysing personal exposure data from a 40 year timeframe in order to identify temporal changes in solvent inhalation exposure levels. A survey was also carried out, which aimed at understanding factors which influenced changes in workplace behaviour leading to a reduction in exposure.

Results from the analysis of personal exposure data indicated a 5.6% per annum average downward trend in the concentration of exposure levels to solvents.

The questionnaire, which was filled in by manufacturers, distributors and users listed health and safety legislation, technology, the promotion of awareness and the influence of peers as possible factors resulting in a reduction of solvent exposure in the workplace. Results revealed that the likely main factor leading to this reduction was attributed to health and safety attitudes.

Many respondents listed ESIG's product stewardship programme and communications tools on good practice as being an important tool to facilitate change in behaviour at the workplace. ESIG continues to work to reduce solvent exposures in the workplace. Therefore, maintaining positive attitudes to health and safety will always play a major role in our communications activities.

² <http://www.iom-world.org/>

9TH ESIG PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP AWARD

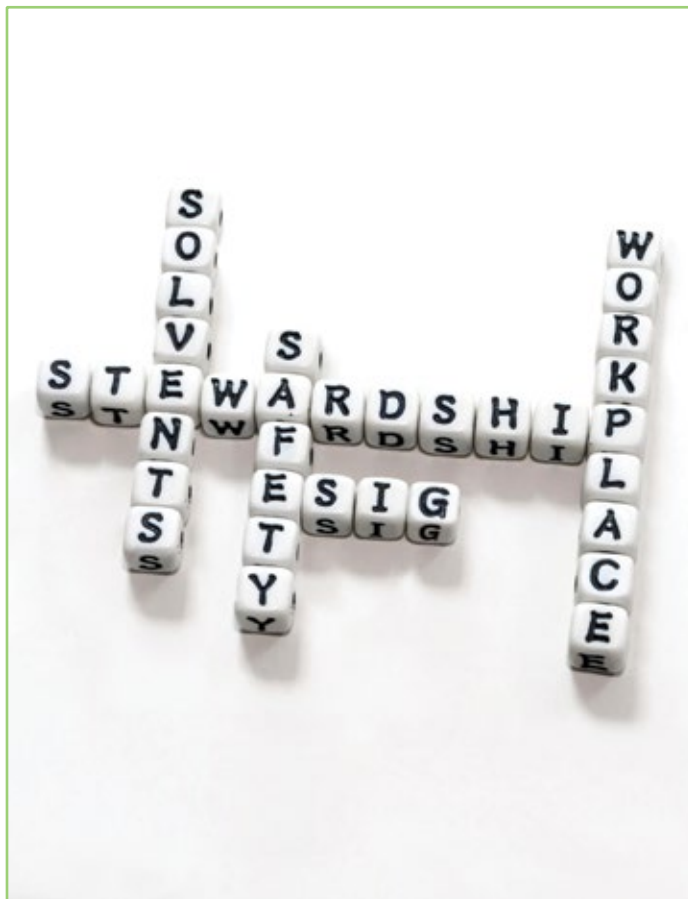
In 2014 the renowned ESIG Product Stewardship Award will be organised for the 9th time. The esteemed prize, which operates under the tenets of the chemical industry's global commitment to Responsible Care, was established back in 1999 to acknowledge innovative ways of achieving health, safety and environmental improvements in the handling, storage, use and transport of solvents.

The award is open to all sectors across Europe and entries will be judged by an expert jury of senior representatives from the EU institutions, media and trade associations. Submissions provide an excellent opportunity to showcase industry efforts to reduce emissions and improve working conditions, as well as share practical examples so that other solvent users and handlers can implement similar improvements.

ESIG will begin accepting applications beginning of January through to May 2014. The closing date for submissions is the 30th May 2014. The winner will be announced at a special ceremony in autumn 2014.

Previous winner, Multisol, received an award in 2011 for their entry 'Changing the Perception of our Industry'. Judges were impressed with the extensive work by the specialist chemical distributor to increase awareness among students of the real-world applications of solvents as well as efforts by industry to handle chemicals safely. The project successfully demonstrated that solvents and chemicals are an integral part of everyday life.

More information on the application process will be available beginning of 2014 on ESIG's website: www.esig.org.



RoSPA PRESENTS SIA WITH SME ASSISTANCE TROPHY



“ This is a great achievement for our small trade association and it would not have happened without the support from our Executive Committee, our Technical Sub-Committee (in particular our TSC chairman John Butcher), our partners in ESIG and our film maker Nik Read of New Vision Productions. ”

Peter Davis, SIA General Secretary

The UK-based Solvents Industry Association (SIA) came first out of many entries for the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA)³ SME Assistance Trophy. The occupational safety awards, which are internationally esteemed, recognise a broad range of health and safety initiatives to save lives and reduce injuries. The SME Assistance Trophy specifically acknowledges contributions made by organisations to help provide health and safety assistance to SMEs.

The judges acknowledged SIA's promotion of health and safety via a training DVD about the safe handling of Intermediate Bulk Containers (IBCs). The DVD, which was released earlier this year,

aims to increase an understanding on the safe usage of IBCs among solvent users during storage, transport and inspection.

ESIG works closely with industry to develop communications materials on the responsible handling of solvents. The IBC DVD was produced in close cooperation with SIA as part of ESIG's work programme to promote best practice in the solvent industry. Downstream users across Europe have been highly appreciative of the value in guidance and training materials such as these, requesting copies in great numbers to train employees and make the workplace a safer environment.

³ <http://www.rospa.com>

YOUR SOLUTIONS READ AND ESIG WEBSITE



Between June and September ESIG carried out a readership survey on its newsletter and website. Overall, the feedback we received was positive and below we would like to share some of the responses with you.

of solvents are rated highly. We were pleased to learn that 86% of respondents feel the newsletter has helped improve their understanding of what ESIG does. Also frequency and layout of Solutions have been rated positive. We take on board that our writing style can be 'rather complicated', and will keep this in mind for future editions. Respondents are traditional when it comes to new media. 89% prefer to receive a hard copy of the newsletter than read the newsletter online and most are less interested in smartphone/iPad applications or RSS feeds.

Respondents are also generally satisfied with the layout and content of our website. Sections of most interest include 'About Solvents' followed by 'Responsible Care', our 'Library' and 'Regulatory Information'. We discovered that 47% would like to see more coverage of ESIG's involvement at EU level. Similarly, to the comments on our newsletter, most respondents don't feel that a Smartphone/iPad application would be useful.

We thank all participants for taking the time to answer this survey. The findings were insightful and helpful for us to improve our future newsletters and carry out a website 'refresh' which will take place in 2014. We will, of course, keep you posted!

The majority of respondents to the survey were manufacturers (65%) and downstream users (20%). Other groups included distributors (9%) and trade associations (6%). The occupations of these respondents varied considerably with the majority being Health and Safety Managers and Product Stewardship Managers, followed by Regulatory Affairs Managers, General Managers and Marketing and Sales representatives.

92% of respondents find the topics covered in Solutions newsworthy. On topics of preference, regulatory developments are popular, while articles on REACH and the benefits and usage

BOOSTING ENERGY EFFICIENCY ACROSS THE EUROPEAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRY

In April Cefic launched the Sectoral Platform in Chemical Energy Efficiency Excellence (SPICE3) project designed to enhance energy efficiency across the European chemical industry, with a particular focus on SMEs, where it is estimated that an energy efficiency improvement potential of 10–15% abounds.

Despite several initiatives aimed at supporting SMEs in this area, there are few EU wide, industry led, activities. SPICE3's aim is to fill this gap and bring together the chemical industry and those with energy expertise and online communication experience.

The two year project will be co-funded by the European Union⁴ and will foster the exchange of best practice via an on-line platform⁵ and through industry workshops and tailored trainings.



ESIG wishes all Solutions readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



⁴ Intelligent Energy Europe Programme of the European Union

⁵ The online platform will go live in December 2013 at <http://www.spice3.eu>

SOLUTIONS IS PRODUCED BY THE EUROPEAN SOLVENTS INDUSTRY GROUP.

For further information, please visit our website at www.esig.org or contact:
EUROPEAN SOLVENTS INDUSTRY GROUP
c/o CEFIC
Avenue E. Van Nieuwenhuysse 4,
B-1160 Brussels, BELGIUM
Tel: +32 (0)2 676 72 69 • Fax: +32 (0)2 676 72 16 • E-mail: esig@cefic.be

For other articles please follow us online :

www.esig.org