



SOLVENTS

One word, many solutions



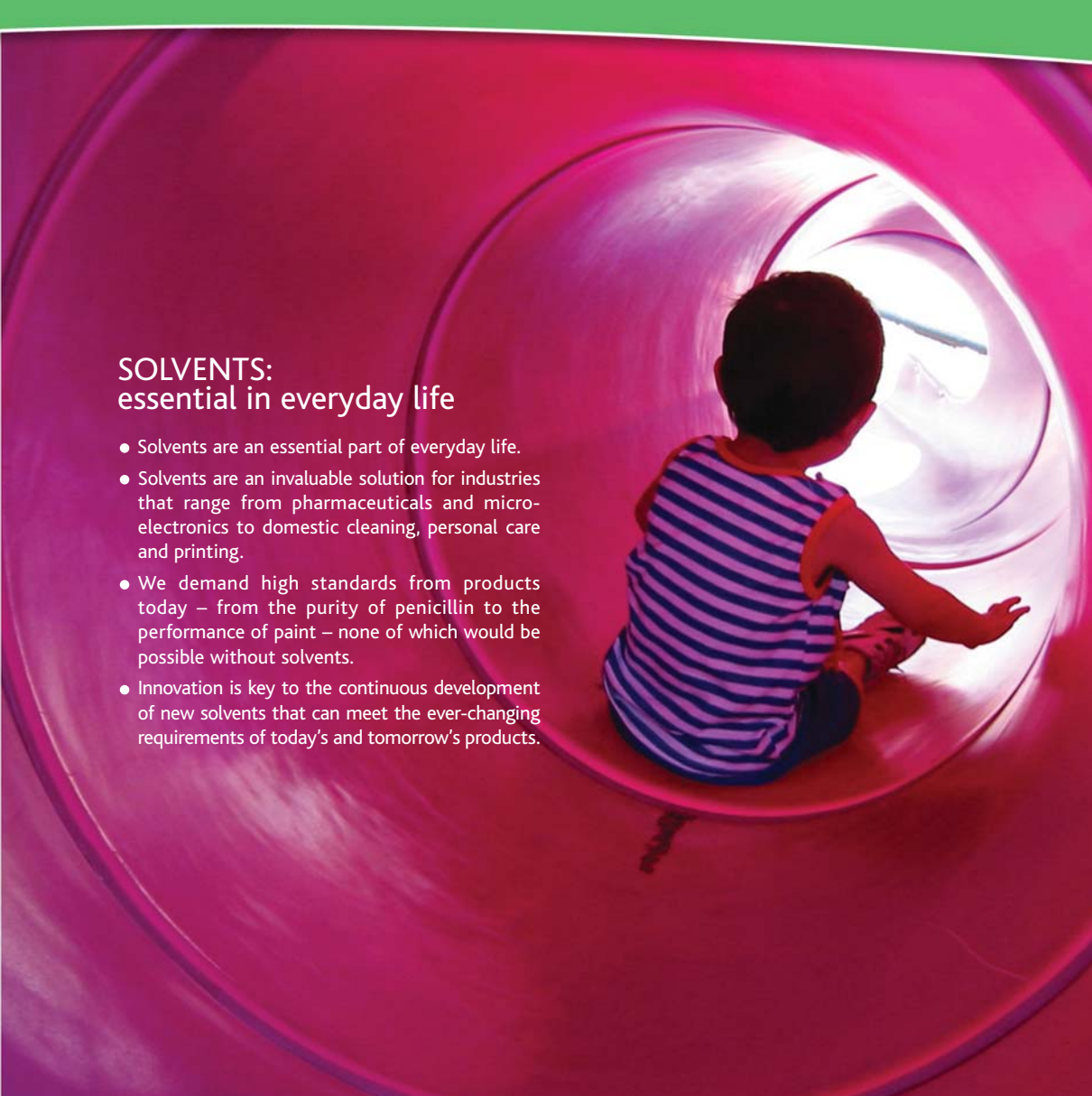


ABOUT ESIG

The European Solvents Industry Group (ESIG) represents the major European producers of oxygenated and hydrocarbon solvents, including big multinationals as well as small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). By building alliances, sharing information and sponsoring dialogue with industry partners and downstream users, ESIG actively promotes a sustainable, safe and responsible use of solvents.

ESIG is a joint activity of the Oxygenated Solvents Producers Association (OSPA) and the Hydrocarbon Solvents Producers Association (HSPA).

Find out more at www.esig.org

A child with dark hair, wearing a blue and white striped tank top, is sitting inside a large, colorful, swirling tunnel. The tunnel has a vibrant, multi-colored interior with shades of blue, green, and yellow. The child is looking towards a bright light at the end of the tunnel, which creates a strong lens flare effect. The child's hands are resting on the sides of the tunnel.

SOLVENTS: essential in everyday life

- Solvents are an essential part of everyday life.
- Solvents are an invaluable solution for industries that range from pharmaceuticals and micro-electronics to domestic cleaning, personal care and printing.
- We demand high standards from products today – from the purity of penicillin to the performance of paint – none of which would be possible without solvents.
- Innovation is key to the continuous development of new solvents that can meet the ever-changing requirements of today's and tomorrow's products.



SOLVENTS: a wide variety of uses

- Solvents are liquids that have the ability to dissolve, suspend or extract other materials.
- Solvents make it possible to process, apply, clean or separate materials.
- There are many different kinds of solvents with a variety of properties (viscosity, dissolving power, evaporation rates, etc) that determine their use for each application.
- There is a large demand for solvents from many different industry sectors, with the largest coming from the paint and coatings industry.
- Solvents have become invaluable to the pharmaceutical industry, as they are essential for achieving the purity required of modern medicines – to name just one example.




SOLVENTS: a responsible approach to safety, health and environment

- All solvents produced by ESIG members have been thoroughly tested for their health, safety and environmental properties.
- The European solvents industry is committed to complying with and even exceeding the EU's health, safety, and environmental (HSE) requirements.
- Maintaining the highest levels of safety and health standards is an absolute priority. This is achieved by conducting continuous scientific research and development to improve products and by providing health, safety, and environmental information to users on an ongoing basis.
- The solvents industry is committed to protecting the environment and society as a whole by ensuring that solvents are used correctly from the beginning to the end of their life cycle.



SOLVENTS: reliable partner in Europe

- ESIG actively supports its member companies in complying with all the relevant European legislation.
- The European solvents industry is thoroughly committed to safer products and processes and is actively contributing to make the new European chemicals legislation (REACH) effective and workable.
- ESIG is supporting its members in preparing for the required registration of hydrocarbon and oxygenated solvents by assembling all the technical information necessary for REACH.
- Under the new REACH legislation, all ESIG members have been asked to compile a set of scenarios covering all potential uses of solvents. ESIG has helped them by developing a Generic Exposure Scenario Library that contains the most common scenarios for solvent producers and users, together with instructions on how each substance can be safely used throughout its lifecycle.



SOLVENTS: contributing to economic and social welfare

- The solvents industry directly employs more than 10,000 people in Europe, but indirectly it accounts for more than 10 million jobs, with more than half a million European companies using solvents (ranging from pharmaceutical to agrochemical and paint producers).
- Solvents manufacturers across Europe have an estimated combined turnover of about €5 billion. Companies using solvents have a combined turnover of €200 billion.



ESIG

The European Solvents Industry Group

Avenue E. van Nieuwenhuyse 4, box2

Email: esig@cefic.be

www.esig.org

The group of chlorinated solvents manufactured by reacting hydrocarbons with chlorine are not discussed in this document. For information on chlorinated solvents, contact the European Chlorinated Solvents Association at www.eurochlor.org or the Halogenated Solvents Industry Alliance (HSIA) at www.hsia.org.