

# SOLVENTS

One word, many solutions



## ABOUT ESIG

The European Solvents Industry Group (ESIG) represents some 20 European producers of oxygenated and hydrocarbon solvents. 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) and coordinates ESVOC, a unique platform that brings together manufacturers and their downstream users trade associations to facilitate the implementation of relevant existing legislation.



# SOLVENTS

Essential in everyday life



- § Solvents are an invaluable solution for industries that range from pharmaceuticals and microelectronics 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 has been key to the development of new and better 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 printing 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.
- § Information on VOC emissions of hydrocarbon and oxygenated solvents is regularly updated.
- § The European Solvent Industry is thoroughly committed to safer products and processes and contributes to making the European chemicals legislation (REACH) effective and workable.
- § Under the REACH legislation, ESIG is maintaining a set of scenarios covering all potential uses of solvents – together with instructions on how each substance can be safely used throughout its lifecycle ('Generic Exposure Scenarios').
- § A European standard on bio solvent is the first product standard of its kind. ESIG members contributed to its development by participating in the relevant European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee.





# SOLVENTS

Contributing to economic  
and social welfare



- § The solvents industry directly employs more than 7'000 people in Europe, but indirectly it supports more than 10 million jobs.
- § Over a million European companies use solvents.
- § The industry contributes €4 billion a year to Europe's economy and sells around five million tons of solvents per year.
- § The European Solvents industry innovates to make solvents more sustainable and improve health and safety, with €28 million spending on R&D every year.

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For further information please visit  
our website at [www.esig.org](http://www.esig.org)

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