EUROPEAN SOLVENTS INDUSTRY GROUP

SOLUTIONS

Summer 2019

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Editorial

Cornelia Tietz takes a picture with NAPO, the mascot of EU-OSHA.

Dear Reader,

It is a pleasure to introduce our Summer Solutions Newsletters 2019, and I am sure you find at least one interesting topic to read about!

The beginning of the year has been busy with the relaunch of our downstream user co-operation platform, ESVOC, our participation in the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU OSHA) "Healthy Workplace" campaign, the launch of the Solvents Award 2019, the organisation of a new training course on solvent applications, updates of our SPERCs and meetings of our ESIG, OSPA and HSPA groups.

That means, once again, we can only present you a small selection of those issues.

This time, we did not include anything about generic exposure scenarios for workers, as the pilot phase for the registrants to further test use maps of downstream users and GES use maps is over. We have now entered the second phase: testing for formulators.

We hope you enjoy the Solutions newsletter, and as usual do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or remarks!

I wish you a warm and sunny summer time.

Cornelia Tietz, Secretary General

ESIG SOLVENTS AWARD: SHORTLIST NOW BEING DRAWN UP FROM APPLICATIONS

The ESIG Solvents Award was successfully launched in February, with the application period running until the end of April.

We have received submissions for quite a variety of uses, and from many different sectors. It will be a challenging task for the ESIG Steering Committee to shortlist candidates, from which our jury will then need to choose the winner over the summer. All shortlisted candidates will be promoted online, and we will organise a ceremony in autumn.

To be continued!

ESVOC: SUCCESSFUL RELAUNCH OF THE DOWNSTREAM USER PLATFORM

ESVOC EUROPEAN SOLVENTS DOWNSTREAM USERS COORDINATION GROUP

ESVOC, the European Solvents Downstream User Coordination Group (originally European Solvents Volatile Organic Compounds Coordination Group) is a unique platform that brings together manufacturers and their downstream user trade associations to facilitate implementation of relevant existing legislation.

In January, ESIG organised a meeting to kick off a new era of co-operation. ESVOC now gathers representatives from almost 30 different associations and ESIG members, who meet once a year in the Core Group to review the work programme and define strategies.

In addition, two subgroups work on dedicated issues and relevant topics. They provide advice and exchange best practices in different areas. One of them deals with industrial applications and is still involved in the ongoing review of the BREF Surface Treatment using Organic Solvents (STS). The other looks after professional and consumer applications and addresses topics like indoor air quality and secondary organic aerosol formation.

The members elected Alain D'Haese from the European Aerosol Federation (FEA) as the new ESVOC Chairperson.

Congratulations, Alain!

EUROPEAN COATINGS SHOW: PROMOTING HSE MATERIALS AND SOLVENTS AWARD

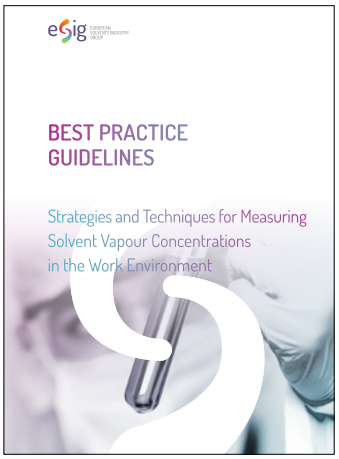
The European Coatings Show took place in Nuremberg, Germany from 19th to 21st March, gathering over 1,000 exhibitors from 50 countries. It included many representatives of solvent downstream users (DU) and attracted over 30,000 visitors from around 100 countries. ESIG took part: at our stand we promoted health, safety and environment (HSE) materials and the Solvents Award 2019.

Our colourful booth was popular, standing out among the other exhibitors who were mainly there to sell their products. Our visitors included coatings and raw materials manufacturers, recyclers, distributors, who asked about the organisation and its role. Amongst the useful information we provided was our best seller, the 'Solvents Family' brochure (www.esig.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Solvents_family_brochure_EN.pdf): the German version was gone after just one day!

All in all, our experience at the show was extremely positive, giving us a chance to raise our profile and increase the visibility of the sector group. We look forward to taking part in the next edition of the show in 2021!

MEASURING SOLVENT VAPOUR CONCENTRATIONS IN WORK ENVIRONMENTS

ESIG has just revised and rebranded its best practice guideline on 'Measuring Solvent Vapour Concentrations in the Work Environment'. Protecting the health of your workers means measuring exposure to solvent vapour. The updated guidelines will tell you about occupational exposure limits (OELs), the available techniques to measure vapour concentrations, and how to design effective measurement programmes for your workplace.



A wide range of techniques and equipment can be used to measure airborne solvent vapour concentrations. While they can help in the process of assessing and controlling exposure to solvent vapours in the workplace, it is essential that the appropriate equipment is selected, that it is used properly and that the results are interpreted correctly.

The revised best practice guidelines' brochure is part of a series of four best practice guidelines. The other guidelines we have published in recent years are:

- '**Managing the Health Risks of Solvents Exposure**', which shows how best to manage health risks from exposure to solvents via inhalation of vapours and contact with the skin and eyes. The guidelines also help explain the European regulations on health risk management.
- '**Flammability**': static electricity is one of the main hazards associated with flammable solvent. The publication explains the potential sources of static electricity, and how to safely handle solvents in the workplace.
- '**Safe use of gloves**': gloves are essential for safety when using solvents at work. The brochure explains best practices from experts that you and your team can rely on.

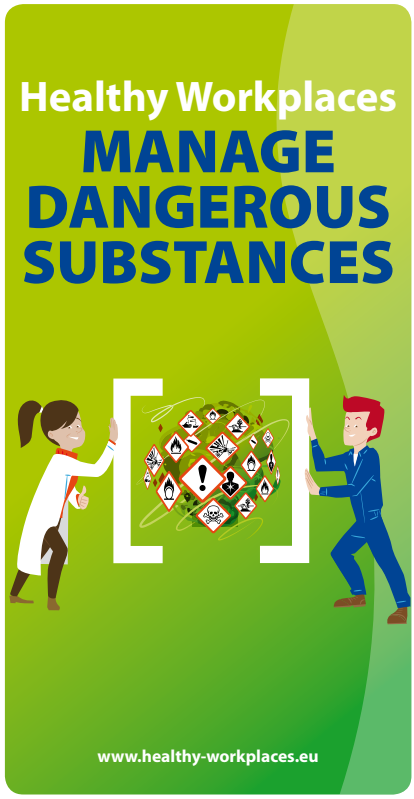
The Best Practice Guidelines on 'Measuring Solvent Vapour Concentrations in the Work Environment' are available at: www.esig.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/BPG_Solvent-Vapour-EN-V7-simple-pages.pdf

We also invite you to use and download our best practice guidelines from our ESIG website via:

www.esig.org/resources/publications

EXCHANGE OF GOOD PRACTICES IN OSH: HEALTHY WORKPLACES CAMPAIGN PARTNER EVENT

In March, the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) organised the annual Healthy Workplaces Campaign Partner event, a two day meeting that brought together the campaign partners of the current 'Manage Dangerous Substances' campaign. ESIG was invited to take part in a workshop that looked at a combination of environmental and occupational safety and health (OSH) issues, and talked of examples of innovative handling of solvents from the point of view of the environment and OSH. The presentation addressed the two main pieces of legislation that cover the two areas: classification and labelling, and REACH. ESIG also showcased some of its product stewardship materials. Finally ESIG gave a short, practical demonstration on how to use gloves to protect workers, alongside ESF, the European Safety Federation, which helped us to put together the Best Practice Guidelines on the safe use of gloves: www.esig.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/BPG_gloves-when-working-EN-simple.pdf.



TRAINING COURSE: SOLVENTS AND THEIR APPLICATIONS

The UK-based Solvents Industry Association (SIA) has compiled a brand new, one-day training course designed to give an insight into the uses of solvents in our everyday lives. The first editions of the course - which took place in February in Birmingham and in May in Brussels - were fully booked, demonstrating that these are in high demand by our industry members.

The training builds on the previous SIA 'Introduction to the Solvents Industry' course and is aimed at anyone in the industry who would like to know more about how solvents are used in the production of everyday items.

The course tackles the following topics:

- A recap of the 'Introduction to the Solvents Industry' course
- What is a solvent?
- How are solvents made?
- Solvents and their key characteristics
- Solvents applications by industry
- Interactive sessions

The next course will take place in November in Brussels. Places are limited so please book early to avoid disappointment.

www.esig.org/product-stewardship/training

DOWNSTREAM USER BOX

ESVOC Core Group elects new chair

In January, the European Solvents Downstream User Coordination Group (ESVOC) elected Alain D'Haese from the European Aerosol Federation (FEA) as its new chairperson.

ESVOC has a long tradition of proactive collaboration along the value chain of the solvent industry, and constructive dialogue with the academic world and authorities.

Solvents manufacturers and downstream users worked together on the effective and timely implementation of the EU chemical legislation, REACH, for the first registrations phase up to 2010. This intense period led to solvents being successfully registered with clear communication across the value chain.

The second key area is related to the environment. Emissions of solvents, as well as also other anthropogenic and biogenic Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), can create ground-level ozone in presence of NOx and UV light. The solvents industry and its users have already played a key role in drastically reducing solvents emissions. Anthropogenic VOC emissions are today lower than biogenic ones.

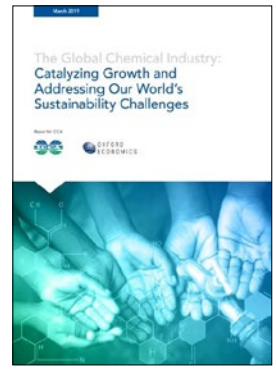
Indoor air quality can affect the health, comfort and well-being of building occupants due to the presence of various contaminants from different sources (carbon monoxide, radon, moulds, furniture, products...). Numerous studies have been carried out on the subject, and scientific understanding of the issue should improve as the many different impacts of different chemicals are examined.

ESIG and ESVOC remain key partners in addressing these topics, and they are ready to share their expertise with partners.

FEA Secretary General Alain D'Haese has been taking part in these discussions for a long time as downstream user. As ESVOC Core Group Chair for 2019, he plans to build on the successes of the past as he looks forward to the next challenges and opportunities: improving technology while maintaining performance, high quality and process/product safety for both human-beings and the environment.

CEFIC BOX

Chemical industry's contribution to global economy



On 11th March, the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA) published a report showing that the industry contributes an estimated $5.7 trillion to global GDP and supports 120 million jobs worldwide.

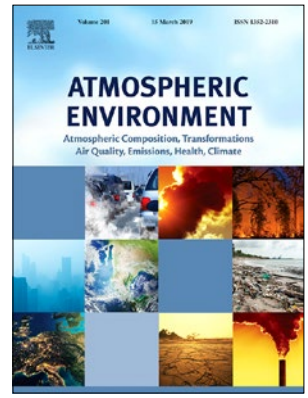
The report, entitled 'The Global Chemical Industry: Catalyzing Growth and Addressing Our World's Sustainability Challenges', says that the chemical industry contributes $1.3 trillion to the European economy and supports 19 million jobs. The report also emphasizes the role that chemicals play in meeting the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) including those where solvents make a significant contribution: insulation, coatings, water treatment etc.

The European Chemical Industry (Cefic), which is a member of ICCA, welcomed the report. "This new analysis underscores the essential role that the chemical industry plays in driving economic growth and creating opportunity for millions of people around the world," said Cefic Director General Marco Mensink.

For further information, please read the report at: www.icca-chem.org/EconomicAnalysis.

AIR QUALITY

ESIG VOC inventories article published in top scientific journal



Our longstanding consultant, John Pearson, has published an article on the ESIG solvents volatile organic compounds (VOC) inventories in Atmospheric Environment, a peer-reviewed scientific journal dealing with air pollution. The article, entitled 'European Solvent VOC Emission Inventories Based on Industry-Wide Information', was published in Atmospheric Environment 204(2019) 118-124. ESIG is currently setting up the inventories for 2016 and 2017. The article explains how the inventories are carried out and summarizes the results of past editions.

The full article is available at: www.esig.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Atmospheric-Environment-John-VOC-article-201903.pdf.

Video: solvents and air quality

ESIG has produced a new video that explains how it has engaged with authorities and downstream users in supporting the scientific and technical understanding on solvents and air quality, and how this has helped to reduce volatile organic compounds (VOC) emissions.

You can watch the video at: www.esig.org/video/?videoNumber=JQMpIp5cACs .

UPDATED ESIG SPECIFIC ENVIRONMENTAL RELEASE CATEGORIES (SPERCS)

The EU's REACH legislation requires a chemical safety assessment (CSA) for substances marketed in excess of 10 tonnes per year. The CSA identifies the hazards and the conditions under which a substance can be used safely along its entire life cycle. These conditions are documented as so-called exposure scenarios in the chemical safety report (CSR) of the REACH registration dossiers. The exposure scenarios address human and environmental safety and ensure that expected exposure concentrations do not exceed threshold concentrations. In order to develop environmental exposure scenarios, release factors (RFs) are needed for registered substances in each of the specific applications.

The REACH guidance and the environmental release categories (ERCs) provided RFs, but the solvents industry found these were unrealistically high. Therefore, in 2009, work began on defining Specific Environmental Release Categories (SPERCs) for ESIG substances as input to environmental exposure scenarios for the main solvent uses.

ESIG SPERCs were linked to the ESIG Generic Exposure Scenarios (GES) so the REACH risk assessment inputs could be standardised as much as possible for both human health and the environment. Both the solvents industry and the petroleum industry (Concawe) used the ESIG SPERCs in the first wave of registrations back in 2010.

However, after the first registration wave, it became clear that there was no standard SPERC format available, as different industry groups had defined SPERCs according to their different exposure modelling needs.

Three different SPERCs reviews commissioned by ECHA were held. Stakeholder workshops were organized to find a consensus approach to address this issue. A standard factsheet and a background document format were eventually developed and finalized in 2016 with the aim of improving the SPERC documentation and raising the credibility of the SPERCs with regulators.

In 2017, a project was launched to update the ESIG SPERCs. Its two main aims: firstly, bolstering the justification for the RFs included in the SPERCs; and secondly, fitting the RFs and additional information in the standardized SPERC factsheet format. At the beginning of 2019, most of the SPERCs' factsheets and the background documents were finalised and are available via the ESIG website. The next step in this work is to engage with downstream user associations to refine some of the RFs justification included in the ESIG SPERCs. Updated SPERCs in Chesar format will be available on the ESIG website by autumn.

ESIG SPERCs information is available here: www.esig.org/reach-ges/environment.