

# Industry Insights

*The Australasian Institute of Surface Finishing*



## President's Message

To All AISF Members and Industry Stakeholders,

On behalf of all the Directors of the AISF, we hope you and your families had a great break over the Christmas and New Year.

In 2024 we have delivered the EPA IO4 VIC Licence Member Forum on 28 February updating our members on the findings working with EPA. The AISF documentation booklet with useful information was extremely well received by our members and we look forward to hearing updates from our members.

The AISF NSW Golf Day is being held on Friday 15 March at Georges River Golf Course from 12.30 pm. Everyone is welcome. Four ball ambrose. Scratch markers, social golfers and once a year players. If you don't have a team, we'll find a team for you and please join us for dinner providing you the opportunity to interact with industry peers.

We are waiting in the wings to kick off the Australia Standard AS1231 Anodising update with our anodising members but are holding back until Australia Standard AS3715 is open for comments and adopted.

The Board of Directors are inviting all members of the AISF to participate in our next Technical Committee. We are reviewing AS1231 Anodising and would like you to have your say - please email [admin@aisf.org.au](mailto:admin@aisf.org.au)

Our training is being finalised for 2024, so please register your interest by contacting below details if you would like to join Working with Cyanide, Introduction to Electroplating or a Powder Coating module.

We welcome our new members and thank all of our ongoing members for their continual support.

We wish all our members a Safe and Happy Easter.

**Helen Moss**  
Administration Membership Officer

Australian Institute  
Of Surface Finishing

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Office Hours: Tuesday – Friday 9am – 5pm



Friday 15th March 2024

Georges River Golf Course  
255 Henry Lawson Drive  
Georges Hall

12.30 pm registrations.

1.00 pm shotgun start.  
Registrations are open. Please use  
below link.

<https://aisf.wildapricot.org/event-5584229>

or contact Helen Moss -  
[admin@aisf.org.au](mailto:admin@aisf.org.au) / 02 9160 4744



ON BEHALF OF THE AISF  
WE WOULD LIKE TO WISH  
YOU & YOUR'S

A  
HAPPY & SAFE  
EASTER



ULTRACHROME CLOSING

ELECTROPLATING EQUIPMENT  
FOR SALE

- 5x Polishing Machines
- Back Stand Idler
- Rectifiers, Westinghouse etc.
- Black Chrome chrome
- Bright Nickel Solution, Nickel Chips
- Nickel oval Anodes
- Acid Copper, Cyanide Copper
- Pyrophosphate Copper
- Barrett Nickel Sulphamate
- Cadmium Balls
- Cadmium Solution
- Brass Tank Solution
- 100 gram Potassium Gold Cyanide
- 300L Silver Plating Tank

Also various plating equipment

For further details, please contact  
[info@ultrachrome.com.au](mailto:info@ultrachrome.com.au) / 0417 930 600

### Member Invitation

The Board of Directors are inviting all members of the AISF to participate in our next Technical Committee.

We are about to review AS1231 Anodising and would like you to have your say - please email [admin@aisf.org.au](mailto:admin@aisf.org.au)



# Vice President update

## AISF Audit and Accreditation programmes

### Audit & Accreditation program update

- In 2023 the AISF applied to register & trademark the name QUALI-SURE™ for use across all its accreditation programs and this will include any powder coating and anodising accreditation programs the AISF creates and administers.
- The current date proposed by IP Australia that our trade mark will be advertised as accepted will be after 12 March 2024.
- Once the required time has elapsed IP Australia will send an acceptance notice detailing when QUALI-SURE™ will be advertised as accepted and the two month opposition period will begin.
- The AISF Technical Committee and various AISF members are currently developing the new Accreditation & Audit program and have met several times to progress development of the new certification program for Australian conditions.
- Work continues to formalise the control documents and forms
- We are presently reviewing and implementing :
  - Admin protocols for AISF programs
  - Logistics and selection of program service providers
  - New logo's, marketing strategies and others
- It is envisaged that the first audits be undertaken in 2024.

### ENQUIRIES WELCOME

We welcome enquiries and please contact our Administration Membership Officer, Helen Moss on [admin@aisf.org.au](mailto:admin@aisf.org.au) with any questions or suggestions and a special thank you to the many who have assisted the AISF in the Audit and Accreditation programs to date.

*Bill Wyllie*

Vice President AISF

AS4506 - Metal Finishing - Thermost powder coatings - for powder-coated metal products could not be replaced by any ISO standard as there is no such global standard. As a result AS4506 has seen several draft versions, hours of discussion with MT-009 and is with Standards Australia for final approval and we hope to see it out for public comment shortly.

This has been a long process but is beneficial as it will inform many of the changes that will come for AS3715.

Standards Australia have confirmed in March that AS4506 will go to two weeks ballot very soon, with publication following.

AS3715 - Thermoset powder coatings for architectural applications of aluminium and aluminium alloys is approved for review by the MT009 committee but is being reviewed for formatting and compliance by Standards Australia.

Standards Australia have confirmed in March that AS3715 is due to go to public comment possibly as early as March 2024, but scheduled for April 2024.

The review of AS1231 Aluminium and aluminium alloys - Anodic oxidation coatings. While Standards Australia suggest an ISO standard can be sought, the initial feedback from Anodisers is that ISO7599 does not suit the Australian industry.

Bill Wyllie was due to convene a meeting of the Anodising Association Committee in February 2024 to review and to develop a first draft of proposed changes to AS1231. This has been delayed until the principles developed in the new AS3715 are reviewed and approved and parts potentially adopted.

Please contact [admin@aisf.org.au](mailto:admin@aisf.org.au) with any offers of support.

# Anode Bags for Electroplating

## Ensuring Consistency, Protection and Quality

In the intricate world of electroplating, where the quality of surface finishing is paramount, a silent but crucial player takes the stage – the anode bag.

These unassuming components play a pivotal role in protecting the anodes, ensuring their longevity, and contributing to the consistency of the electroplating process. This article delves into the realm of anode bags, examining their purpose, construction, and the transformative impact they wield on the electroplating landscape.

### Understanding the Role of Anode Bags in Electroplating:

Electroplating, a process rooted in the principles of cathodic protection, metal coating for decorative purposes and engineering applications, relies on anodes to release metal ions into an electrolyte solution. The controlled migration of these ions results in the deposition of a thin layer of metal onto a conductive substrate. Anode bags step into the scene, safeguarding the anodes and providing a controlled environment for their gradual dissolution during the electroplating process.

### Construction and Components:

Anode bags are meticulously crafted structures, fashioned from materials that resist corrosion and chemical reactions. Commonly used materials include polypropylene, polyester, cotton, nylon and some other fabrics, creating a protective barrier against the corrosive nature of electrolyte solutions. The permeability of these bags is carefully calibrated, allowing for a controlled release of metal ions while preventing contamination of the plating bath.

Anodes and anode baskets, snugly housed within anode bags, are chosen based on the metal being plated. These anodes slowly dissolve during electroplating, releasing metal ions in a controlled manner that ensures a consistent and high-quality deposition.





# Anode Bags for Electroplating

## Ensuring Consistency, Protection and Quality CONTINUED

### Applications of Anode Bags in Electroplating:

**Consistency in Plating:** Anode bags contribute significantly to achieving consistency in electroplating. By encapsulating anodes, they enable a controlled release of metal ions, promoting uniform deposition on the substrate. This is crucial for applications where a specific thickness or quality of plating is required.

**Protection Against Contamination:** Contamination poses a significant threat to the quality of electroplated materials. Anode bags act as a shield, preventing debris and byproducts from the anode from entering the plating solution. This protection ensures a cleaner and more efficient electroplating process, reducing the likelihood of defects in the plated surface such as roughness, pitting and cloudy deposits.

**Extended Anode Lifespan:** Anode bags contribute to the longevity of sacrificial anodes. By providing a controlled environment, these bags slow down the corrosion process, allowing for a steady release of metal ions over an extended period. This not only enhances the efficiency of the electroplating process but also reduces the frequency of anode replacement.

**Versatility in Electroplating Processes:** Anode bags are versatile and adaptable to various electroplating applications. From small-scale operations to large industrial processes, anode bags can be tailored to meet specific requirements, making them an essential component in diverse electroplating setups.

### Conclusion:

In the dynamic world of electroplating, anode bags emerge as unsung heroes, shaping the success of surface finishing processes. Anyone who has experienced the effects of a small hole in one anode bag will appreciate the significant importance of good quality anode bags.

Their role in protecting anodes, ensuring consistency in plating, and guarding against contamination showcases their vital contribution to the production of high-quality electroplated materials.

As technology advances, the ongoing refinement of anode bag designs and materials promises to push the boundaries of electroplating capabilities, opening new doors for innovation and progress in the realm of surface finishing. Paul Inskip - DuBois Chemicals Australia.

Paul Inskip  
DuBois Chemicals Australia





**AISF NSW Golf Day**  
**Friday 15th March 2024**  
**Georges River Golf Course**  
**255 Henry Lawson Drive, Georges Hall**



Four ball Ambrose.  
12.30 pm Registrations.  
1.00 pm Shotgun start.  
Everyone is welcome. Scratch markers,  
social golfers and once a year players.  
If you don't have a team, but would like to play,  
we'll find a team for you.  
Prizes on offer.  
We hope you will join us for dinner upon completion,  
providing everyone the opportunity to interact  
with industry peers.



\$340.00 (incl GST) for a team of 4  
includes 2 golf carts per team and dinner for 4.

\$85.00 (inc GST) for Golf & Dinner.

\$45.00 (inc GST) for Golf only.

\$40.00 (inc GST) for Dinner only.

RSVP by Friday 8th March.



Registrations are open. Please use below link.  
<https://aisf.wildapricot.org/event-5584229>

or contact Helen Moss - [admin@aisf.org.au](mailto:admin@aisf.org.au) / 02 9160 4744 or  
Tim Elley - [timelley84@gmail.com](mailto:timelley84@gmail.com) to register.

**Registrations are open**  
**<https://aisf.wildapricot.org/event-5602419>**

## EPA Odour inspections come up smelling like roses

Odour pollution can affect the quality of life and health of people and communities.

That's why the Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA) is conducting inspections across Victoria.

They are literally sniffing out businesses to make sure they are managing their odour emissions.

Businesses need to follow their obligations under the general environmental duty (GED).

All businesses must take reasonably practicable steps to prevent harm to human health and the environment from their activities.

Since November 2023, EPA has inspected dozens of sites with potential odour risks. So far, almost 2 out of every 3 businesses are implementing effective odour controls.

It was good to see most businesses:

- conducting odourous activities within enclosed areas
- turning over odourous materials (such as feedstock) quickly
- using odour stacks with correct heights to disperse odour
- performing regular checks and site or boundary walkovers
- having odour monitoring systems and instruments in place
- having processes in place for community engagement or odour complaints
- installing odour filters (including carbon) on exhaust systems.

However, they are concerned 30 per cent of businesses are not doing the right thing and are putting the public at risk of harm from offensive odour.



# EPA Odour inspections come up smelling like roses CONTINUED

They were:

- not maintaining installed odour controls, such as:
  - biofilters
  - extraction system filters
  - door seals
  - waste covers
- not properly managing their waste, such as:
  - storing uncovered waste outdoors
  - storing waste for too long
  - storing waste in an inappropriate location
- not keeping or providing maintenance and inspection records.

EPA officers will follow up with the businesses that received compliance advice. This is to make sure they are taking action to improve their odour management.

Approximately 60 more preventative odour inspections are scheduled. They will be carried out across the state until May 2024.

EPA encourages all businesses to review their odour risks. As well as take proactive measures to prevent harm from their odour emissions. These measures also need to be reviewed regularly for effectiveness.

For more information on how to prevent and manage odour from your business, go to EPA's website and visit:

- Odour advice for businesses
- Assessing and controlling risk: A guide for business

If you have any questions or concerns about odour pollution, please contact EPA via:

- email [contact@epa.vic.gov.au](mailto:contact@epa.vic.gov.au) / phone 1300 372 842





The AISF would like to thank their members who participated in the EPA IO4 VIC Member Forum last week on Wednesday 28th February.

The AISF provided an update on the EPA IO4 licencing in VIC and their responses to the AISF in the past.

The AISF has developed an EPA IO4 Documentation Booklet that includes relevant information to provide context on permissions framework and answer key questions.

The booklet has been designed for our members.

The forum was a great success and members were able to collaborate with other members on the permissons pathway in relation to the proposal pathway process and the pathway decision framework.

An AISF Director, also serves as the AISF on the EPA Victoria's Small Business and Manufacturing consultation group meetings quarterly through out the year, to ensure our members gain the IO4 licence with a minimum of fuss.

The exemption for requiring a licence for IO4 will expire in 2026 for VIC.

The next EPA Victoria Small Business and Manufacturing consultation group will meet again shortly, so if any of our members have any requests or questions for the EPA, please contact [admin@aisf.org.au](mailto:admin@aisf.org.au) and we will formulate any enquiries you may have.

We will then approach the EPA and share any relevant information with our members.



# TRAINING 2024

**UPDATE**

A key factor in the AISF's value to the industry is the importance of training and support we offer which has been taken up by our members and in some cases non-members throughout the last financial year.

The training modules have been formulated with a great deal of work and effort from both Tim Elley and Chris Sweetnam.

The **Working with Cyanide training course** is delivered online via Microsoft Teams for 2 hours. Alternatively, we can host the module at your premises for groups of 10+. Training will commence shortly.

The **Introduction to Electroplating** module over 6 consecutive weeks from 1-4 pm on Friday afternoons. The first training module will be held in June-July 2024.

**Powder Coating training modules** are being finalised and we hope to commence training in May 2024 and the modules will be held online via Microsoft Teams.

**Hazardous Chemicals Awareness training module** will commence this year and will be held online via Microsoft Teams for 2 hours. Stay tuned.

If you wish to register early for training courses, please email [admin@aisf.org.au](mailto:admin@aisf.org.au) or call 02 9160 4744 to register your interest.



CHECK OUT [WWW.AISF.ORG.AU](http://WWW.AISF.ORG.AU) FOR UP TO DATE INFORMATION



# SAFETY NEWS UPDATE

All workers have the right to a healthy and safe working environment, however work-related injuries and illnesses can occur in any industry or occupation, and the impacts are felt by us all – workers, their families and the community.

The latest estimate of workers killed resulting from injuries in Australian workplaces, drawn from initial media reports.

**As at 7 February 2024 - 7 workers were killed this year in AUS**

**Manufacturing = 1**

**In 2023, 173 workers were killed at work in AUS**

**Manufacturing = 11**

**On average, over the last 5 years 180 workers were killed each year at work in AUS**

**Manufacturing = 14**

Source: safe work Australia



WorkSafe Victoria have released some useful information on talking to all employees on Safety in the Workplace and can applied to any workplace in Australia - check it out - <https://lnkd.in/ePUeuePP>

### Bushfire Warning System (AFDR)

WorkSafe Australia has published an excellent fact sheet on bushfire warning ratings. It also includes links to warning systems in all states and territories. Many of us may not be aware of what to do at our workplace if there is a catastrophic fire rating sent out so have a look if this applies to you:

<https://lnkd.in/gHP8As4J>

### SWMS Tool

WorkSafe Australia have published a SWMS Tool and resources. Doing a SWMS is very common when working in the construction industry and many people are unsure of how to complete it. This Tool will help you save time so take a moment and review it: [https://lnkd.in/gKegvW\\_E](https://lnkd.in/gKegvW_E)

SafeWork Inspectors

SafeWork inspectors now wear Body Worn Cameras as part of their workplace visits. SafeWork SA has put out some useful information on how this equipment is being used when investigation incidents:

<https://lnkd.in/gestnhHh>

### Health and Safety Representatives

Having multiple worksites affects many aspects of work health and safety, especially consultation. WorkSafe Tasmania has put together some excellent information on how to establish HSRs in your workplace that apply across Australia: <https://lnkd.in/gvGUPPs4>

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# NSW Funding Approval for the Electroplating Apprenticeship



Following submissions from the Australian Institute of Engineers (AIE), supported by the Australasian Institute of Surface Finishing (AISF), the NSW State Government recently announced that the Electroplating Apprenticeship course – MEM31922 Certificate III in Engineering-Fabrication Trade/Surface Finishing - is to be fully subsidised by the State Government.

This means that the four-year apprenticeship course is totally funded by the NSW Government, with businesses not having to contribute financially to the training. Further subsidies are also available from the Federal Government through the Australian Apprenticeships Incentives Program: -

[www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au](http://www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au)

Having now secured funding from the South Australian, Victorian and New South Wales State Governments we expect to see increasing enrolments in the apprenticeship scheme, with 14 students currently signed-up and already receiving training.

If you would like to know more on the apprenticeship training or wish to enrol an employee, then please contact Brett Ambrosio from the AIE on [bambrosio@auie.edu.au](mailto:bambrosio@auie.edu.au)



# Meet the New Member

## SAPPHIRE

BESPOKE SOLUTIONS FOR ALUMINIUM

**Company:** Sapphire Aluminium

**Member:** Clynt Husband

**Role:** Managing Director

**Industry:** Anodising / Powdercoating

**Location (State):** NSW

### Business Description:

Established in December 1973 by my father Bob to provide high quality anodised finishes up to 2.8 mtrs to the interior products market. We have since grown to provide Bright and Matt anodised finishes in over 150 colours to 6.5 metres and provide architectural powdercoating to 7.5 metres for aluminium. We are proud to celebrate 50 years of service this year.

### How did you get into the industry?

Like most family businesses I joined after finishing school until I figured out what to do next. As you have guessed I never left, I got entranced with the changing of a basic piece of metal into a thing of beauty.

### Favourite part of the industry?

Working with clients to develop an idea into a finished product that will be there in 50 years' time.

### What are the main changes you have seen during your time in the industry?

When I started in business back in 1985 there was no real awareness of the amount of utilities we used. Power and water were cheap and the solution to pollution was dilution. In today's market we are obsessed with finding reductions in our use of power and water and a reduction in any waste produced so that it has a positive outcome.

### Why are you a member of the AISF?

To work with our industry for continued improvement.

### How can your industry improve?

Like farm to fork, I believe that the industry is now focused on ensuring that their products are responsibly sourced. As Australian producers our focus is on providing finishing services and products that are delivered with the least amount of energy and waste involved. We are already seeing the general public steering away from buying products made with slave labour in sweat shops.

### Interests / Hobbies?

Family, golf, classic cars, AFL.

### Favourite place to holiday?

Anywhere with a beach.

### Favourite Sporting team?

Carlton, 2024 could be our year.



# WHY CHOOSE AN AISF MEMBER

## SUPPORT THE AUSTRALIAN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY

All members of the AISF are currently positioned in the Australian manufacturing industry. By choosing an AISF member you are supporting Australia.



## TRAINING

The AISF institute of training is currently the only industry specific training developer and facilitator in Australia. Members of the AISF are offered discounted rates off training and have a higher rate of further development of their staff.

## QUALITY

AISF members must adhere to our Code of Conduct, which requires members to uphold a high standard of integrity, apply honesty and fair dealings in all aspects of their operations.



## YOU ARE CHOOSING SOMEONE WHO IS PART OF A NETWORKED COMMUNITY



The AISF promotes the exchange of knowledge through knowledge sharing and open communication

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT AISF

[www.aisf.org.au](http://www.aisf.org.au) / [admin@aisf.org.au](mailto:admin@aisf.org.au) / 02 9160 4744



# GROW YOUR BUSINESS WITH US

## Advertise in our quarterly newsletter



We are excited to announce an opportunity to let others in your industry know more about you and expand your business. If you would like to advertise with us please contact [admin@aisf.org.au](mailto:admin@aisf.org.au) or call 02 9160 4744 for more information

### Member Pricing

- Quarter Page \$200 + GST
- Half Page \$400 + GST
- Full Page \$500 + GST

### Non-Member Pricing

- Quarter Page \$300 + GST
- Half Page \$600 + GST
- Full Page \$800 + GST

Our newsletter reaches all our members, industry contacts and is posted on our LinkedIn and Facebook pages giving you even further reach within our industry.

[admin@aisf.org.au](mailto:admin@aisf.org.au)

