

JUNE 2021, ISSUE 20

# Industry Insights

*The Australasian Institute of Surface Finishing*

## Director's message



To All AISF Members and Industry Stakeholders,

On 12 and 13th May the AISF powder coating training returned to Sydney for the first time in over a decade. This is another step in the recovery of the AISF cementing its position as the national trainer for Powder Coating in Australia. The course covered the full length of the powder coating production line discussing both theory and practice with added input from attendees about their experiences during powder application.

Thanks to Don Mills (Nordson), Jason Sparsis (Dulux), Norman Rigby (Akzo Nobel), Guy Vissel (Coating Supplies), Russell Roberts (Auschem) for presenting and sharing their knowledge. A pile of thanks to Scott Barter and crew at Oxytech for providing the facilities and food for the practical aspects of the course.

Natalie attended the course to provide more grounding in her powder coating knowledge and was quite surprised about the variability in powder coating knowledge across the trainees. We had one attendee who has only worked 2 days on the job and needed to learn foundation skills, and other who had worked in the industry for 20 years. Even after being in the industry for a generation, there are still things to learn. As this course caters for a wide range of skill sets, we have decided to review our course outline and are pleased to announce it is not the Principles of Professional Powder Coating.

We also thank Marco Desertoli – Akzo, Benay Lal & Carl Williams – Dulux Powder Coatings, David Laffy - Chemetall (Australasia), Greg Minard - Wellman Finishing Systems, Mitch Connelly – Australian Chemicals and Coatings and Scott Barter - Oxytech for their contributions to helping us revise the training material.

*Chris Sweetman*



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Membership for the 2021/2022 term will be renewed on the 1st July 2021, your membership invoice will be send directly from our new CRM, contact us if you have any difficulties with payment.



## Audit and training update by Natalie Miles, Secretariat

These last few months, the AISF have been investigating ways we can help strengthen our industries road to safer workplace practices. This has all come about in conjunction with the Safe Work Australia review on chemical exposure limits for airborne contaminants.

### How the AISF can help:

#### Training:

Training is the key to making money faster and with less stress. It also empowers workers with the tools to work smarter which will assist with reducing workplace accidents. If staff are aware of correct use of equipment, handling chemicals and procedures, they will significantly reduce their risks to serious injuries. And with employer manslaughter legislation now applicable over most of the country, this would also reduce the risk to employers for liability of providing a safe work environment. The AISF run our own industry recognised training in the Principles of Professional Powder Coating, Electroplating basics & Working safely with Cyanide. Access to our training is available for both members and non-members of our industry and bookings can be made on our website: [www.aisf.org.au](http://www.aisf.org.au)

The AISF have been named as an "Industry Partner" with the EPA in Victoria to train our industry on how the new legislation will affect our industry. This training will be available online for early access to our Victorian members, then we will be opening our training to non-members in Victoria then our members in other states. The new legislative changes in Victoria will come into affect on the 1st of July 2021, with the main focus being on understanding your risks and putting some controls into place. This is intended to reduce harm to human health and the environment. We are working closely with the EPA in Victoria and will roll out our training shortly. We are just waiting on the final information from the EPA to make this possible.

#### Safety Audits:

We are working with some of the country's major Occupational Hygienists to obtain member exclusive rates for Occupational Hygienist safety audits to help members understand their manufacturing operations exposure risks to harmful chemicals. Contact us today if you would like to participate in this fantastic initiative.

We are always welcoming of members enquiries and their input to how we can make our Institute work for and with you, so please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions.

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The EPA in Victoria have announced that the AISF are an industry partner to help train our industry on how the new EPA legislation will affect our industry



## Electroplating basics & Cyanide training

We are now able to offer individual training at your business for an hourly rate. Contact us today.

# Victoria Principles of Professional Powder Coating

## 14th & 15th July 2021

The AISF is pleased to again offer the Two Day Powder Coating Course. Introducing the Principles of Professional Powder Coating. Class size is limited to 10 places will be allocated in order of receipt. High viz top and steel cap footwear required.

Book online today to avoid missing out.

[www.aisf.org.au](http://www.aisf.org.au)

*Contact us today*

to register for training: [www.aisf.org.au](http://www.aisf.org.au)



**safe work australia**

## **H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> Sulfuric Acid Emissions**

The AISF have met with members & non-members interested in the proposed changes to the Sulfuric Acid Workplace exposure limits safety review and it was decided that the AISF would try and secure access for our members to discounted Occupational Hygienist testing services, to assist them with identifying their own business risks and make any changes to meet the proposed requirements.

We have received access to discounted rates from the following companies:

- Healthy Building International - for an inhouse review of your chemical exposure limits
- Airmet - for access to rental equipment and technical advice on reviewing your own chemical exposure limits.

If you are a member of the AISF, contact us today to gain access to these great offers.

If you are not currently a member of the AISF and would like to get behind our submission to represent your business, please contact our Secretariat today on [admin@aisf.org.au](mailto:admin@aisf.org.au).



## **Chromium Cr<sup>6</sup> - Hexavalent Chromium** **Chromium Cr<sup>3</sup> - Trivalent Chromium**



Following the review of the AISF's submission opposing the proposed reduction Hexavalent Chromium workplace exposure limits, we have received feedback from the Safe Work Australia technical committee, who further reviewed the safety exposure limits for the maximum exposure of their recommendations regarding working safely with Hexavalent Chromium and Trivalent Chromium. The committee have recommended that both Hexavalent Chromium and Trivalent Chromium remain with their current safety exposure limits.

However, as Hexavalent Chrome has been noted as a known carcinogen, the recommendation has been made for this to become a restricted chemical. If this recommendation by the committee were to be approved the assumption is that only companies who undergo and prove strict safety, handling and training requirements using efficient treatment of the atmospheric conditions would be an approved user of the chemical.

Please note, all of the Safe Work Australia's technically committee's recommendations are not finalised until they are passed by a Ministerial decision.

We will notify members once we receive further information on these matters.

# Understanding the Atmospheric Corrosivity Categories (ACC)

When quoting for any new job, all Surface finishers should consider and educate clients on the importance of understanding and coating in accordance with the atmospheric conditions for where the product will be placed.

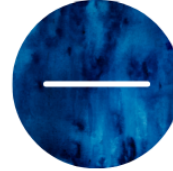
## C1 *Very Low*

Typical examples of exterior environment:

Few alpine areas

Typical examples of interior environment:

Offices, shops



## C2 *Low*

Typical examples of exterior environment:

Arid, Rural, Urban

Typical examples of interior environment:

Warehouse, Sports halls

## C3 *Medium*

Typical examples of exterior environment:

Coastal (Bays)

Typical examples of interior environment:

Food processing plants, breweries, dairies



## C4 *High*

Typical examples of exterior environment:

Sea-shore (calm), Swimming pools

Typical examples of interior environment:

Swimming Pools, Livestock buildings

## C5 *Very High*

Typical examples of exterior environment:

Sea-shore (surf), offshore, within chemical plants

Typical examples of interior environment:

Plating shops, chemical sites



## CX *Extreme*

Typical examples of exterior environment:

Shoreline (Severe surf)

Typical examples of interior environment:

Adjacent to acidic processes



# The importance of maintaining industry recognised training & an Australian accredited auditing process

When members of any institute are questioned about their most valuable services, the majority of answers revolve around training. *So what makes training such a desired service?* Without trained staff, staff are not incentivised, challenged, or empowered in the business and often quickly lose focus. As John F Kennedy once said *"Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other."* By being great leaders in business, we are teaching our staff that we are committed to their safety and development and they often repay the sentiment with their commitment to your business.

Although these days, it is difficult to find an RTO who are offering accredited training in our industry, the AISF do offer Powder Coating, Electroplating and Chemical handling training to our members and non-members of our institute. Our aim is to improve the safety and quality, working with our industry.

On another note, most professional services participate in some degree of an Audit program. Participation in a Audit program ensures best practices are revised and your client is always receiving the best quality product available. Thus protecting your businesses reputation from detrimental comments.

As Australian businesses, we are always competing against cheaper imports with unknown quality standards. As an industry, we can help prove to the consumer, that buying locally is the best option to deliver on quality, assurance, quicker lead times and a reduction in the overall and ongoing costs. Yes it is true, most consumers initially look at the quoted figure and would often revert to a cheaper imported product, however with a little education, we can work together to promote our Australian Manufacturing network.

Over the last 20 years, many of the major Architectural Powder Coaters, participated in the European Qualicoat system, via the AISF. However as Australia remains largely separated from the products available in Europe, it has become evident that this system may not be the most appropriate approach for the Australian market.

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Over the last few months, the AISF have been meeting with our Australian Qualicoat licensed businesses and have decided to develop our own, Australian based, tested and managed accreditation program. A program which becomes inclusive to all applicators, whether they produce for the architectural aluminium or the general powder Coating market.

The AISF Accreditation Program is still in our infancy stages with a technical committee completing a final review on our proposed revised AS 3715 and we are reviewing what worked and did not work in other international accreditation systems. We are also looking at what can be adapted to meet our harsh Australian environmental conditions.

The AISF are planning to launch a NEW Australian Accreditation system in 2022 and would like to invite members of the AISF to join our newest Technical Committee to assist us with developing these systems. Members of this Technical Committee, will not have access to any of the participating companies Audit results, these will remain independently managed by the AISF under strict confidentiality rules.

When undergoing an Audit, our experience has shown that not only are the Auditors reviewing your procedures, they also make recommendations and train staff to better their operational practices. So training, auditing and compliance really do go hand in hand.

Register your interest in our training or to participate in our audit program at: [www.aisf.org.au](http://www.aisf.org.au)



# Global News



## SurTec acquires chemical business from Italtelco in Italy

**Bensheim, 04.03.2021.** SurTec, specialist for for surface treatment, acquired the chemical business of Italtelco in Italy, a company based in Modena. Italtelco specialises in the Research & Development as well as the distribution of chemical specialities for surface treatment for aluminium alloys and steel. The product range includes chemical products for the architectural, automotive and aerospace industries as well as for decorative, mechanical and other industrial components.

SurTech and Italtelco have been working together in the field of Metal Pre-treatment in Italy for many years. SurTec will distribute Italtelco's products for the aluminium industry, which are very well established in the market, worldwide and further expand the business.

*"We are pleased that Italtelco's chemical business is getting a long-term future at SurTech",* explains Dr. Walter Dalla Barba, Managing Director Italtelco. *"In view of a growth-oriented strategy, the owners have decided to manage the succession of Italtelco's chemical business through the acquisition by a long-term strategic partner".*

*"Italtelco has already been our partner for Metal Pre-Treatment in Italy for many years and is familiar with our company philosophy, which aims to harmonise entrepreneurial processes with the needs and requirements of society and the environment",* adds Dr. Karsten Grünke, CEO of SurTec. *"By acquiring Italtelco's chemical business. we can strengthen our position in the important Italian market even more, as we will be able to offer our entire product portfolio, including electroplating products, directly there in the future."*

Italtelco's global customers will additionally benefit from SurTech's worldwide distribution network and technical expertise. This includes the range of products now available via Australian Chemicals and Coatings.

