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Industry Insights

The Australasian Institute of Surface Finishing

President's message



To All AISF Members and Industry Stakeholders,

It has been an interesting start to the year, as we are slowly learning to live with "COVID Normal". Adjustments to a new life without lockdowns and fewer restrictions, all while COVID case numbers have risen in most states. It has also continued raining which has seen some major flooding events many parts of NSW and QLD, further disrupting supply chains and peoples lives. Even through these difficult time it has been fantastic to see a continued growth as many companies return the fabrication and coating to Australia.

Today we have some sad new, it being Natalie Miles last day with the AISF. It will be hard to see her go as she has been an invaluable source of passion and initiative at the AISF. All of us on the board and I am sure many members will be sad about this news but wish her the very best in her new role.

We have been very busy with AS 4506-2005 Metal finishing - Thermoset powder coatings and AS 1627.6-2003 Metal finishing official reviews beginning next week by the MT009 committee at Standards Australia. AISF technical committee and board have completed very thorough reviews of AS3715-2002 Metal Finishing which has been submitted for the same treatment by the MT009 committee this week, we will be in touch with further updates as we receive them.

Early stage reviews of AS1789-2003 (Zinc electroplating) and AS1231-2000 (Anodising of aluminium) and we would like to encourage member to participate in these review committees.

Our first online training course for 2022 in cyanide handling was a great success and we look forward to having a multi module version of the powder coating course online soon for members to access via our moodle platform.

Thank you all for your ongoing support and have a great Easter break.

As always, contact our Secretariat offices as these will be managed via our industry partners at AGWA while we recruit Natalie's replacement.

Kind regards

Mitch Connelly

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Project PIPELINE



Revision of Australian Standards:

As previously reported, many of the Australian Standards, which guide our industry are currently classified as an "Aged Standard" and are under review from Standards Australia as to whether they are still relevant, need to be revised by an industry represented technical committee or should be withdrawn. The AISF have successfully submitted our review of:

- AS 4506-2005 Metal finishing - Thermoset powder coatings; and
- AS 1627.6-2003 Metal finishing - Preparation and pretreatment of surfaces, Part 6: Chemical conversion treatment of metals
- AS 3715-2002 - Metal finishing—Thermoset powder coatings for architectural applications of aluminium and aluminium alloys.

Other standards currently at risk of being withdrawn are the many standards which guide the Anodising industry, such as:

- AS 1231 - 2000 - Aluminium and aluminium alloys - Anodic oxidation coatings - *We are reviewing the possibility of adopting the ISO 7599-2018 Anodising of aluminium and its alloys - method for specifying decorative and protective anodic oxidation coating on aluminium*
- AS 1192-2004 - Electroplated coatings - Nickel and chromium
- AS 1789-2003 - Electrogalvanized (zinc) coatings on ferrous hollow and open sections - *We are reviewing the possibility of adopting the ISO 2081 - 2018 Metallic and other inorganic coatings - Electroplated coatings of zinc with supplementary treatments on iron or steel*
- In addition to the many testing standards which ensure our practices are tested accordingly.

Currently if there is a replaceable ISO (international standard), Standards Australia prefer the adaption of the ISO standard. This can be done with the addition of an applicable appendix (which is what we are proposing for AS 1789). However, if no ISO standard is transferrable, a revision of the aging Australian Standard is required. We are currently reviewing all applicable Australian Standard to ensure they maintain their relevance to our industry.

Working Safely with Cyanide is ONLINE

The AISF have now facilitated our first Working Safely with Cyanides training online via Microsoft Teams for 2022. This followed our successful inaugural Zoom session late last year.

We look forward to what the future holds within this new online learning world for the AISF.





Project PIPELINE continued..



Revision of the Principles of Professional Powder Coating:

The AISF have been working to update our very popular Powder Coating basics training to be more in-line with the new, proposed Australian Standards. We are currently developing our Principles of Professional Powder Coating to improve the training standards for all powder coaters, whether being at a beginner level through to a seasoned coater. Prior to 2022, the AISF training sessions were only available in Melbourne - VIC and Sydney - NSW, where we had available trainers and leading industry representatives to present the training. Now we are moving into the digital age and will be introducing our training to be delivered in an online capacity either over Microsoft Teams with industry leaders present and presenting, or an online learning management system "Moodle" where the participants learn to their own timeframe/ schedule.

Both of these learning formats have been trialed by us via the Victorian EPA new legislative training (self taught format) and our Working Safely with Cyanide (online presenters). Bookings for this new training format will be available within the first part of 2022. We apologise for the extended downtime in the delivery of our powder coating training, however with the revised content we truly believe our training will be more inline with modern powder coating practices.

Revision of the Electroplating basics training:

The AISF have also been updating our Electroplating basics training as we found the existing material to be out of date. As the industry is currently experiencing insufficient access to an accredited electroplating training scheme, we are currently developing our own, industry developed and lead Electroplating basics training course. Like the Principles of Professional Powder Coating course, we are looking at moving our Electroplating training into the digital age and will be introducing our training to be delivered in an online capacity either over Microsoft Teams with industry leaders present and presenting, or an online learning management system "Moodle" where the participants learn to their own timeframe/ schedule. The biggest benefit to delivering our training in this level, is it will provide national access to industry lead training.

Once this training has been finalised, we will be notifying our members of access availability.





Project PIPELINE

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Audit and Accredited Powder Coater program:

The AISF have appointed a technical committee who are currently developing our new Audit & Accreditation specification.

Businesses all over the world see the benefits to auditing their procedures and maintaining accreditation status. Here are the top 5 benefits of participating in an industry lead audit & accreditation system:

1. Increased efficiencies
2. Identifies strengths and gaps in your processes
3. Promotes training, communication and staff empowerment
4. Fosters a culture of quality and safety
5. Can decrease risks and liabilities.

Commencing with an audit and accreditation can be daunting at first, however with the guidance of the AISF, businesses can thrive giving their customers the assurance they seek when choosing an applicator. We are expecting this program will be launched later this year.

Register your interest in participating in this program today:

<https://aisf.wildapricot.org/event-4685073>



NSW Golf day:

Due to the continued wet weather the NSW Branch Golf Day which was scheduled for 1st April had to be cancelled. The event will be rescheduled for later in the year, so keep the cobwebs off the clubs and keep your eye out for the new date.

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