

77 Years of successful paint promotion

Despite operating in challenging times, the South African Paint Manufacturing Association (SAPMA) is increasingly expanding its operations and succeeding in its mission to promote the coatings industry as a responsible supplier of products and services, says SAPMA Executive Director, Deryck Spence.



SAPMA has now been in existence for 77 years and its Manufacturing Members produce about 85 to 90% of all South African paints and coatings.

Associate Members are drawn from companies supplying raw materials, various goods and services to the paint industry, and SAPMA membership has also been extended to the retailing industry to ensure that those involved in the distribution and sales of paints and coatings to consumers and the general public also belong to SAPMA. Finally, membership is now also open to paint contractors who abide to the Code of Conduct and Ethics Standards of SAPMA.

SAPMA's Code of Conduct – which is mandatory for members – calls for, among other regulations, honest dealings with customers and the public; truthful advertising and labelling; fair competition; and conducting operations in a lawful and environmentally responsible manner. The Association strictly enforces its Code of Conduct and has not hesitated in suspending membership of non-complying members.

In its quest to remove all harmful leaded paint from South Africa, SAPMA has harnessed the support of a growing number of retailers and contractors. SAPMA is also cooperating with the government to restrict the use of pesticides and biocides used in the paint industry, and has vociferously called for increased control of methanol included in lacquer thinner products.

SAPMA is generally playing a major role as the coatings industry's representative in dealings with government and this increasingly close cooperation has led to SAPMA's training arm, the SA Paint Industry Training Institute (SAPITI), now being able to offer an ever widening range of accredited paint technology courses, including distance learning modules, and short learning programmes.

The introduction of online interactive training courses is a recent initiative. The training is provided nationwide for all members of the coatings sector, including paint retailers and applicators. "The Consumer Protection Act and Extended Producer Responsibility make it imperative for retailers and paint applicators to ensure that their staff are trained to the highest level of proficiency to protect consumers from irresponsible product and benefit claims.

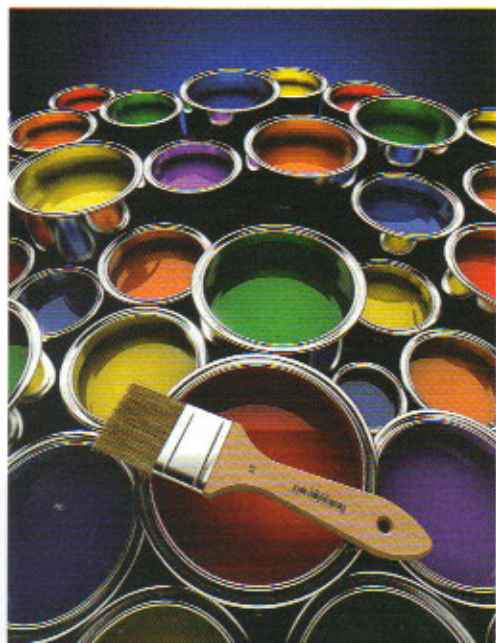


SAPMA - Deryck Spence 2014

SAPMA members from damaging litigation," Spence explains. Guidance on a wide variety of other industry specific matters such as transport and storage of hazardous goods, packaging and labelling requirements, and advice on how to claim training levies and gain BBBEE points for training, are just a few of the other benefits SAPMA members have access to.

Membership of SAPMA also provides access to strategically important industry statistics, liaison with standard setting bodies, and free subscription to SAPMA's 'Coatings SA' quarterly journal. SAPMA, in collaboration with the Oil & Colour Chemists' Association (OCCA), also stages the major Coatings for Africa symposium and trade exhibition every two years.

For more information on SAPMA and SAPITI, contact Mandy Linossi on tel: 011 615 1195 or visit the website: www.sapma.org.za



This is a Lead Free Store



"Uplifting the Industry"
SA Paint Manufacturing Association