International Government Initiatives

Thinking Globally

CPCA ISSUE BACKGROUNDER

Global Context

While CPCA's advocacy activities are mostly focused on Canadian issues, it is actively engaged with its international counterparts to monitor developments in other countries, which may have an impact on Canadian industry. CPCA participates in global initiatives to advance the industry and provide leadership in developing sustainable policies, regulations and further the advance of the paint and coatings industry in those countries. These international initiatives are coordinated through the International Paint and Print Ink Council (IPPIC) of which CPCA is an active and founding member.

History of IPPIC

Over the last several years, common issues facing the paint and printing ink industries on a global level have increased significantly. While it is always a constant challenge for each individual country to manage a myriad of domestic regulations, it has become increasingly difficult to interpret the potential impact of foreign issues. In 1992, in an attempt to improve communication and to coordinate industry policy on matters of international concern, the International Paint and Printing Ink Council was formed. IPPIC was established to ensure that the industry coordinated the development of industry policy on international issues, fully considering global implications. In addition to having status at various international forums such as the International Maritime Organization, in 2005 IPPIC was granted NGO status from the United Nations Economic and Social Council. As part of that forum it will highlight international industry issues to the UN and its governing body.

The IPPIC Organization

Members of IPPIC include the American Coatings Association (ACA), Australian Paint Manufacturers' Federation (APMF), the Brazilian Paint Manufacturers Association (ABRAFATI), British Coatings Federation (BCF), Canadian Paint and Coatings Association (CPCA), European Council of the Paint, Printing Ink and Artists' Colours Industry (CEPE), China National Coatings Industry Association (CNCIA), the French Paints, Printing Inks, Artist Colours and Adhesives Association(FIPEC), German Paint Industry Association (VdL), Indian Paint Association (IPA), Japan Paint Manufacturers Association (JPMA), Mexican Paint and Printing Ink Manufacturers' Association (ANAFAPYT), New Zealand Paint Manufacturers Association (NZPMA), South African Paint Manufacturers Association (SAPMA), and the Association of the Paint Industry in Turkey (BOSAD).

The role of the IPPIC Secretariat, represented by the American Coatings Association based in Washington D.C., is to ensure timely communication among the participants and to organize and administer IPPIC meetings around the world. The Secretariat also functions as a communications center, with a proactive role to ensure that preparatory work is executed between meetings. Meetings are held once a year in person, with the meeting site rotating among the various countries. Web meetings are held regularly on specific and emerging issues.

Current IPPIC Initiatives

Responsible Mica Initiative

A recent NGO report has affirmed that surface mining operations in certain provinces in India are using child labor to collect natural mica, to produce "effect pigments" that are used in cosmetics and paints. That same NGO report, however, advocates that industrial users of these materials should not abandon these producers, due to likely economic hardships but instead work to advance alternative social constructs that stem the need for child labour and offer alternative activities to advance welfare. Due to extreme poverty in the mica-belt region of India, where about 75 percent of the world's mica is mined, a long-term solution that promotes quality of life and wealth distribution is necessary. The paint and coatings industry consumes about 24 percent of global mica supply. Of this, about 25 percent is estimated as sourced from India. In seeking to eradicate child labor and promote a better quality of

life in the mica belt region of India, IPPIC works with working groups of RMI and sits on the RMI Board of Directors. IPPIC works with RMI to develop and implement traceability specifications that not only address child labor, but also wages, occupational health and safety, and environmental quality.

Lead Paint Alliance (LPA)

IPPIC is a formal contributor to the Lead Paint Alliance (LPA, formerly the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint), an organization established under the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) and the World Health Organization (WHO). Since its inception in 2010, and with its reorganization in 2015, the LPA has been working to engage national governments, industry and non-governmental organizations in establishing restrictions on lead use in paints that pose public health and environmental risks, especially to children. The current focus of the LPA is to seek government action restricting lead use in paint. IPPIC's contribution to the LPA has been to highlight the existing widespread restrictions on lead use in paints and to encourage the adoption of similar restrictions by governments that currently have none.

International Maritime Organization

The IMO is focused on key approaches to protect the biofouling of the more than 300,000 ocean-going vessels shipping product around the world daily. The IMO Guidelines for the Control and Management of Ships' Biofouling to Minimize the Transfer of Invasive Aquatic Species are critical to ensure protection of the oceans eco systems and prevent invasive species from entering important bodies of water such as the Great Lakes. These important IMO Guidelines were developed and published by IPPIC's Antifouling Coatings Committee, in partnership with the Institute of Marine Science Engineering and Technology (IMarEST). The guidelines were adopted in July 2011 to provide a globally consistent approach to the management of biofouling on ships. The IMO Guidelines provide recommendations on general measures ship owners and operators should consider in order to reduce the risk of biofouling on ships.

UN Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

In order to ensure consistency between the regulatory systems in every country and every mode for the transport of dangerous goods, the United Nations has developed mechanisms for the harmonization of transport conditions for all modes for transport (TDG). This harmonization occurs in the Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (UNSCETDG). The result of this effort is the UN Model Regulations, which is used by many countries as the basis of the country's TDG regulations. The UN Model Regulations is currently in the 16th revision. In 2005, IPPIC was granted Non-Governmental Organization status by the United Nations and is permitted to attend and participate in these meetings. The IPPIC delegation includes the transport staff of CEPE and ACA. Participation in the IPPIC delegation to the UNSCETDG is open to those participating companies or country trade associations of IPPIC.

UN Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS)

In the 1990s, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe embarked on a journey to design a universal chemical classification system for the entire world. It was believed that a universal chemical classification system would help to decrease the number of accidents in the workplace and home environments resulting from improper use of chemical products. It was also believed that a universal chemical classification system would decrease the cost of doing business around the world because a single label could be used for the same product sold in many different countries. The development and maintenance of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS) was formally commissioned by the United Nations and assigned to the Subcommittee of Experts on the GHS (UNSCEGHS). The reasons for setting the objective of harmonization were many. The UNSCEGHS operates with the goal that, when fully implemented, the GHS will:

- Enhance the protection of human health and the environment by providing an internationally comprehensible system for hazard communication;
- Provide a recognized framework for those countries without an existing system;
- Reduce the need for testing and evaluation of chemicals; and
- Facilitate international trade in chemicals whose hazards have been properly assessed and identified on an international basis.

IPPIC continues to send least one representative to the UNSCEGHS Meetings held twice annually in Geneva, Switzerland. At these meetings, IPPIC representatives get a chance to meet the environmental, health, and safety representatives from member countries who work on each revision of the GHS. IPPIC can submit white papers to support its member associations' viewpoints on certain technical issues before the UNSCEGHS. Input from IPPIC representatives has been well-received by the UNSCEGHS.

Classification of Titanium Dioxide (TiO2)

Titanium dioxide (TiO2), universally used as a white pigment incorporated into paint and a variety of other products, is under review by the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA). At present, ECHA's Risk Assessment Committee (RAC) has indicated that, in its opinion, "the available scientific evidence meets the criteria to classify titanium dioxide as a substance suspected of causing cancer (Category 2) through the inhalation route" under the EU's

CLP (Classification, Labelling and Packaging) Regulation. The CLP process is an ongoing regulatory program to harmonize classifications of substances based on hazard properties but does not consider risk of human exposure. Classifications have implications across the EU for product labels, formulation restrictions and worker protection.

It is important to consider that any risks profiled in the scientific evidence are attributable to dust (inhalation) exposures, and not to exposures from formulated products, like paint, where the dust is embedded in the mixture and not available for exposure. IPPIC and its members provided the ECHA RAC with published studies and technical information of the industry's longstanding safe use of TiO2 in paint. This included good manufacturing practices and numerous exposure assessments showing that TiO2, and all insoluble/inert (particulate) raw materials used in the (particulate) dust form, are unavailable for exposure during surface preparation on, or application of, the finished paint. IPPIC continues to monitor this process and has offered detailed published references on the inherent safe use of titanium dioxide in paint.

Microplastics and Paint

Increasingly, the use and fate of plastic materials is coming under increasing scrutiny by government environmental agencies and academic researchers around the world. This is due in large part to the widespread and highly visible problem of how to manage the large volume of discarded plastic containers and packaging products that end up in the waste stream. Policymakers around the globe are struggling to apply waste management principles, specifically stimulating efforts to "reduce, re-use and recycle" these materials, and meaningful waste management collaborations by diverse stakeholders are emerging. Given the widespread and visible nature of this waste problem, these efforts are welcome. All parties remain hopeful that a broad, long-lasting solution can be established.

Numerous studies on the environmental prevalence and fate of secondary microplastics have been published, but differ widely in how they have collected, characterized and quantified the sources and pathways of secondary microplastic releases. Accordingly, there is little consensus on which products are the more prevalent, which ones contribute the most to waste and what is their relative impact, if any, on the marine ecosystems. Despite these uncertainties in the underlying studies, many media outlets and advocacy organizations have drawn attention to the issue of secondary microplastics in the marine environment. These reports rarely cite the scientific uncertainties associated with the underlying findings. This has led to widespread confusion regarding the nature of the problem, including potential sources and pathways for the presence of microplastics in the environment.

Important Paint Industry Perspective on Microplastics

In general, paint is a resinous product intended to provide a continuous protective or decorative film to a substrate, imparting desirable properties that last for a long time. Extensive efforts are made to ensure economical transfer efficiency and to minimize loss of paint product to the environment during application and subsequent clean-up of application equipment (i.e. brushes and rollers). The paint industry stresses that all known mitigating factors must be considered in any effort to quantify the potential release of microplastics from products. This is especially true for academic researchers, government agencies and advocacy groups as they work to address concerns regarding microplastics in the environment. For its part, the paint industry stands ready to advance its understanding of the issue and its ongoing, proven commitment to product stewardship.

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International Paint & Printing Ink Council℠

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About CPCA

Since 1913, the Canadian Paint and Coatings Association has represented Canada's major paint and coatings manufacturers, and their industry suppliers and distributors in three primary product categories: architectural paints, industrial products and automotive coatings. In Canada, CPCA members have more than 261 paint manufacturing establishments, own more than 3,000 retail outlets, supply products to another 5,000 retail stores and more than 7,500 auto body shops. This represents annual retail sales of more than $12.3 billion, employing directly and indirectly 86,300 employees.