

# Department fails sector



This will also embarrass SAPMA and South Africa if plans go ahead to stage a global 'anti-lead-in-paint' conference in 2018. The International Paint and Printing Ink Council (IPPIC) is considering hosting its 2018 conference in South Africa. Interest in staging the event was inspired by SAPMA's pioneering anti-lead campaign in Africa.

IPPIC presented a paper on SAPMA's paper on African success at a Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paints (GAELIP) meeting, organised by the UN Environment Program (UNEP) and the World Health Organisation (WHO), in India late last year.

The IPPIC, a Washington-based global NGO, has consultative status with UNEP and approached SAPMA (a member of IPPIC) for a full report of its South African anti-lead campaign to showcase progress being made for this cause on the African continent.

The paper, prepared for IPPIC by

The SA Paint Manufacturing Association (SAPMA) has advised the Department of Health that the government's failure to prosecute paint manufacturers with hazardous levels of lead in their paint products has hampered SAPMA's quest for the elimination of lead in paint.

SAPMA Executive Director, Deryck Spence, stated that the SA coatings industry had over many years been maligned and accused by the SA government of being the major contributor to the lead poisoning of children. This was due to the high level of lead pigments being used in the manufacture of enamel paint in South Africa.

The UN Forum was told that SAPMA had played a leading role in voluntarily eliminating soluble lead in the early 1970s, in line with British and European standards, as well as in the establishment of the legislation under the auspices of the Hazardous Substance Act.

SAPMA has also continuously proclaimed that companies still using lead pigments in the production of enamel paints, should be prosecuted. This has however not happened.

"SAPMA has also participated jointly with the SA Department of Health in numerous awareness campaigns regarding lead in paint, but feel strongly that perpetrators should be prosecuted or they will continue offending because lead pigments are cheaper than alternatives.

Deryck Spence met with Ramsook Loykisoonial, the South African Department of Health Director General, and pointed out that SAPMA was now committed to totally freeing the coatings industry of lead in paint. This decision was reached because of the confusion in different legislation regarding Lead in Paint as far as "industrial" and "solved-based" paints was concerned. "All the major members of the paint industry therefore decided to simply discontinue the use of lead pigments in all paints manufactured in South Africa. But we will not be able to achieve this momentous breakthrough if the legislation prohibiting the use of lead in paint is not government-monitored and regulated through prosecution of offenders," said Spence.

"More importantly, if the proposed major conference takes place it would be embarrassing, not only for SAPMA but also for government, if lead is not eliminated in paint," said Spence. ■

HOUSING S.A. - November 2015



# Sapma urge government action against toxic lacquer thinners

The South African Paint Manufacturing Association (SAPMA) has again urged the government to ban the use of methanol in the manufacture of hazardous lacquer thinners, which is freely available to the general public from paint retail shelves.

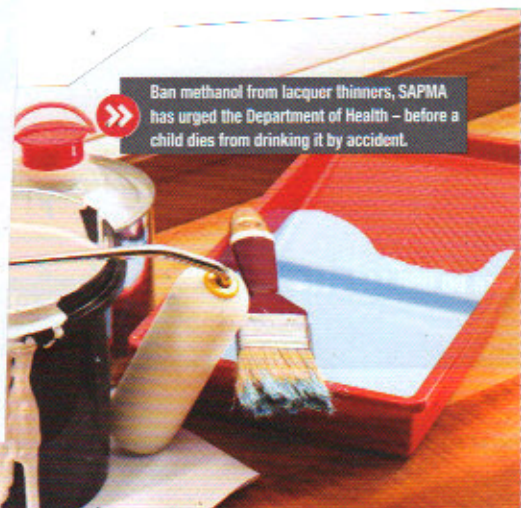
**Deryck Spence, executive director** of SAPMA, at a recent meeting with Ramsook Loykisoonial, the Department of Health (DoH) director general, in Pretoria, urged the DoH to take heed of the fact that methanol was significantly more dangerous when consumed by humans than leaded paint, for which controlling legislation had been approved by government for many years. "SAPMA also pointed out that lacquer thinners, with its lethal methanol content, is often stored in plastic bottles in domestic garages, and could easily be mistaken for drinkable water by children," he explained.

Spence said as much as 45% of methanol formed part of the lacquer thinners formula, particularly because it was cheaper than conventional solvents. Spence said, "We appreciate the difficulty and time required to have the substance officially placed on the Hazardous Substance list so we urged the DoH, in order to protect our children that special warning labels be made compulsory on lacquer thinners sold through retailers that alert the public and parents in particular about

the deadly methanol contained in the bottle." SAPMA also asked that the government make special childproof caps compulsory for lacquer thinners bottles. "In fact, some members of SAPMA have already voluntarily introduced this type of bottling," explained Spence.

SAPMA asked the DoH to officially place on record that the association and its members would not accept responsibility should any fatalities occur through the accidental drinking of lacquer thinners.

Loykisoonial told the SAPMA delegation that in order for methanol to be placed on the Hazardous Substances list, the government would have to be satisfied that the listing would benefit the population and that technical substantiation of the dangers of the chemical would have to be submitted before a decision could be made. SAPMA undertook to source international studies on the dangers of methanol and the DoH agreed to source similar documentation from overseas. **DIY**



Ban methanol from lacquer thinners, SAPMA has urged the Department of Health – before a child dies from drinking it by accident.



# Back to Zwartkop for SAPMA's 2016 golf day – and there's bowls too

Diarise 25 May 2016 to ensure you don't miss the SAPMA golf and bowls day – it promises to be hugely festive event that shouldn't be missed.

**The SAPMA golf day next year is returning to the popular Zwartkop Country Club, founded in 1933. It is one of the oldest and most prestigious clubs in South Africa. This is good news for the many SAPMA members who proclaimed the 2014 Golf Day at Zwartkop the best ever.**

"The Zwartkop Country Club is hallowed ground. The greatest names in golf have walked the fairways, from Sam Snead, Peter Thompson, Dale Hayes and Bobby Locke to Gary Player, Seve Ballesteros, Lee Trevino, Nick Faldo, Ernie Els, Nick Price and Retief Goosen,"

says SAPMA's Deryck Spence.


The club has hosted many major professional events over the years, including the 1955 SA Open – the only one ever played in Pretoria – and staged an historic exhibition game between Jack Nicklaus and Gary Player during the 1980's. The course layout offers golfers the classic parkland challenge, with beautiful tree-lined fairways as well as the Hennops River meandering through the course.

"Zwartkop will celebrate its 83rd anniversary next year, and we are delighted to have managed to book the venue again. Well-known golfer, Olway

Hayes, was the resident pro at Zwartkop for many years and the course is now owned by his son, Dale Hayes, a great friend and supporter of SAPMA," Deryck adds.

SAPMA intends also staging a Bowls Tournament on 25 May next year for members preferring this relaxing sport.

The Annual General Meeting is planned for 24 May, another date to diarise. Cocktails and networking will follow the AGM as usual.

More details to come in the next issue of **Coatings SA. **