

NEW SAPMA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The SA Paint Manufacturers Association (SAPMA) elected a new Executive Committee at its recent annual general meeting in Sandton.

Pictured — from left:
Standing: Shaun Benn (Dulux), Carlos Costa (Kansai Plascon), Reg Hoddinott (SAPMA Education Committee Chairman), Debajit Shome (Rolfes Colour Pigments), Cor Beyers (Prominent Paints), Jag Kalyan (Ferro Resins), Tertia Kahts (Acti-Chem), Paula Faleshini (BASF), Nick Shave (SAPMA Retail Committee Chairman),

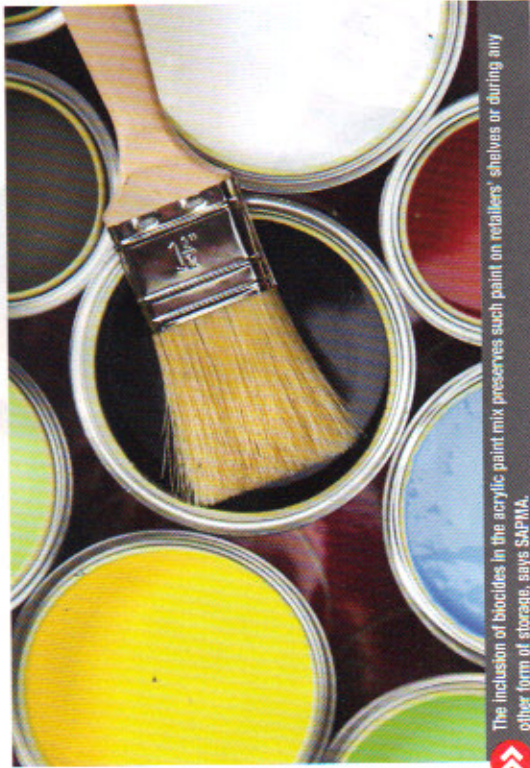
Santosh Pownkumar (Medal Paints), Michael de Beer (Curasure), Kiran Roshania (Marindec), Guy Lawson (Mylaw Chemicals and Coatings).

Seated: Bobby Bhuqwandin (SAPMA Technical Committee Chairman), Danny Grady (OCCA), Sanjeev Bhatt (SAPMA Vice-Chairman & Chairman — Associate Members), Terry Ashmore (SAPMA Chairman), Aggie Argyrou (SAPMA Vice-Chairman), Salvan Govender (Medal Paints), Erick Kgwadi (Nampak).



New regulations might disrupt paint production

SAPMA appeals to government to not include biocides with the list of pesticides that require a registration process - and could disrupt paint production.



The inclusion of biocides in the acrylic paint mix preserves such paint on retailers' shelves or during any other form of storage, says SAPMA.

Biocides form an essential part of the formula for water-based (acrylic) paints, as it prevents bio-deterioration, both in a wet and dry state.

Deryck Spence, executive director of SAPMA, says the inclusion of biocides in paint mix preserves acrylic paints on retailers' shelves and during any other periods of storage.

"SAPMA's problem arose when the Department of Agriculture,

Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) - which is responsible for registration of

pesticides in South Africa wanted to include biocides in this registration process which is legalised in terms of the Fertilizers, Farm Feeds,

Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies Act No. 36 of 1947," explains Spence.

"To register a pesticide product in South Africa, the producer has to be registered under the Act with DAFF. Pesticides will only be registered if they have proven to be effective, safe and of good quality. However, providing proof is a long, drawn-out process involving analyses reports, independent laboratory tests,

biological efficacy data studies, and the provision of reams of other data. To make matters worse, registrations usually take more than a year to complete and are costly," says Spence."

He says SAPMA's Technical Committee met with Jonathan Mudzungu, the DAFF Registrar, in Pretoria to point out that at least 80% of water-based paints currently produced in South Africa rely on a biocide in its formulation. SAPMA also pleaded that producer members faced potential ruin through production hold-ups if they now were forced to register all paint that contains biocides.

"We respectfully informed the Registrar that in Australia where exceptionally strict controls on the contents of paints and coatings are now being applied do not ban the biocides currently in paint but instead call for tighter controls being placed on their usage."

Spence reported progress in the negotiations at the recent annual general meeting of SAPMA in Sandton. **DT**

Coatings industry struggling to remain competitive

South African coatings industry's global competitiveness has taken a hard knock in the past says Terry Ashmore, chairman of the SA Paint Manufacturers Association (SAPMA).

Delivering his 2014-15 Chairman's Report at the recent SAPMA annual general meeting in Sandton, Ashmore said the coatings sector, just as it was looking forward to increased growth, was 'knocked backwards' by more events that moved South Africa down the foreign investment ladder.

"The re-emergence of Eskom power problems with no definite, or believable solution date, the return of xenophobic attacks that have no place in any civilised society, and the continuing problems of unemployment, skills shortages, undisciplined trade union action, all added more pressure on our industry's global competitiveness."

"I believe most of these setbacks can, and must be resolved by good governance, but unemployment numbers in the private sector can only be realistically improved in the long-term by investments and economic growth – not by increasing the size of the public services," Ashmore stated.

He said SAPMA and its training arm, the SA Paint Industry Training Institute (SAPITI) had,

however, made progress during the past year towards its target of fully implementing paint-specific education and training for the coatings industry.

Also speaking at the SAPMA AGM, Sanjeev Bhatt, vice-chairman of SAPMA and chairman of the association's Associate Members, said 2015 could be a make-or-break year for the global community. "With the global economy still not fully recovered from the recession that began in 2008, South African industry would have to take positive steps to combat declining investor confidence so that our economic activity and export performance are not affected. Businesses will have to adapt, change and implement new strategies at every point. The coatings industry will need out-of-the-box thinking coupled with focus on individual core businesses to yield positive results," Bhatt urged.

He appealed to packaging manufacturers, whom he described as 'an integral part of the coatings industry', to join SAPMA to make its membership more representative and meaningful. **BY**



Sanjeev Bhatt, executive director of SAPMA, pictured with Arun Devani (centre) of Synresins in Nairobi, a leading Kenyan coatings executive and the SAPMA annual general meeting held at the Coatings for Africa 2015 expo in Sandton recently. On the right is SAPMA member, Maramdec Paints.