



THE SOCIETY OF THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY, INC.

PLASTICS

NEWS BRIEFS

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In Brief . . .

New Lockout/Tagout Regulations created by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) become effective January 2, 1990.

Among other items . . . plastics manufacturers must de-energize equipment, isolating it from energy sources and verify stored energy has been dissipated. . . Locks will be mandatory when equipment can be locked out . . . Will require training employees in new procedures. For copies of the standard, summary notice and appendix with suggested written procedures, contact: Dick LaLumondier at (202) 371-5223. Also see OSHA Alert bulletin with this Plastics NewsBriefs.

Christmas Message

*Happy Holidays
Best Wishes for the New Year*

SPI Holiday Schedule

SPI offices will be closed at noon on Dec. 22nd and remain closed until Tuesday, December 26th. In observance of New Year's Day, SPI's offices will be closed on January 1, 1990.

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'89 Resin Production Steady, Sales Edge Up for 7th Year

Resin production held steady in 1989, with sales and captive use projected to chalk up a seventh consecutive year of record growth.

Year-end estimates indicate that U.S. production will total about 59.3 billion pounds for 1989, representing a 0.8-percent decrease from the previous year. Sales and captive use are expected to total 59.2 billion pounds, a 1.1-percent increase over 1988 figures.

Thus it appears the industry will end the year with inventory levels well in line, said Richard H. Roman, manager of marketing research for the Geon Vinyl Division of The BFGoodrich Company and chairman of SPI's Committee on Resin Statistics (CRS).

Roman released the statistics for

1989 on behalf of the CRS at a press briefing held at SPI headquarters in Washington.

Many resins showed strong export volumes, Roman said, including PVC (up 59 percent), HDPE (up 20 percent), polystyrene (up 27 percent), LDPE (up 4 percent), unsaturated polyester (up 79 percent) and thermoplastic polyester (up 25 percent).

Projected sales and captive use totals indicate that polypropylene, which last year experienced a growth rate of 5.5 percent, tallied only a 1.8-percent increase in 1989. Most of the other thermoplastic resins showed slight increases in sales, with polystyrene leading with a 3.5-percent hike. Showing

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Vernon Walters, right, U.S. Ambassador to West Germany, meets with SPI Board member G. Watts Humphrey Jr., left, (Conair Group) and SPI President Larry Thomas, center, during a visit to the U.S. Pavilion at the K'89 Show in Dusseldorf.



News From the States

"State Bulletin" & "State Reporter" Highlights

Massachusetts

Committee formed to oppose packaging ban initiative . . . The Massachusetts Committee for Responsible Waste Management was formed last month to work for voter rejection of a ballot initiative filed by the Massachusetts Public Interest Research Group (MASSPIRG) that would impose unrealistic environmental standards on packaging. MASSPIRG has obtained more than enough signatures for the anti-plastics initiative to appear on the November 1990 ballot. The committee was formed to promote acceptable alternatives and responsible public policy regarding the manufacture, use and disposal of packaging. Its tiered membership

structure includes support from The Council for Solid Waste Solutions, state restaurant associations, food dealers, The Associated Industries of Massachusetts, product manufacturers and other material trade associations. It is chaired by the Massachusetts Restaurant Association.

Wisconsin

Senate recycling bill to be heard in Joint Finance Committee . . . The Council for Solid Waste Solutions and other business groups are supporting an amendment calling for the removal of all product bans, new General Purpose Revenue funding totalling \$24 million, revised language regarding landfill

bans variance, and statewide uniformity/preemption prohibiting communities from using product bans or local recycling taxes if they accept state recycling funds. The Assembly Natural Resources Committee recently voted to introduce a separate Assembly recycling bill that includes product bans on polyvinyl chloride and polystyrene foam. Industry is working to see the Senate version pass with industry amendments.

California

Air panel adopts industry amendments . . . Amendments to proposed rule 1175 to limit emissions of volatile organic compounds such as pen-

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SPI Testifies, Files Comments On California Pipe Deregulation

SPI's 10-year-old effort in California to expand permitted uses of plastic plumbing pipe in residential construction soon may advance to the code-writing stage.

Currently, plastic plumbing pipe is permitted only for drain, waste and vent (DWV) in structures of two stories or less and for water distribution outside the house. Changes proposed in a draft environmental impact report (DEIR) released in August include permitting water distribution in plastic pipe inside the house and expanding permitted uses for DWV.

The DEIR concluded that "no unavoidable significant adverse effects . . . would result from the proposed expanded use of plastic plumbing pipe."

In written comments filed November 13, SPI echoed the views it expressed at public hearings in late

September in Los Angeles and Oakland, calling the DEIR a thorough and fair examination of all questions raised about plastic pipe.

The preparation of the DEIR has been prolonged due to persistent objections by the California Pipe Trades Council, a union organization. The group has claimed that plastic pipe is unsafe for workers due to dangers from solvents used in installation, is a threat to homeowners because of chemicals allegedly leaching from the pipe into the water supply, has suffered product failures due to poor quality and presents dangers from combustibility. The DEIR essentially has rejected these arguments.

A final environmental impact report could be issued as early as March. Assuming it is favorable, consideration of code changes would begin later in 1990.

Refund on VAT Available for K-Show Participants

Visitors to and exhibitors at the K-'89 trade show in Dusseldorf, West Germany, are entitled to a refund on the value added tax (VAT) paid on all goods and services paid from German invoices, such as furniture rental, translators, food and beverages, hotels, restaurants and booth space (if not in U.S. pavilion). All vendors automatically add the VAT (14 percent) to the price of purchases, and it may not appear separately on receipts.

The procedure for obtaining a refund is strictly regulated and controlled by Germany. For those who did not take advantage of receiving VAT refunds before leaving Germany, there is a service that, for a fee, will handle this complicated procedure. For a VAT brochure and response card please write: The German Value Added Tax Refund Service c/o Dusseldorf Trade Shows, Inc., The Empire State Building, Suite 4621, New York, NY 10118.

SPI, EUROMAP Working Toward International Machinery Protocol

SPI has joined with a group of European plastics machinery manufacturers to begin development of a worldwide communication protocol linking molding machines with auxiliary equipment.

Meeting in Dusseldorf on November 9, SPI and EUROMAP, the European association of plastic and rubber machinery manufacturers, formed a working committee to create international standards for the communication of data between the machines.

SPI's Machinery Division recently announced the availability of licensing agreements for the SPI Communication Protocol Development Kit, Phase I, which was produced in a joint effort with the Machinery Component Manufacturers Division.

European machinery makers also have been working on a protocol in preparation for the European Community's unifying of markets in 1992. Knowing of each other's plans, the two groups have been in contact since spring, hoping to blend the two protocol systems, according to Bob Sherman, SPI vice president of divisions, regions and membership.

Sherman said SPI's protocol was well received by the Europeans, although work remains to introduce metrics into it. That conversion project already is under way.

Following meetings with their own associations, Sherman said, SPI and EUROMAP representatives plan to meet again early in 1990.

SPI Forms Fund To Aid Condit In Wake of Hugo

Hurricane Hugo spared Charles Condit his life – but little else.

So SPI is setting up a recovery fund to help its former employee and old friend.

Condit, who worked at SPI for more than 30 years, was the Society's second professional staff person. Over the years, he served in a number of capacities, including staff manager for the Reinforced Plastics and Composites Institute. He separated from SPI as staff vice president in 1975 and moved to the island of Montserrat, looking forward to a peaceful retirement.

Now he's just trying to survive.

When Hugo hit the tropical island, it did so with a force that literally blew the paint off Condit's house. Though the structure remained standing, Condit said in a letter, it suffered extensive damage to its roof and windows and the contents were destroyed. In addition, utilities have been disrupted, and Condit is without a generator. As a result, he has no phone or electricity and only a limited water supply. As his insurance has proven inadequate to cover all the damage, he expects his situation to continue for weeks, maybe even months, he said.

Though Condit's letter asked nothing, coming as it did only in response to communications from concerned friends, his former colleagues at SPI want to help him recover from his devastating losses – and believe others will, also.

Those wishing to contribute may do so by sending a check (made payable to "The Charles Condit Fund c/o SPI"), to The Society of the Plastics Industry, Attention, Robert Sherman, 1275 K Street NW, Suite 400, Washington, D.C. 20005. Please note the Fund's name on the envelope.



Federal Update

Highlights from "Washington Memo"

Senate Committee Acts on Clean Air . . . The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee on November 17 reported a package of bills to reauthorize and amend the Clean Air Act . . . The package consists of several bills and amendments dealing with toxic air emissions, ozone and carbon monoxide non-attainment areas and motor vehicle pollution, acid rain, a ban on CFCs, stationary source permitting, and air emissions and ash from municipal waste incinerators . . . The Committee adopted an amendment offered by Sen. John Chafee (R-RI) that would ban CFCs by the year 2000 and mandate new recapture and recycling programs and other restrictions, including some on foam, for CFCs . . . The amendment also provides for the regulation of HCFCs.

EPA Proposes Restrictions on 'Third-Third' Wastes . . . Restrictions on the land disposal of nearly 350 hazardous wastes, including a controversial requirement to treat some of those wastes beyond what the law requires, were proposed November 13 by the EPA . . . Final restrictions must be in place by May 8, 1990, ending decades of disposing of untreated wastes in landfills . . . Proposed rule is the third of three rule-makings to set treatment standards for some 450 wastes listed under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) . . . Proposal affects 24 million tons of a wide variety of hazardous wastes listed under RCRA . . . It is estimated to cost industry more than \$300 million annually.

SPI Publications & Events

SPI's Operator's Handbook for Plastic Injection Molding...For use as an introduction to injection molding operations and as a reference "handbook" for later use, this 22 page-booklet covers the injection molding process from materials handling to mold care...Member \$1.50; Non-members \$3.00...Order form enclosed with this issue of *Plastics News Briefs*. (Pub. No. AQ-101)

SPI's 1988 Salary and Sales Policy Survey...A detailed survey of 210 processing members conducted by SPI's Financial Management Committee, this valuable tool gives current salary information on more than 34 positions. Also included, the average number of people supervised. The Sales Policy Section of the survey tells you what you need to know to set sales force management and commission policies with statistics on bonus and expense policies...Member \$75., Non-member \$150...Order form enclosed with this issue of *Plastics News Briefs*. (Pub. No. BA-118)

Report on State Laws-Plastic Container Material Coding...A guide to complying with state laws and regulations on container coding requirements offered by the Plastic Bottle Institute. Member \$50., Non-member \$100... (Pub. No. AU-163)

New publication from SPI's Moldmaker Division... **Progress Report...**A convenient form detailing the status of mold production

To Order: All items listed with a publication number may be ordered by calling 1-800-541-0736 (only MasterCard or Visa accepted as payment) or by sending a check payable to SPI to: Literature Sales Department, SPI, 1275 K Street, N.W., Suite 400, Washington, DC 20005.

in relation to expected progress. Purchased in quantity: Member \$25/100, Non-member \$35/100. (Pub No. AR-107)

Also from the Moldmaker's Division, newly revised editions...**Classification of Injection Molds for Thermoplastic Materials/Custom Practices of the Moldmaking Industry...**Members \$10, Non-member \$20, special discounts for volume pricing...(Pub. No. AR-101)...**Directory of Moldmakers Services...** Member \$10, Non-member \$10. (Pub No. AR-103)...**1989 Labor Survey of Plastic Moldmaking Companies...**Member \$25, Non-member \$50...(Pub No. AR-104). **Mold Data and Quotation Form...**sold in quantity, Member \$40/100, Non-member \$50/100...(Pub No. AR-105). **Mold Finish Guide...**provides material supplier companies the opportunity to present a more accurate visual comparison of final molded product... Member \$5, Non-member \$10...(Pub No. AR-106).

And, coming soon...**The Medical Products Directory** will become available early 1990...Members \$35, Non-member \$50. Also scheduled to appear early 1990, **The Plastic Drum Institute's Real World Test**.

January 29-30, 1990
SPI/SPE RETEC, The Grand Hotel, Anaheim, Calif...Contact: Walt Bishop, (202) 371-5231.

February 5-7, 1990
1990 Winter Meeting of the Coordinating Committee on Fire Safety...Orangetree Golf and Conference Resort, Scottsdale, Ariz...Contact: Rich Gottwald, (202) 371-5201.

February 21-24, 1990
SPI Molder Division XIII Annual Meeting...LaCosta Spa & Resort, San Diego, Calif...Contact: Drew Fleming, (202) 371-5246.

'89 Resin Production Steady *Continued from page one*

decreases were ABS and vinyls other than PVC, both with a 3.1-percent decline, and SAN, which reflected a 11.5-percent decrease from 1988.

Following two strong years, LDPE sales slowed in 1989. Although year-end figures indicate a 2.6-percent increase, Roman said, 1989 reporting methods included Canadian imports. Adjusting for this, he explained, LDPE sales showed a decline of about 4.4 percent.

Following weakness earlier in the year, sales of HDPE experienced improvement late in 1989 as buyers reacted to the impact of lost capacity, Roman said. The year ended with sales of HDPE up 0.2 percent.

Total production figures for thermoplastic resins showed a 1.1-percent decrease from 1988; thermosets were down 2.4 percent.

Engineering resins registered significant increases, with production up 9.3 percent and sales and captive use showing a 9.9-percent gain.

News From the States

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tane will exempt molders from controlling pentane emissions after products are manufactured (providing they can show a residual amount of pentane of 1.8 percent or less). The board of the South Coast Air Quality District adopted these amendments at its Nov. 3 meeting in response to SPI testimony on October 6.

For More Information . . .

Additional information about any item in this issue of the newsletter may be obtained by contacting Marian Green, Editor, SPI, 1275 K Street, N.W., Suite 400, Washington, DC 20005, (202) 371-5209. Direct inquiries for the New York office to: 355 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10017, (212) 351-5410.