

Polyurea in Europe

How to use polyurea under existing and upcoming regulations



The Polyurea Development Association Europe (PDA Europe) is the official trade association for the European Polyurea industry. The mission of the PDA Europe is to promote market awareness, understanding and acceptance of polyurea technology through the development of education programs, product standards, safety and environmental and use recommendations.

Founded in 2007 PDA Europe is registered as an official, international non-profit association. Initially, 56 companies joined PDA Europe. In 2009 this has risen to more than 80 member companies.

Vertical structure

The membership of PDA Europe has a vertical structure. PDA-Europe is an independent association, organizing activities in Europe requested and defined by the European members. These companies are involved in polyurea technology and include raw material suppliers, machine manufacturers, formulators and distributors to project owners and applicators. The association provides technology training courses, spray application courses and access to several useful tools like EHS guidance. Guidelines and specifications written for the use of polyurea and shared info on case studies are also available.

Membership development and industry relations

Practical organization of these activities, is handled by four committees, with most of the work being done by member volunteers.

Apart from a Membership Development Committee there is an Industry Relations Committee which develops and implements strategies and programs for advancing the awareness and acceptance of the association and polyurea technology. For this purpose, target industries and application areas are identified and contacts with key people are established.

For Utech 2009 in Maastricht, the industrial relations committee, with Crain Communications, organised a session dedicated to polyurea technology. PDA Europe and Deutsche Bauchemie e.V. (German Association of Construction Chemicals Manufacturers) set up a working group "Polyurea in der Bauwirtschaft" (Polyurea in the construction industry). The group is analysing the situation and is working out recommendations for how polyurea can be used or certified under existing regulations. It will also attempt to get polyurea incorporated into new and upcoming regulations.



Marc Broekaert, Member of the Board of Directors, PDA Europe

The Education Committee

A key objective of the Education Committee of PDA Europe is to support companies involved with polyurea technology by providing educational and professional opportunities to our member companies and their employees. Introduction to the technology, applicator training including spray courses, surface preparation courses are seen as a first priority. Next to application-based programs, a Safety, Health and Environment program will also be made available in cooperation with the governing bodies already active in this field. The Education Committee also plans to set up guidelines, product and application specifications tailored to the requirements of architects and design engineers to increase market perception and acceptance of the technology. The Education Committee is also following the increasing amount of harmonized European Standards concerning concrete repair, protection methods and coatings.

The Programme Committee

The PDA Europe Programme Committee's task is to organise the annual event and special meetings. In 2009, the conference 'Displaying the Phantastic world of polyurea' will be held at PhantasiaLand in Brühl near Cologne from 16 to 18 November. New for this year will be an extended concrete surface preparation course combined with practical demos and the visit to the new attraction built at PhantasiaLand using polyurea. The programme will contain about 15 papers on the newest developments and applications. ◀

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