

INDA NEWS

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Inside This Issue:

- INDA Technical Committee Updatepage 2
- INDA Sets Membership Recruitment Record In 2003.....page 3
- Government Relationspage 4
- Excitement Mounts as Visionary Award Finalists Are Namedpage 5
- INDA Has Full Slate Of Meetings, Conferences Set For 2004.....page 6
- INDA Publications Bookshelfpage 7
- Latecomers Clamor For IDEAO4 Booth Spacepage 8



INDA

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Message From The President

New President Looks Forward To An Active 2004 For INDA Members

For my first INDA Newsletter, I would like to thank the search committee and the INDA Board of Directors for my selection as the new President of the Association.

Secondly, I want to thank the INDA staff for my warm reception and their help in getting me up to speed. There are so many good things happening at INDA and I plan to continue offering our members and the industry the Conferences, Expositions, Short Courses, Publications and Technical Services they have told us they want.

The past year finished on a positive note with our very successful Filtration Conference and Exposition in Chicago in November. The three-day event on

Navy Pier was well attended and the exhibitors were pleased with the turnout. This year, thankfully, the weather cooperated. We head to Philadelphia for Filtration 2004 in December.

But that is just one of the events on what promises to be an extremely crowded 2004 nonwovens calendar. We have 16 scheduled events in 2004, with the first, of course, being the incredibly popular Vision Consumer Products Conference in Las Vegas, January 25-28. The conference content is spectacular! We have speakers lined up from literally all over the world covering topics such as Creativity and Fostering Innovation, FTC & EPA rules and restrictions. Of course, everyone is already excited about the annual Visionary Awards.

IDEAO4 is shaping up nicely, as we knew it would. IDEAO4 heads to sunny and exciting Miami Beach, Florida April 27-29. These days have been called "the most important three days on the 2004 Nonwoven and Engineered Fabrics calendar," and for good reason.

For the first time, INDA has expanded IDEA to include Technical Textiles. The whole feeling of the Exposition is changing and growing. INDA is targeting end users with direct mail, personal visits and advertising to bring

(Continued on page 7)

New INDA president Rory Holmes (far right) meets with Filtration 2003 keynoter Dr. William Rea (center) and committee member Alisa Edmunds, of Filtration Group, during Filtration 2003 in Chicago in November. For more on the event, see page 6.



VISION 2004 CONFERENCE IN LAS VEGAS THIS MONTH ... PAGE 5

Technical Update

Status of Flammability Standards For Upholstered Furniture, Mattresses and Bedding Takes Center Stage

There has been a tremendous amount of activity in setting regulatory standards for upholstered furniture, mattresses and bedding, especially in California. California has always been a leader in the establishment of standards to protect the consumer and the most recent efforts have been mandated by law.

On the Federal level, the Consumer Protection Safety Commission has been responsible for setting standards in this area but has moved very slowly in doing so. Let's look at the status of the California and Federal regulations in these important areas of home safety.

UPHOLSTERED FURNITURE

Fires caused by ignition of upholstered furniture have long been a concern. In the 1970s, the CPSC began to investigate the number of deaths that occurred through the accidental ignition of upholstered furniture. The main cause of ignition was found to be smoldering cigarettes. The CPSC drafted a proposed cigarette ignition standard. However, in 1977, the Upholstered Furniture Action Council (UFAC), an industry group, established a voluntary standard as an alternative to the CPSC draft standard. This voluntary standard has been in use, with some later amendments, in the upholstered furniture business since that time.

At about the same time that the CPSC was drafting its proposed standard, California passed its

own regulation, TB-117, which set open flame requirements for upholstered furniture sold in the state. This Technical Bulletin also offers a high degree of resistance to smoldering cigarettes. In 2002, the California Bureau of Home Furnishings and Thermal Insulation (BHFTI) proposed a new updated draft of TB-117 designed to incorporate the benefits of new technologies and materials to improve the flame resistance of upholstered furniture. The new draft also specifically addresses the smoldering issue. Further work on this draft has been delayed while the Bureau concentrates on the mattress and bedding standards, which were mandated by law.

TB-117 draft standard includes both component and composite testing for upholstery fabrics. In a composite test (small scale mock-up), the fabric passes when it is exposed to an open flame for 20 seconds and self extinguishes or the composite does not lose more than 4% of its total weight. The draft also includes a smoldering test for fiber battings, pads and loose fill.

Meanwhile, last October the CPSC published an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) to draft a national standard for upholstered furniture, which would include both resistance to open flame and smoldering cigarettes.

This ANPR expands on a previous CPSC draft (1994), which only addressed resistance to a small open flame. From an industry per-

spective, it is imperative that CPSC and California work closely in order to arrive at a single standard. INDA and its Flammability Task Force have been actively working with both California and CPSC on this matter.

MATTRESSES

In 1992, California developed the first open flame standard for mattresses. This standard, TB-129, was focused on institutional mattresses such as those used in prisons, hospitals and dormitories. TB-129 later became the reference for ASTM E-1950.

Until TB-129 came into being, the only standard in force for flammability of mattresses was Federal standard 16 C.F.R. 1632. This standard only focused on the ignition resistance of mattresses to a smoldering cigarette. However, studies showed that most mattress fires were started by either matches or cigarette lighters (40%) as well as from smoldering cigarettes (36%). The majority of open flame mattress fires were started by young children. There obviously was a need to address the flammability issues of mattresses to open flame.

In 2001, the California Legislature mandated by law that BHFTI develop new flammability standards for mattresses and bedding materials. These standards would require that both mattresses and bedding materials pass an open flame test. The law also mandated

(Continued on page 3)

INDA Set Membership Recruitment Record in 2003

Thanks to your input, INDA, your nonwovens association, has become more value-added and customer oriented ... and obviously more important to its member companies. Now, companies are clamoring to become members!

Want proof? Okay, in 2003 INDA set an all-time membership recruitment record of 55 new member companies!

We welcome our latest new members and we wish them and every INDA member a very Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year! Our 2004 resolution is to do our part to make it happen for you!

Apollo Chemical Corporation
 Ason Neumag Corporation
 Boehme Filatex, Inc.
 CTC International
 EDANA
 Goodrich Corporation
 Hudson RCI AB
 Shawano Specialty Papers
 (Division of Little Rapids Corporation)
 The Slosman Corporation
 Summit Engineering
 Techmer PM

Technical Update

(Continued from page 2)

that these standards be enforced by January 1, 2004.

TB-603 mattress standard uses two T-shaped propane burners that were developed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). One burner is used to flame the top of the mattress and the second burner flames the side where the mattress and foundation interface. These are full-scale tests that are conducted in one of three configurations – open calorimeter or two different sized hooded rooms. The test is designed to last 30 minutes and captures the total heat release over this time frame. A mattress passes the test if the total rate of heat release does not exceed 200 kw and the total heat released in the first 10 minutes does not exceed 25 mega joules. The regulation TB-603 is now due to go into effect January 1, 2005 since there is a legal question as to whether Federal regulation 16 CFR 32 pre-empts TB-603.

The CPSC has now issued an ANPR indicating its interest in adopt-

ing an open flame test for mattresses. Again, it would be in the best interests of the industry and the country to have one standard for mattress flammability. INDA is working closely with both the California BHFTI and the CPSC in this matter.

BEDDING

Mattresses are only a portion of the story when it comes to bed fires. In a majority of the cases, the fire is started by the bed clothing.

The California Legislature recognized this fact and mandated that the BHFTI set a standard for bed clothing if it corroborates these facts. The BHFTI found that in 67% of the cases of mattress fires, the bedding was first involved.

Of these cases, the large majority was started from a small open flame like matches or cigarette lighter. Draft Standard TB-604 addresses filled bedding components such as mattress pads, pillows and comforters. Again the Bureau called upon Industry and interested parties to submit samples of various filling materials, including fire retarded polyurethane foam for testing.

The Bureau conducted many full-

scale tests similar to those of TB-603 but including various combinations of bedding products and fillings. An inert mattress made of fiberglass was used so that the true heat release of the bedding materials could be captured.

In addition to the full scale tests, which are costly, the Bureau is developing a small bench scale for filling material that would correlate with the full scale tests of the same components. Results from initial work were inconclusive. Changes were made in the composition of the cover fabrics (50/50 cotton/polyester vs. 100% cotton) to be more representative of what is in the marketplace. The results were better but more work needs to be done. INDA's Flammability Task Force is working closely with the Bureau in this area. TB-604 is still in the draft stage and is open to comment and suggestions. The Bureau intends to have a final standard by early 2004.

For additional information on these regulations, please contact Cos Camelio at ccamelio@inda.org or visit the California Bureau at www.bhfti.ca.gov and the CPSC at www.cpsc.gov.

Government Relations/Global Activities Update

INDA Meets with USTR

An INDA delegation met with United States Trade Representative (USTR) Ambassador Robert Zoellick – President Bush’s point man for all international trade negotiations – and Special Textile Negotiator David Spooner at their offices in Washington, DC, on November 12.

The purpose of this special opportunity for INDA was to educate the USTR about the nonwovens industry and the unique international trade challenges facing INDA members. Ambassador Zoellick is a key member of the White House Cabinet and the Bush Administration’s most senior negotiator during any number of free trade agreements presently being pursued by the United States including the “Doha Round” of World Trade Organization talks, the Free Trade Area of the Americas Agreement and more.

Throughout the meeting, INDA repeatedly emphasized the nonwoven fabrics industry’s support of free trade and interest in “leveling the playing field” between the United States and other countries around the world. INDA also used the meeting as an opportunity to request USTR’s assistance in convincing other countries to eliminate their duties on nonwoven roll goods, noting that these items enter the United States duty-free, while most U.S. trading partners charge a wide range of tariffs.

CPSC To Issue Revised Furniture Flammability Standards

In what can be viewed as a major step forward in efforts to create national flammability standards for upholstered furniture, the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission published an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

(ANPRM) in the October 23 edition of the Federal Register outlining revised standards that seek to prevent ignitions caused by small open flames and cigarettes.

This is significant because, with the revision, CPSC has gained the support of furniture manufacturers and other stakeholder groups who had opposed Commission action on the issue for more than a decade. The Commission will accept public comment on the ANPRM through December 22 and, based on those comments, will likely issue a proposed rule early next year.

EPA Issues Proposed Rule on Industrial Wipers

Finally! The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in the November 20 edition of the Federal Register that seeks to establish similar storage, handling, and disposal requirements for wiping products used with industrial solvents. As those who have followed this issue well know, EPA has historically maintained stringent regulations for the disposal of industrial wipers made from nonwovens, but has left it up to the various state governments to regulate the processing of laundered shop towels which are typically used with the exact same solvents.

The result being that shop towel users generally have not had to comply with any requirements beyond those established by the industrial laundries with which they contract, while users of nonwoven wipers have had to comply with Federal hazardous waste regulations. This, in turn, has driven numerous industrial facilities to use shop towels instead of nonwoven wipers.

As proposed by EPA, however, both types of industrial wiping prod-

ucts would be considered to be a hazardous waste if used with certain solvents, but the Agency has proposed a series of conditions which – if met – would render either type of wiping product to be non-hazardous.

EPA is accepting comment until February 18, 2004. If your company would like to participate in the Task Force, please contact Peter Mayberry at 703-538-8805.

FTAA Ministerial Meeting Yields Scaled Back Draft

The Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) ministerial meeting in Miami concluded a day ahead of schedule on November 20 with trade ministers from 34 Western Hemisphere democracies agreeing to a declaration viewed as a compromise between those wishing to scale back the talks and those holding out for an ambitious FTAA.

The agreed-upon language would enable countries to take on different levels of commitments in the talks and would also allow the pursuit of plurilateral negotiations for areas not addressed in the scope of the FTAA. Dubbed “FTAA-Lite” by critics, the Miami declaration represents a substantial departure from previous Ministerial meetings, which envisioned the FTAA as a single undertaking with a common set of rules for all countries involved.

The declaration text was crafted with an eye towards preventing the kind of collapse encountered during the World Trade Organization talks in Cancún in September. Many feared a similar fate for the FTAA talks after Brazil launched a coordinated push to scale back the scope of the agreement by seeking to exclude certain topics like intellectual property and investment from the negotiations. The U.S. stridently resisted these efforts.

Excitement Mounts As Visionary Award Finalists Are Named



Procter & Gamble leads the way with two nominations as five finalists prepare for the prestigious 2004 Visionary Award. The Visionary Award will be presented during the Vision 2004 Consumer Products Conference to recognize recently introduced consumer products that utilize nonwoven fabric technology.

"Procter & Gamble, which has always been a leader in the use of nonwoven fabrics in its consumer products, will be joined by two other domestic companies – Kimberly-Clark and Church & Dwight – and Golden Phoenix from Taiwan in having the opportunity to receive the 2004 Visionary Award," said Rory Holmes, president of INDA.

"We are constantly in search of unique, technologically advanced consumer products that utilize nonwoven technology in their manufacturing process," Holmes added. "The purpose of the Visionary Award is to recognize and honor those companies on the forefront of this development."

The finalists for the 2004 INDA Visionary Awards:

1. Brillo Scrub 'n 'Toss, Church & Dwight. Brillo Scrub 'n 'Toss is a two-sided household cleaning pad composed of two different nonwovens, each with a distinctly different purpose.

2. Easy-O-Fit Face Masks, Golden Phoenix (Taiwan). These non-latex disposable masks utilize an SMMS nonwoven fabric with a patented thermo-mechanical process to make them stretchable over 200% without incorporating latex, polyurethane rubber or other elastomers.

EVERYTHING (ALMOST) YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT VISION 2004

To have a chance to participate in a unique awards program such as the 2004 Visionary Award you have to be at the Vision 2004 Consumer Products Conference. If you do, you'll be in excellent company, because at last year's event more than 500 people from every aspect of consumer products and nonwovens attended the three-day event in New Orleans.

Now in a new location – coupled with the same great opportunities to meet and learn with your peers – Vision 2004 promises to be another big success. In addition to the great networking – the chance to attend a conference with top decision-makers from companies such as Procter & Gamble, Kimberly-Clark, Johnson & Johnson, S.C. Johnson and Clorox, among dozens of others – program highlights include:

- Supply Chain Management
- FTC & EPA Issues
- Impacting the Bottom Line
- Innovation In Consumer Products
- Global Opportunities
- Venture Capitalism

Vision 2004 is an industry event, founded three years ago in response to a demand for a truly representative conference that could bring together all companies involved in the nonwovens and consumer products markets around the world. It is organized by industry members for the industry.

For more: <https://imisw.inda.org/Source/Meetings/cMeeting-ProcessSearch.cfm?section=Events>.

3. Huggies Convertibles Diaper-Pants, Kimberly-Clark. Huggies Convertibles Diaper-Pants are promoted as a new way of diapering active babies. Convertibles can be put on like a pant when the baby is busy or put on like a diaper when he's not.

4. Swiffer Dusters, Unicharm/Procter & Gamble. Swiffer Dusters, the result of a unique partnership between Unicharm and Procter & Gamble, were launched into the North American market in January 2003 as the latest line extension in the successful Swiffer franchise.

5. ThermaCare HeatWraps, Procter & Gamble. ThermaCare HeatWraps are

made of soft layers of cloth-like material that contain natural, heat generating ingredients that heat up when exposed to oxygen in the air. ThermaCare was also a finalist for the 2003 Visionary Award.

Each of the finalists will make a presentation at the 2004 Vision Consumer Products Conference and then attendees at the conference will vote on the recipient of the 2004 Visionary Award. Previous recipients of the Visionary Award were the Swiffer cleaning system from Procter & Gamble (2002) and the Civilian Quick Escape Mask, FMJ ChemBio (2003).

INDA Has Full Slate Of Meetings, Conferences

IDEA04 Conference: Something To Be Excited About

The IDEA 2004 Committee has put together an exciting conference program to accompany the world's largest technical textile show. Speakers from General Motors, Honda, Cree, Procter & Gamble and many other end users will discuss their textile needs and expectations at the April 27-29, 2004 Conference in Miami Beach, Florida. For more information: www.idea04.com.

INTC 04 Heads To Canada

The INTC 2004 Committee is soliciting technical papers to be presented at its 2004 conference in Toronto, Canada. Individuals interested in presenting a paper at INTC can find the INTC 2004 Call for Papers at www.inda.org. Abstracts must be submitted no later than January 31.

INTC 2004 will be held at the Westin Castle Hotel, Toronto, September 20-23, 2004.

Filtration 2004 To Chicago

A successful Filtration 2003 event has led many companies to already send in their reservation forms for the Filtration 2004 International Exposition and Conference, December 7-9, 2004 at the Pennsylvania Convention Center in Philadelphia.

Although December seems like a long way off, don't forget that while you are in "snooze mode," other companies – your competitors, perhaps – are booking their booths. Placements are being made on a first-come/first-serve basis, and companies that don't sign up right away are always getting pushed farther and farther back on the exhibit floor.

Reserve your booth now. Contact Marilyn Bellinger at 919-233-1210 Ext. 118 (mbellinger@inda.org) or Carrie Smith at Ext. 129 (csmith@inda.org).

Here's an excellent idea ...

Make your Spring 2004 vacation plans around the

INDA ANNUAL MEETING 2004

FEBRUARY 15-17, 2004
The Don CeSar Beach Resort & Spa
St. Pete Beach, Florida

To see the hotel venue, visit:
<http://www.doncesar.com/main.cfm>

Filtration 2003 A Success In Chicago Last Month

The Filtration 2003 International Exposition and Conference was held in Chicago, Ill., in mid-December and impressive crowds of attendees flocked to Navy Pier to see the latest new filtration media, equipment and raw materials. A total of 110 exhibitors filled the floor for the two days of the Filtration 2003 Exposition, while full houses attended the three days of Conferences.

One of the highlights was the keynote presentation by Dr. William J. Rea, of the Environmental Health Center in Texas, who issued a challenge to the global filtration industry to take it to the next level by developing better technology to improve indoor air quality in his talk titled

"The Impact of IAQ On Human Health."

Dr. Rea praised the filtration industry for helping out in the battle for improved indoor air quality. But at the same time he challenged filter manufacturers and suppliers to "engineer better systems so people don't get sick when they breathe the air."

During each Filtration International Conference & Exposition, "Best Booths" awards are presented in the Large Booth (more than 200 sq. feet) and Small Booth categories, as well as Best First-time Exhibitor.

The Best Booth recipients for Filtration 2003 were:

Best Large Booth:

First Place: BBA Fiberweb Filtration



Greg Coles (left) and Frank Baker (right) accept the coveted Large Booth First Place Prize Ribbon from INDA president Rory Holmes.

Second Place: Johns Manville

Best Small Booth:

First Place: Lauscha Fiber

Second Place: DelStar

Best First-Time Exhibitor:

Rogers Foam

INDA Publications Bookshelf

FREE COMPANY LISTINGS IN THE 2004 ON-LINE DIRECTORY

Please do not miss your opportunity to promote your company's services/products for absolutely no money at all. INDA would like you to fill out the International Nonwovens Directory Questionnaire so that you may be reached by thousands of customers. Visit the INDA site at <http://www.inda.org/cgi-bin/dq/dq.cgi> to fill out the questionnaire electronically or to download the form.

Once again, you will not be charged a fee to be listed in the directory. Please contact Brooke Boyle (bboyle@inda.org), ext. 120 or Cindy Garcia (cgarci@inda.org), ext. 111 should you have any questions or concerns. See you on-line.

DONT MISS OUT ON THESE 2003 PUBLICATIONS

As the new year begins, INDA would like to remind members about the publications that were released in 2003, so that if you happened to miss them you may purchase them today:

- Air Laid Pulp Nonwovens Primer

Pre-Order INDA's First Statistical Report

ANALYSIS OF THE NONWOVENS INDUSTRY IN SOUTH AMERICA

(Available January 2004)

- Learn The Markets, Trends And Forecasts For Now And The Future!
- Examine Both The Short Life And Long Life Applications!
- Nonwoven Product Technology!

- Hydroentangling Technology Primer
 - Analysis of NW Industry in North America (2002 Stats)
 - Analysis of NW Industry in Mexico (2002 Stats)
 - Stats Combo (NA, Mexico, and Worldwide)
 - Vision 2003 Conference Proceedings
 - Nonwovens Enhancements 2003 Proceedings
 - INTC 2003 Proceedings
 - Filtration 2003 Conference Proceedings
- Please contact Brooke Boyle at bboyle@inda.org if you would like to order any of the above publications.

The Winter 2004 issue of the INDA International Nonwovens Journal is available online now. Just log on to the INDA website at www.inda.org and click on the link for the INJ. It is available FREE to the nonwovens and technical textiles research community.

Message from The President

(Continued from page 1)

more customers to the Exposition floor to spend time with our exhibitors. The Conference includes 10 sessions on nonwoven and technical textile markets and International Trade. David Rigby will give our Keynote Address on "The Technical Textile Industry-World Markets, Trends and Drivers." This session will also include the awarding of the prestigious IDEAO4 Achievement Awards. This is truly a "don't miss" event.

Also in 2004, INDA and North Carolina State University, Nonwoven Cooperative Research Center will launch the complete series of Technical Short Courses. These week-long courses cover nonwovens subjects such as Nonwoven Fundamentals, Bonding, Web Formation, Fabric Characterization and the popular Nonwovens Product Development Course. NCSU will be offering these same courses to university students during 2004 and we will be able to offer graduate credit for these courses, as well.

Of course, INDA in 2004 will continue to be about much more than just important meetings and conferences. For instance, our Worldwide Statistics Report for the Nonwovens Industry will be available in the first half of the year. EDANA, the European Disposables and Nonwovens Association, will collaborate with the development of the statistics for Europe as well.

Former INDA president Ted Wirtz and I have just returned from an extensive visit in China. The growth of nonwovens volume and capabilities in China is impressive and INDA plans to continue building relationships with our Asian partners. Our continued support of the ANEX show is part of this effort.

Finally, for those of you that participated in our triennial Member Survey, I offer a sincere "thank you." Your feedback becomes the basis for our vital Strategic Planning process. We really do listen to our members.

The final survey results will be presented at our Annual Meeting in St. Pete Beach, Florida from February 15-17, 2004. Please plan to attend and bring your spouse.

— Rory Holmes, INDA President

INDA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Rory Holmes, President, INDA
Wayne Black, INDA Legal Counsel, Keller & Heckman

Latecomers Clamor For IDEAO4 Exhibit Space

December, January and February are always "crazy, busy" months for the INDA sales team. This year, with IDEAO4 right around the corner, has been even crazier but one thing was for certain — the promotional brochure to potential attendees of IDEAO4 has hit the mailboxes of companies in the nonwovens and engineered fabrics industry.

Has this statement been heard around your offices? "Uh-Oh, our company is not listed in the brochure as an exhibitor! Could have sworn we reserved a booth."

Don't worry. The INDA sales team is here to help! And NO, it is not too late and YES, we still have some space for you!

The IDEA show comes only once every three years! If you're not there, your customers begin to wonder. Call now to reserve your space so you are not "Long gone and forgotten!"

Contact Marilyn Bellinger at 919-233-1210 Ext. 118 (mbellinger@inda.org) or Carrie Smith at Ext. 129 (csmith@inda.org).

IDEAO4
International Engineered Fabrics Conference & Expo

*** THERE IS NOW A DEDICATED WEBSITE FOR IDEAO4. JUST GO TO WWW.IDEAO4.COM ***

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