



The European Association for the Taps and Valves Industry



Dear colleagues and friends,

After two exciting yet challenging years as CEIR President, it is now time to pass the baton on to my designated successor, first Vice-President Pascal Vinzio. However, I will remain very active in the Board as well as in various working groups. It has been a great honour to represent the European taps and valves industry over the last two years.

I am pleased that we reinforced our cooperation with our worldwide counterparts and other European associations. In addition

to their contributions to this Gazette, our American partners VMA and PMI will participate in the next CEIR Congress.

CEIR continues monitoring developments on EU legislation and analysing possible impact on the taps and valves industry. As you will read in the articles in this edition, we work on issues related to the Machinery Directive. In its role of representative of valve manufacturers, CEIR does its best to find a compromise amongst different industry players. Other activities focus on developments in the area of dual-use item legislation, notably the update of the list of dual-use items that are subject to controls in the Union. Discussions are likely to be re-opened in the coming months with the review of the dual-use EU export control policy. We also pay attention to the requirements related to drinking water and products in contact with drinking water, as well as the implementation

of the waste electric and electronic products (WEEE) Directive in the 28 Member States.

In the field of chemicals legislation, we carefully monitor changes in the classification of substances as well as new requirements for substances used in our products and also during the manufacturing process. For example, as of September 2017 European taps and valves manufacturers will not be authorised to use chromium trioxide unless an authorisation has been granted to the product manufacturer or his supplier.

We are also focusing activities on Building Information Modeling (BIM) and in the area of standardisation. CEIR has recently joined a cross-industry platform on European standardisation strategy, thus teaming up with 17 European industry associations. This platform aims to ensure that market relevance remains the driver and that industry is involved in discussions on the future of European standardisation.

Last but not least, the possible Ecodesign and labelling requirement on taps and shower heads remains of the utmost importance. While we are waiting for the conclusions of the JRC study, CEIR reiterated that industry has been driving market transformation towards more water- and energy-efficient products for several years. The voluntary Water Label has proven to be essential and very successful in supporting this change.

Finally, I firmly believe that taps and valves manufacturers need the support of CEIR to ensure an appropriate representation of our sector and also to properly inform us so that we can adapt and act proactively. This is why we need to invest in our European association.

Klaus Schneider, CEIR President

CEIR ANNUAL CONGRESS 2015

The CEIR Congress will take place from 11 to 13 June 2015 at the Rudding Park Hotel which is located amongst beautiful landscaped gardens and woodland in the spa town of Harrogate, UK.

The Bathroom Manufacturers Association, in charge of the organisation, has prepared an exciting programme.

High-level speakers from different backgrounds will share their views and experiences with Congress participants. First, C. Sykes (Construction Europe) will open the conference with an overview of the European construction market, while P. Caplehorn (UK Construction Product Association) will introduce a new concept: Building Information Modelling (BIM). T. Frost (ICPDW) will provide a presentation on materials and products used in drinking water applications. Then, K. Harris (Eaton Electric) will share his experience on counterfeit products entering the European market. After lunch, T. Sallis (CBI) will explain the changing structure of the European Commission and the impact on industry. In addition, the discussions will focus on water efficiency, notably with a contribution from J. Tompkins (Waterwise UK) on the role of the consumer and governance structure, and also from F. Pekar (European Commission) on the efficiency of products. The afternoon session will end with a panel of experts who will debate whether third party accreditation is necessary. The CEIR Congress is a great opportunity for exchanging views on important issues and developments which may influence business and strategy. In addition, the Congress offers networking opportunities alongside the conference and the General Assembly.

Informal exchanges will be held at the Thursday dinner at the

CEIR CONGRESS – HARROGATE (UNITED KINGDOM) 11-13 JUNE 2015

Venue: Rudding Park Hotel, Spa & Golf, Harrogate, United Kingdom

Programme:

Thursday 11 June

Arrival of participants

13.00 - 17.00 Board meeting

18.30 - 23.30 Dinner at the National Railway Museum in York

Friday 12 June

09.30 - 17.00 Conference with speakers / panels

09.30 - 17.00 Day trip: Experience York (optional, for partners)

19.30 - 23.00 Formal dinner at hotel

Saturday 13 June

09.30 - 11.00 Committee reports

11.30 - 13.00 General assembly and international association addresses

National Railway Museum in York and the "Taste of Yorkshire" dinner on Friday evening. CEIR members, associate members and the members of CEIR's sister associations are welcome to join us at our Annual Meeting.

For registration and more information:
<http://ceircongress2015.blogspot.co.uk/>

SUSTAINABLE FUTURE WITH THE EUROPEAN WATER LABEL

The European Water Label has grown rapidly since its launch just a decade ago and, like the pace of life itself, its growth is accelerating.

Ten years ago the United Nations launched its International Decade for Action which aimed to put water and sanitation at the top of the world's agenda. It challenged world leaders to ensure everyone was aware of the urgency of the situation.

During that decade the voluntary European Water Labelling Scheme played a major part in educating the public about the water-using characteristics of bathroom and kitchen products.

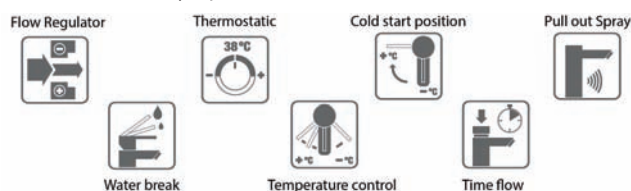
Since 2005 the bathroom and kitchen market has developed, evolved and progressed. So too has the label. The Directors and Partners of the scheme are not ones to 'rest on their laurels' and have been keen to ensure that the label reflects the market it serves. They are always striving to build upon its success and develop it further so that it becomes the 'go-to' database for water (and now energy) consumption information.

Now, as the UN's International Decade for Action comes to its close, the labelling scheme is taking a further step forward with a major industry initiative. Sustainability is a focus for many consumers so the Label has been upgraded to include more information to help the consumer make the most efficient product choice.

Those bathroom and kitchen products which consume hot water (for instance taps and shower controls) will have additional information included to display their technical features.

The online database has been enhanced with additional data and the product labels have been improved to include additional all-new descriptive icons. These show information on:

1. Flow regulator
2. Water break
3. Thermostatic
4. Temperature control
5. Cold start position
6. Time flow
7. Sensor
8. Pull out spray



This is a major step in helping consumers improve the efficiency of their homes and establishes the scheme as a valuable benefit for generations to come.

CHROMIUM TRIOXIDE AND REACH: DEADLINES APPROACHING

Chromium Trioxide is one of the substances included in Annex XIV of REACH (the so-called "Authorisation List").

Under the REACH Regulation, the authorisation process starts when a Member State or the European Agency ECHA, at the request of the Commission, proposes a substance to be identified as a substance of very high concern (SVHC). When the substance is identified as an SVHC it is included in the Candidate List, for eventual inclusion in the Authorisation List.

Chromium Trioxide has been identified as a potential hazardous substance and, as a result of the authorisation process, European institutions decided that it meets criteria for classification as

carcinogenic (category 1A) and mutagenic (category 1B) in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 and therefore meets the criteria for inclusion in Annex XIV of the REACH Regulation.

Chromium Trioxide was included in Annex XIV REACH in April 2013 following publication in the Official Journal of Regulation (EU) 348/2013. The main consequences for the industry are the following:

- 21 March 2016 (Latest application date): date by which applications must be received by ECHA in order to continue to use the substance or place it on the market for specified uses after the sunset date; these continued uses will be allowed after the sunset date until a decision on the application for authorisation is taken;
- 21 September 2017 (Sunset date): date from which placing on the market and use of Chromium Trioxide will be prohibited unless an authorisation is granted.

It is important to underline that authorisation must be granted for a specified use of Chromium Trioxide.

The tapware industry is currently using chrome plating for both functional and decorative purposes. However, Chromium Trioxide is an important compound for many industrial branches and several initiatives have been launched in Europe in order to continue to use Chromium (VI) legally after the sunset date established by Regulation 348/2013. Following is a short overview of the activity of consortia created within the chemical and galvanic industry.

In general, there are two options in order to be allowed to use Chromium Trioxide after the sunset date.

One is to obtain your own authorisation and the other is to make sure that your supplier has applied for an authorisation that covers your specific use of this substance.

Companies with a high volume use of Chromium Trioxide may want to apply for their own authorisation because this would mean they are independent from local suppliers and can purchase the substance worldwide (and thus act as an importer). However, filing an application is a costly and complicated process. As there is no threshold value for Chromium Trioxide, the approval file must contain both the Adequate Control study (that proves that the risk of use is under control) and the Socio-economic study (to show that there is no adequate alternative available). Remember that both studies must be supported by scientific research and must be substantiated with authentic data gained from your factory.

In order to bundle activities and develop a line of argumentation for applicants, several consortia have been founded. Their main goal is to collect information from participating companies and condense this into a generic guideline which companies wanting to apply for authorisation can use in order to formulate their own approval dossier. Some CEIR members have been actively working in the CTAC consortium that is hosted by the international lawfirm Jonesday. This consortium started its work in spring 2012 and finished the research in January 2015. Non-members can buy into the results and participate in a joint application by purchasing a so-called Letter of Access (LoA). Another consortium known to the authors is VECCO from Germany whose focus is on surface treatment. Before joining a consortium and buying an LoA, you need to verify that the scope of the consortium represents your use of Chromium Trioxide.

The second option in order to ensure you are still allowed to use Chromium Trioxide after the sunset date is to cooperate with one or more distributors, based in the EU, from whom you purchase the substance. In this case you need to verify that they can prove that either they themselves or their supplier has applied for an authorisation that covers exactly your use (e.g. functional chrome-plating with decorative character in the case of the sanitary tapware industry). Some of the main importers and distributors of Chromium Trioxide have been part of the CTAC and therefore also part of the joint application that is filed with ECHA under the lead of the company Lanxess.

As the application period for obtaining an authorisation for use of Chromium Trioxide has already started and will end in ten months from now, it is high time to decide which option your company should choose. In any case, you cannot use Chromium Trioxide after the sunset date if no authorisation has been granted for your specific use.

ECODESIGN DIRECTIVE: JRC STUDY ON TAPS AND SHOWERS TOWARDS THE PUBLICATION

Ecodesign has been an important topic for our industry in the last few years, notably due to the preparatory study on efficiency of taps and shower heads carried out by JRC. While the study phase finished at the end of 2014 we are still waiting for the publication of the final report together with its recommendations. This delay seems to be due to the upcoming review of the Energy Labelling Directive.

A possible option would be a mandatory water and energy label for taps and shower heads, without Ecodesign requirements, to drive the market quicker towards water- and energy-efficient products. However, legislative measures on such equipment might be subject to controversial discussions and may not be accepted by consumers. Therefore, the European Commission is currently assessing how to proceed with this product group. The Commission wishes to avoid reiterating past mistakes and very difficult debates, such as the phasing out of conventional incandescent light bulbs.

Meanwhile, CEIR has reiterated that industry has been driving market transformation towards more water- and energy-efficient products. In addition, the voluntary Water Label has proven to be essential and very successful in supporting this change.

As regards the framework Directives, the Commission has reiterated that the Ecodesign Directive is still broadly fit for purpose and will therefore not be revised, unlike the Energy Labelling Directive.

The Commission proposal to review this piece of legislation is expected for the 2nd half of 2015.

AIM OF CEIR WG THERMOSTATIC VALVES: IMPROVING THE ENERGY PERFORMANCES OF TRVs

Thermostatic radiator valves (TRVs) are an important branch of the European industry represented by CEIR and a specific Working Group has been established to follow technical and legislative issues directly impacting companies.

The aim of the Working Group is primarily to coordinate technical discussions among the entire European industry relating to the energy efficiency of TRVs. Subjects now on the "agenda" for this sector are on-going policy developments and the diffusion at European level of several voluntary schemes for energy efficiency of TRVs. Moreover, CEIR is keen to contribute to CEN activity for the development and revision of European standards for TRVs, with special focus on EN 215 "Thermostatic Radiator valves – requirements and test methods".

The activity of the Working Group is driven by the need, shared by all members, for European legislation and technical standards to consider TRVs' contribution in terms of "energy efficiency": energy performance of TRVs makes an important contribution to the overall energy assessment of heating systems inside buildings. Nevertheless the current European legislative framework (ErP Directive 2009/125/EC and EPBD Directive 2010/31/EC) does not really take into consideration the contribution of TRVs in terms of energy saving.

Currently CEIR is mainly active at CEN level. A proposal for the revision of the product standard EN 215 has been agreed and submitted to the competent European standardisation body. This proposal is specifically intended to introduce a new chapter containing the technical details for the classification of the energy performance of TRVs. It is based on the parameter "Variation of temperature due to control" defined by EN 15316-2-1 "Heating systems in buildings - Method for calculation of system energy requirements and system efficiencies - Space heating emission systems". The document should be considered as a starting point for discussion, which must involve all relevant industry stakeholders.

The EN 215 revision process was formally approved at the beginning of this year by the competent Technical Committee CEN TC 130, where almost all main European producers are represented. Within TC 130, this task has been assigned to Working Group 12, which officially started to work on the revision of EN 215 during the meeting held on 30 April.

In parallel, CEIR is continuing to monitor possible consequences for the TRV industry of European Commission proposals for Directive 2009/125/EC ErP, considering that the Ecodesign Working Plan 2015-2017 study is about to be published.

MORE THREATS ON LEAD

The use of lead in the industry is very restricted and controlled. Nevertheless, there are clear signs to indicate that this will be increasingly the case: for the valves and taps sector, two recent regulatory initiatives are of concern.

The first initiative was taken in the framework of REACH following a proposal from Sweden. This European regulation contains provisions to ban the use of certain substances for certain categories of articles. This is the case for lead, whose use was until recently restricted for jewellery and is now restricted for all consumer articles potentially "mouthable" by small children. To avoid abusive interpretation and potential issues on the market, CEIR has decided to contribute to the expected official guidelines to underline that sanitary tapware does not fall into this category of goods.

The second regulatory initiative is more complex and worrying. The European CLP Regulation (for Classification, Labelling and Packaging of substances) defines the risks associated with all chemical substances and preparations along with the associated safety, information and traceability obligations. The classification of substances/preparations is regularly updated for the sake of adaptation to technical progress. In this framework, discussions are open (and quite advanced) for the classification of metallic alloys containing lead: they could be considered as "toxic for human reproduction" starting from a lead content as low as 0.03%. All copper alloys such as brass and bronze (even the so-called "lead-free" alloys) are above this limit... This classification does not mean the use of such alloys is banned, but some information obligation (safety data sheet) and possibly new stringent rules for the protection of workers would follow. CEIR obviously does not deny the hazardous character of lead. However, the effects of lead when it is "diluted" in alloys should be demonstrated before implementing new rules that could potentially harm the industry.

WEEE 2 DIRECTIVE: ELECTRIC ACTUATED VALVES ALREADY IN THE SCOPE IN FRANCE!

According to the last text published in November 2014 by the French Ministry of Environment ("Avis aux producteurs"), electric motors, monitoring and control systems and electric actuators are in the scope of the WEEE directive as it is transposed in France, under product category 9 "Monitoring and control instruments".

This clearly goes further than the industry analysis, conducted during the last few years, and will considerably increase the quantity of professional WEEE to be collected and recycled, even before the 2018 milestone when "all EEE" will be concerned, including other CEIR products such as electronic taps.

PROFLUID, the French association, has written several papers to help the industry prepare to implement this regulation in 2015. Discussions with partners from the electric and electronic sectors are ongoing to find a common interpretation of the texts and propose suitable solutions to professional users of our equipment.

Unfortunately, WEEE implementation has proven to be very country-specific and, despite all its efforts to inform its members properly and in due time, CEIR fears that the taps and valves sector faces another situation of discrepancy in the European Union.

DRINKING WATER: WILL THE SOLUTION FINALLY COME FROM INDUSTRY?

The diversity and lack of mutual recognition of national laws with regard to products in contact with drinking water have been causing headaches for our industry for decades. All the different attempts to find a solution and their painful failures would be too long to describe. In this very pessimistic context, some new developments provide a little hope for improvement.

Indeed, at European Commission level, it is now more and more likely that the Drinking Water Directive (including its article 10 which concerns products) will be revised. In addition, DG Growth has announced its wish to withdraw Mandate M/136 that was aimed at implementing CE marking on construction products in contact with drinking water.

This new regulatory context, even if temporary and unsure, might represent a good timeframe for industry to take the lead. With this in mind, CEIR has joined a European consortium of industries, all concerned by this topic, in order to speak louder and propose solutions. One single test method, a unique test report and mutual recognition of product approvals are the priorities of this newly created group. Confirmation of commitment from CEIR, constitution of the group and its working rules are to be finalised in the coming weeks.

Knowing that the situation worsens every day (Germany finally gave legal status to the positive list of metallic alloys – mandatory in April 2017), this initiative is most welcome.

BIM, BIM AND MORE BIM

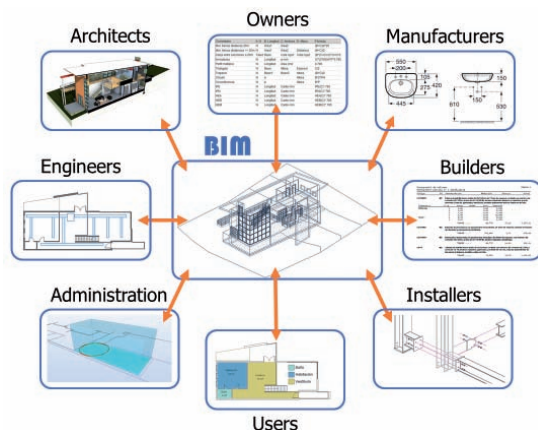
Everybody seems to have heard about BIM, especially in the last few months... but **what is BIM?**

Building Information Modeling is a methodology based on the use of coordinated, coherent and computable information about the physical and functional characteristics of a building or infrastructure.

The goal is to establish a reliable knowledge base for decision-making throughout the entire building's life cycle.



In addition, BIM turns the construction industry from an opaque and hostile environment into a more collaborative one...



LATEST NEWS ON MACHINERY DIRECTIVE

The soap opera continues... For the third consecutive time, CEIR attended the Machinery Working Group meeting in Brussels in March 2015, after having submitted its Position Paper to the European Commission in late 2013.

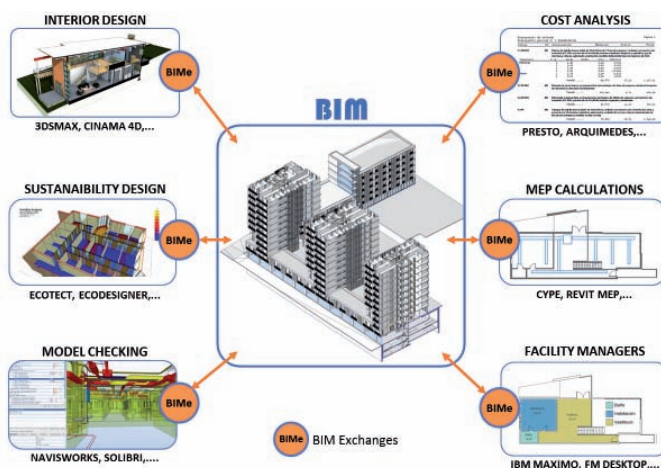
No time was granted for discussion, and the Working Group chairman proposed that CEIR updates its position in the light of the written contributions issued by 5 Member States (Denmark, France, Germany, Sweden and the UK).

These contributions are not homogeneous and raise more questions than answers... However, some key aspects have emerged that might lead to a re-write without the need to change the entire argument of the original position which, to be fair, is challenged.

In parallel, as we know, our German colleagues from the VDMA have finalised their own work on the topic with, as expected, opposite conclusions to ours: they would consider actuated valves as machines and "actuatable" valves as machines or partly completed machines, depending on the case. CEIR and VDMA had the opportunity to meet in KSB's Frankenthal premises in April 2015 to express their views and motivations. The dialogue was constructive and all participants agreed that the industry should talk together. Further meetings are foreseen to progress towards a potential consensus.

More will follow in the next episode!

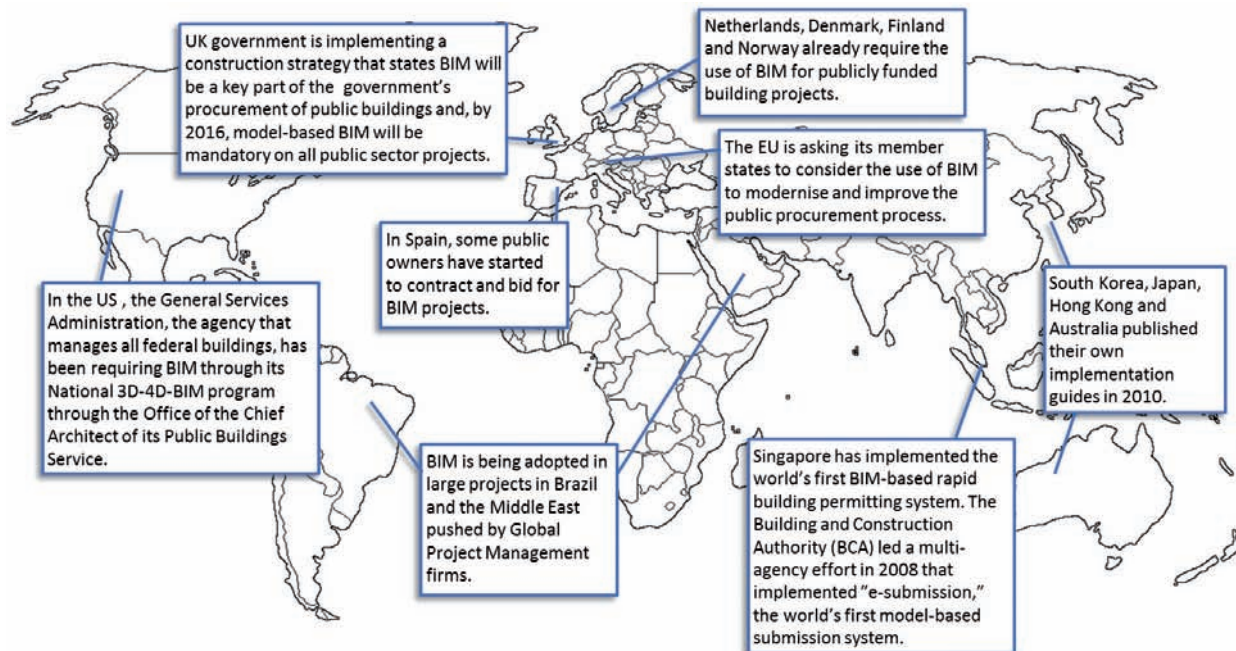
...where manufacturers' BIM components compound other stakeholders' BIM models, and where the different stakeholders' specialised tools benefit from information about BIM components.



Therefore, **ensuring the quality of BIM components is important** because...

- BIM components will substitute traditional catalogues.
 - BIM software will be used for ordering, using BIM information about components.
 - BIM users trust information on BIM components provided by manufacturers.
 - Wrong BIM components in the cloud / internet may create misleading information that could have legal consequences (if the metadata included in the BIM components leads to mistakes).
- ... and it is a **MUST** because **BIM is here to stay**.

Once we know what BIM is, we need to understand where it is being used so far...



... and how this impacts the EU.

01/31/2014

European Parliament Directive to Spur BIM Adoption in 28 EU Countries

Earlier this month, the European Parliament voted to modernize European public procurement rules by recommending the use of electronic tools such as building information electronic modelling, or BIM, for public works contracts and design contests.

Now that we understand what BIM is and how and where it is taking ground worldwide, let's talk about **BIM components**, or the digital representation of physical and functional characteristics of the building components....the core of BIM.

A BIM component is not only about 3D geometry. It must have 2D visualisation data and other types of information such as how the component must interact with the other parts of the model, the metadata.

Finally, what about **BIM software**?

End users [architects, interior designers, builders, etc.] may use any of the software platforms available on the market that are compatible with BIM technology.

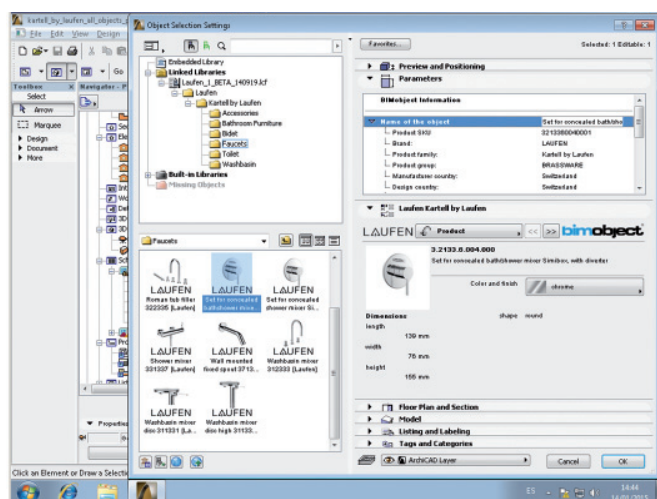
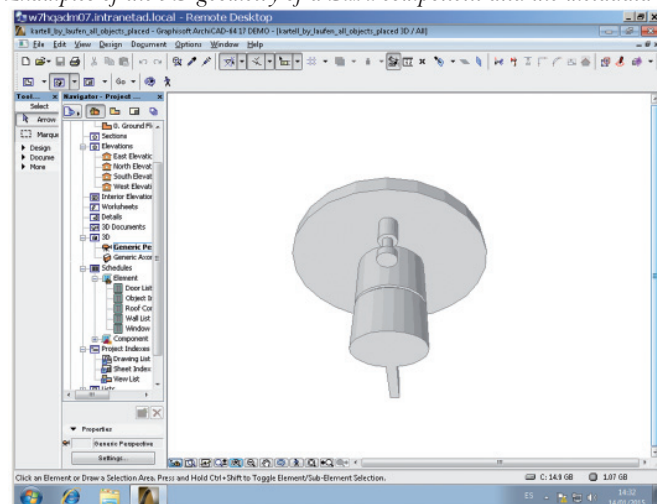
BIM components are placed into the project created in the BIM software. End users may decide in the early stages of the project to use general non-branded BIM components (placeholders). But in the end, the BIM components must be specified in order to be ordered from an authorised vendor.

The most commonly used BIM software in the world is Autodesk Revit and Graphisoft ArchiCAD. Both of them can export a model using an enabled cross-platform interoperability (IFC) and models stored with this format can be imported by other BIM platforms.

So after knowing the what, the where and the how... the conclusion is that BIM seems to be here to stay but the fact is that in spite of spreading fast it is still 'under construction' in several fields [metadata definition, legal issues, liability issues...]. The main questions are... **who** has to set the BIM framework and when is this going to happen? Questions like what is the minimum required metadata? who has to define it? what is the relevant legislation? who will draft it? remain unanswered, making the industry reactive about BIM instead of making it proactively willing to adopt this new way of working.

CEIR members need to have a clear idea about what and where but also when and who is going to help to define BIM frameworks. Will the EU institutions draft the legal and technical texts or will this fall to independent associations like ISO, CIBSE (Chartered Institution

Examples of the 3D geometry of a BIM component and the metadata



of Building Services Engineers), COBie (Construction Operations Building Information Exchange), etc.?

Lots of potential, lots of question marks, but the fact is that BIM is a reality.

EXPORT CONTROLS

The export of dual use items as products which could be potentially used to produce weapons of mass destruction is closely controlled through a European Regulation (the USA and other countries have similar rules). The principle is simple : a licence granted by authorities is necessary to export such goods out of the EU (and some "friendly" countries). This Regulation was updated in December 2014 based on the work of several expert groups. Industrial valves were already among the most controlled products and the situation will not improve. Indeed, the "2B350g" category, which identifies valves that could be used in chemical weapons processes, has been reinforced and will now cover more products, especially in small diameters (from 1" to 4"). Considering that the timeline to obtain a licence is sometimes very long and can cause problems with orders, such a change must be considered in discussions with customers.

In the meantime, being very aware of this situation and the need for an efficient control system, the European Commission has launched a study on a potential review of the European system. CEIR, being one of the best "users" of this Regulation, was interviewed by Ecorys and SIPRI (in charge of the study) to give its view on potential improvements. CEIR expressed its preference for the creation of harmonised tools (IT systems, guidelines) to ensure consistency between the different Member States and eliminate the potential distortion of competition that might arise. CEIR also mentioned that responsibility for export control should remain at Member State level, for proximity and expertise reasons, and should not be transferred to the European Commission or, even worse, to third parties.

We will keep you updated on the next steps and the probable revision of the European Regulation.

CALIFORNIA DROUGHT SPAWNS EMERGENCY REGULATIONS

Plumbing Manufacturers International says using WaterSense products can make an immediate, positive impact on water savings. PMI Urges Immediate Adoption and Use of EPA WaterSense Standards and Products in California

By Barbara C Higgins
CEO and Executive Director
Plumbing Manufacturers
International



In California, the future is now – a time when steps to sustain an ever-precious resource must be taken. As good stewards of the environment, PMI wants the public to know that using water-efficient plumbing products is an immediate action that can be taken to save water. Flow rates must be set carefully within health and safety parameters to avoid unintended consequences. PMI advocates levels specified by the EPA WaterSense program, which include performance criteria in addition to promoting the efficient use of water. There have been tremendous advancements in the technology and efficacy of plumbing products. "Just as you wouldn't use a 25-year-old cell phone, it doesn't make sense to use 25-year-old plumbing technology," Higgins was a part of a panel presentation on "The Future of Water" at an April 13 Water Week event in Washington, D.C.

PMI has long encouraged the replacement, or retrofitting, of older fixtures with WaterSense toilets, showerheads and faucets, which are widely available in stores throughout California and the nation. PMI and its member companies – which produce most of the plumbing products in the United States – participate as partners in the WaterSense program. "Using WaterSense products is common sense," Higgins said.

California is currently experiencing the worst drought the state has seen in years and some projections predict that it will last for decades to come. On April 1, 2015 the Governor of California issued Executive Order B-29-15 regarding the drought. The order spawned emergency action by the California Energy Commission (CEC) which resulted in a list of plumbing products to be mandated effective January 2016.

While PMI appreciates and applauds Governor Jerry Brown's executive

order as the need for water savings in California has never been greater, we are concerned that the order calls for a family of products with maximum flow rates far below approved WaterSense levels. While three of the four categories of the products are currently and readily available as WaterSense certified products, one category -- 1.2 gpm residential lavatory faucets are not widely available. In addition, the compliance deadline of January 2016 is unrealistic in view of the time required for product development, testing and certification. Meeting the deadline will be difficult, if not impossible.

Barbara C. Higgins, PMI CEO and Executive Director, Jerry Desmond, PMI's California government Affairs consultant and members of Plumbing Manufacturers met May 6th in Sacramento, California with the CEC, the office of the Governor and California legislators to urge the CEC to re-consider and revise its emergency regulation as it pertains to residential lavatory faucets. A tiered implementation strategy was proposed so that a 1.5 gpm standard will take effect immediately, and a 1.2 gm standard will take effect on January 1, 2017.

PMI was joined at these important meetings by representatives of other industry segments to be impacted by the Order including the representatives within the distribution channel, to present the proposal which offers an opportunity for more immediate drought relief through the use of Water Sense products. Estimates indicate that market penetration of the Water Sense products is only about 5% nationwide and specifically in California. There is great water-saving potential available right now. BUT the products cannot save water if they are sitting on the shelf. Consumers must step up and replace their legacy, inefficient products with high efficiency ones.

In anticipation of the need for better water efficiency, PMI has been engaged with the CEC during the two-year regulatory process on plumbing products preceding the governor's order. As a result, PMI is very familiar with the emergency regulations and supports the ones addressing toilets, kitchen faucets and public lavatory faucets.

PMI has advocated for some time, the use of current WaterSense labeled water-efficient plumbing products meeting Environmental Protection Agency criteria. Using these products can save up to 360 million gallons of water per day in California, according to a PMI estimate. The tiered approach accomplishes significant water savings immediately, with a delayed transition to even lower-flow faucets structured to avoid severe disruption in commerce.

The Water Sense program, launched in 2006 is a joint effort of the US Environmental Protection Agency and manufacturers. To earn WaterSense certification, products must perform at flow rates 20% lower than the standards set forth by the U.S. Energy Policy Act of 1992 and must meet performance requirements. The notion of WaterSense is that the products must efficiently do the same job as higher flow products but use less water. Per Barbara C Higgins, CEO/Executive Director of PMI, "It's about using water efficiently, not just cutting back the amount of water used. To be considered truly 'efficient', the products must get the same job done with less water. Simply cutting back flow rates with no consideration of the end result, is not 'efficient or effective'."

Focusing on lavatory faucets, the 1.5 gpm standard represents significant savings over the previous appliance efficiency regulation's 2.2 gpm standard. Residential lavatory faucets have been tested to this standard within the federal WaterSense® program, and there are no indications of risk to public safety and health associated with these residential lavatory faucets. Further, this 1.5 gpm standard was embodied in the CEC's proposed appliance efficiency regulation [Docket #15-AAER-1] following significant stakeholder input, industry study, and CEC research and analysis. The public comment period had closed, and the public hearing was held on March 17 of this year. This was just a few weeks before the CEC suddenly announced a 1.2 gpm standard and approved it within a few days.

As noted above, it is also important that new CEC mandates do not unnecessarily disrupt commerce. A timeline developed by PMI demonstrates graphically that the January 1, 2016 effective date for the 1.2 gallon per minute standard must be revised to take into consideration the significant efforts that must be undertaken by manufacturers, wholesalers, distributors and retailers to provide the California market with compliant products. One key factor is to ensure that compliant products will be available for the state's rebounding residential and commercial construction sectors.

PMI members and all other interests are committed to this transition, and in a manner that will accomplish the changes without severe disruptions to commerce including large and small distributors and retailers throughout the state that will have to expend major resources

to transition inventory and supplies to conform to the new requirements. PMI will continue to work with and provide input to the CEC, the Department of Water Resources and the State Water Resources Control Board as they work to fulfill Governor Jerry Brown's April 1 executive order to develop a statewide rebate program providing monetary incentives for the purchase of these products, which include toilets, faucets and showerheads bearing the WaterSense label of endorsement.

About PMI

Plumbing Manufacturers International is the voluntary, not-for-profit international industry association of manufacturers of plumbing products, serving as the Voice of the Plumbing Industry. Member companies produce about 90 percent of the nation's plumbing products. As part of its mission, PMI advocates for plumbing product performance and innovation contributing to water savings, sustainability, public health and safety, and consumer satisfaction. For more information on PMI or its conferences, contact the organization at 1921 Rohlwing Road, Unit G, Rolling Meadows, IL, 60008; tel.: 847-481-5500; fax: 847-481-5501. Visit our website at www.safeplumbing.org.

VMA BOARD APPROVES CAREER INITIATIVE FOR 2015-16

The Valve Manufacturers Association of America (VMA) Board of Directors approved a career initiative for the next two years to provide members with tools to help them locate and attract new personnel and to make schools aware of opportunities in the valve industry. This includes high schools, technical schools and community colleges. The Board approved a budget of \$80,000 for this initiative in 2015.

The VMA Communications Committee developed program elements for the initiative which include:

- A four-page "Careers in the Valve Industry" brochure to be sent to members; be given out at trade shows and conferences; distribute at career fairs and be available to be downloaded from our website
- Offer our members a one-page Careers flyer with space for customization
- Recruit "Young Ambassadors", 20 something year old employees working for members to be interviewed, write profiles and create video clips
- Launch new website ValveCareers.com
- Produce "Careers in the Valve Industry" video
- Hold career events each year
- Develop scholarship program
- Develop strong social media presence

Like our colleagues in Europe, valve manufacturers in the U.S. and Canada are facing many retirements of key personnel over the next few years with little if any replacements in place. The initiative hopes to open the eyes of our next generation to the values of our industry.

For more information on the program go to our new website www.ValveCareers.com, available as of May 1, 2015, or contact Jessica Bello at jbello@vma.org our career program coordinator

William S. Sandler, CAE
President Valve Manufacturers
Association



9TH PUMP-VALVE-COMPRESSOR CONFERENCE

The 9th Pump-Valve-Compressor Conference will be held on 5-7 November 2015 at the Istanbul Exhibition Centre, together with the Pawex-Comp Exhibition.

The first conference organised by the Turkish Pump Association in 1994 covered only pumps. Since then, a further eight conferences were organised and valves were included in the conference programme in addition to pumps. This year, compressors and fans are also included in the programme. In general, all these products are used in fluid machinery and system components that cannot be considered separately.

In Turkey, R&D support provided by state organisations (TUBITAK, Ministry of Science, Industry and Technology) has provided significant help to the industry over the last 15 years. Turkish firms have started to acquire up-to-date engineering tools for use in research, development, design and manufacturing. The importance of R&D departments has been understood and, as a result, the quality of products has improved. Academic staff have played an important role in this process and the first important steps in university and industry cooperation have been taken.

The main topic of the conference will be Eco Design and Eco Systems as part of our responsibility for future generations. The 9th Pump-Valve-Compressor Conference will be an occasion to exchange, evaluate and discuss R&D activities.



IVS 2015 EXHIBITION & CONFERENCE

IVS (the Industrial Valves Summit) is the meeting point for buyers and suppliers of valve technology and flow control solutions. IVS represents the entire supply chain and includes manufacturers of valves, actuators, sealing systems, coatings and service suppliers for the flow control industry. Numerous exhibiting companies take advantage of IVS to present newly developed and enhanced solutions.

The first edition of this Summit was held on 27-28 May 2015 in Bergamo. Over 60% of papers were presented by international speakers, which demonstrates that IVS will be a major event in the valve technology sector. IVS will be held every two years. More info: www.industrialvalvesummit.com.

CEIR 2015 upcoming events & meetings

CEIR Board	11 June	Harrogate (UK)
CEIR Showerheads working group	17 June	Schiltach (D)
CEIR Sanitary Valves Technical Committee	18 June	Schiltach (D)
CEIR Industry & Building Valves Technical Committee	July (tbc)	Brussels (B)
CEIR Marketing & Communication Committee	September (tbc)	Milan (I)
VMA & VRC Annual Meeting	30 September-2 October	Naples, Florida (USA)
PMI 2015 Annual Conference	26-29 October	Texas (USA)
9th Pump-Valve-Compressor Conference / Pawex Exhibition	5-7 November	Istanbul (TK)

VALVE INDUSTRY FORUM & EXPO'2015

The II International VALVE INDUSTRY FORUM & EXPO'2015 was held on 14-16 April 2015 in Moscow.

This Forum was an initiative of the Scientific and Industrial Valve Manufacturers Association (NPAA) with the support of the Chamber of Commerce of the Russian Federation, the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) International, the European Association for the Taps and Valves Industry (CEIR), the Association of Polish Industrial Valves (SPAP) and the Association of Industrial Valve Manufacturing of Ukraine (APAU).

The event was organised by ZAO Promyshlenniy Forum and the general sponsor was the company "Saratovenergomashkomplekt". For the second year the organisers placed special emphasis on the extensive business programme of the Forum. In 2015 this included:

- A plenary conference and panel discussion on "Trends and Prospects of Industrial and Economic Development of Russia";
- A Scientific and technical conference "InnoValve" (Design and technological innovation in valve production) sponsored by Ilma LLC, St Petersburg;
- A workshop "Technology, materials, coatings";
- A meeting "Mechanisms of acknowledgement of conformity of pipeline valves with European directives and international standards";
- A workshop "Actuators for pipeline accessories";
- A workshop "Pipe fittings. Relationship of processes of manufacturing, incoming inspection, operation, diagnostics and repair";
- A round table "Implementation of import substitution programs of main consumers of pipeline fittings" sponsored by Mechanizirovanny complex LLC, Chelyabinsk;
- A discussion club "Peculiarities of management of the process fluid flows";
- A discussion club "Conventional and alternative methods of ensuring the tightness of valves".

The most interesting reports from the business programme events will be published in the "Armaturostorenie" magazine and on the website www.i-valve.ru.

In addition to these events, the public seminar on "The strategy to enter foreign markets" was very successful. The format was new to the Forum but proved to be very popular and met with the approval of the audience. The Forum also included an exhibition which extended over 2,000 square meters and housed 51 stands. Many exhibits received awards from the organisers since, for the first time, this year's Forum held a competition for the best stand of atypical construction. The first place went to the stand of Firma Soyuz-01 CJSC (Elektrostal), 2nd place was given by the unanimous decision of all the members of the jury to the exhibit of EastEnergogroup company (Moscow), and 3rd place was won by the stand of Rotork company.

The gallery of new products, where innovative pipeline valves are exhibited, has already become a tradition of the International VALVE INDUSTRY FORUM & EXPO. This year's Forum was no exception: in 2015 the "gallery of new products" involved more than 12 companies. Silur Company, Ilma LLC and IFT LLC presented their innovative materials and technologies for the sealing of pipe fittings; new products were also presented by MosTsKBA, Anode, etc.

The II International VALVE INDUSTRY FORUM & EXPO'2015 will also be remembered for the first ceremony to award the NPAA mark "Honorary Valve maker" and the award "Valve maker of the Year", established by the Internet portal for pipe fittings Armtorg.ru.

By decision of the Presidency of the NPAA, the mark "Honorary Valve maker" in 2015 was awarded to Boris Pavlovich Vasiliev for devoting many years of fruitful activity to valves in the building industry. The title of "Valve maker the Year" was awarded to

- Dmitry Olegovich Levin, Director General of "ChelyabinskSpetsGrazhdanStroy", LD Group of Companies;
- Sergey Alexandrovich Istomin, Director General of CNIPI "STARK" LLC;
- Oleg Nikolaevich Shpakov, technical expert of NPAA.

The II International VALVE INDUSTRY FORUM & EXPO was held under the motto: "Let's represent the best!". Once again participants came to the Forum with the best developments, progressive ideas and real proposals for the development of the valve industry.

We are confident that the III International VALVE INDUSTRY FORUM & EXPO'2016 will gather under the same banner even more professionals and managers of companies and organisations interested in the innovative developments of valve making.

We'll be glad to see you and your colleagues among the participants at the III International VALVE INDUSTRY FORUM & EXPO'2016!





**THE EUROPEAN
ASSOCIATION
FOR THE TAPS
AND VALVES
INDUSTRY**

**DEFENDING
AND
PROMOTING
THE VALVES
INDUSTRY
SINCE 1959**

CEIR represents the common economic, technical and scientific interests of the European valves industry, in particular towards European and international authorities, and in economic and commercial circles. CEIR gathers 13 national associations with a total of 340 companies in Europe. CEIR is the European reference body, cooperating with international institutions and bodies on technical matters, harmonised regulations and rules for efficient and environmentally-friendly taps and valves.

- CEIR develops appropriate programmes and tools to support the European valves and taps industry in understanding and maintaining a good knowledge of valves and taps technologies and the related market requirements.
- CEIR promotes safety, energy savings and environmental integrity.
- CEIR maintains an open and constructive dialogue with all EU stakeholders and institutions determining or influencing the progress of our industry.
- CEIR participates in European and international standards organisations.
- CEIR is a non-profit organisation, registered in the European Union Transparency Register under the number 54018122087-60.

There are 3 CEIR Committees in charge of marketing and technical aspects where members can network and work together to influence incoming legislation.

- The Sanitary Technical Committee comprises experts from the main taps & showerheads manufacturers and associations in Europe. It informs and advises its members on all product-specific technical matters. It mainly works on EU regulatory developments, standardisation and pre-normative issues.
- The Building & Industrial Valves Technical Committee comprises manufacturers of gas, heating, water and fire-fighting valves in all CEIR member countries. It also includes manufacturers of valves, actuators and associated products for all industrial applications. The Committee represents the common economic, technical and scientific interests of its manufacturer members. Here again, it informs and advises its members on all product-specific technical matters, EU regulatory developments, standardisation and pre-normative issues.
- The Marketing & Communication Committee is in charge of coordinating "The Gazette", the CEIR newsletter. It launched the CEIR Quarterly Business Trends Survey in 2012 and has produced a "Valve Terminology" CD. The Committee is also in charge of the website and the promotion of CEIR.

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