CEPE publishes Code of Practice

CEPE, the European Council of the Paint, Printing Ink and Artists’ Colours Industry, has published a “Code of Practice for Coated Articles where the Food Contact Layer is a Coating”. The Code of Practice, prepared by the CEPE European Sector Can Coatings, helps can coatings manufacturers comply with the EU Framework Regulation 1935/2004/EC on food contact materials.

The CEPE Industry Code of Practice applies to coated light metal packaging, coated metal pails and drums, heavy duty coatings and coated flexible aluminium packaging. It contains lists of substances with explanatory notes, detailed information on Specific migration limits (SML) and Overall migration limits (OML), labelling requirements and other documents. It also explains the demonstration of compliance with OML, SML and QMA and the evaluation of results. The application of the Code of Practice is voluntary. The intent of these instructions is that it is relevant not only for the coatings manufacturers, because all companies in the supply chain, raw material suppliers, coating manufacturers, converters and the food industry have been involved in developing this Code.

Peter Oldring, Valspar, member of the European Sector Can Coatings of CEPE and one of the initiators of the Code of Practice, explains, “At present, there is no harmonised EU regulation for this sector. Aware of its responsibility for food quality, the can coatings industry felt it necessary to take a proactive approach and created this Code of Practice in cooperation with other Industry Associations along the supply chain. Though voluntary, the Code is supported by the majority of the can coatings industry in Europe.” Jean Guerrier, ICI Packaging Coatings, also a member of the European Sector Can Coatings of CEPE and a main contributor to the Code, said, “Improving analytical techniques direct ever more attention on migrants from food contact articles. In the absence of any specific EU legislation, the CEPE Code of Practice gives professional advice to can coating manufacturers on how to comply with EU Framework Regulation 1935/2004 on Food Contact Materials.”

CEPE recommends all its members to implement the Code of Practice in full to establish a broad and strong basis for further advocacy. For the future, CEPE favours harmonised legislation across Europe, preferably an EU Regulation, which is the best way to provide adequate consumer protection and at the same time avoid competitive distortions.

The Code of Practice is available from CEPE, the National Associations and on the CEPE website under http://www.cepe.org - publications - coating documents - Food contact Coatings

The Code is currently only available in English, but CEPE considers translation with the support of the National Associations.

Peter Oldring, European Sector Can Coatings of CEPE.
Jean Guerrier, European Sector Can Coatings of CEPE.

The EU can coatings Sector Group is there to:
- Organise the industry players of the segment into a collective body
- Establish its “agenda” for the coming years
- Define the strategy and the implementation of the issues of the “agenda”
- Decide on remits and resources of subcommittees (e.g. TC) to carry out the strategy

The activities of the EU Can Coatings Sector group are carried out in compliance with the rules on respecting minority positions and consulting the members that are in the same business activity without being a member of the EU Sector Group.

An EU Sector Group consist of business leaders who can take a position for their business and who can commit resources to delegated technical committees, etc.

The composition of the group should be geographically proportionate as well as in regard to the size of the member companies. Maximum 2 representatives of the same company are entitled to participate in the sector groups.