

# SUSTAINABLE APPROACHES



The European Coil Coating Association emphasised sustainability at its Autumn Congress.

### ISMR SAYS

"ISMR reports on developments from ECCA's Autumn Congress, including the release of a new sustainability report"

**I**n the coil coating industry, sustainability is a driving force for new development. Coil coating material and the production process involved are considered to be sustainable. Sustainability was also a key focus for the European Coil Coating Association's (ECCA) 2010 Autumn Congress.

This is a great opportunity for ECCA, said Simon Nurse from Capital Coated Steel at the ECCA 2010 Autumn Congress, to assess its approach to existing and new pre-coated metal markets.

"Because it is still relatively early days in the development of approaches to sustainability, we can define sustainability in our terms, focusing on managing and improving processes that are known to have significant environmental impact and link high ideals to manageable objectives," he said.

To underpin the sustainability theme, ECCA released its second Sustainability Report. This report, presented by Graeme Peacock (ECCA Technical Director), is based on the first 2008 sustainability report

and the annual environmental benchmarking exercise which includes 80 per cent of the European coil coating industry. The main results of this report were:

- Electricity usage reduced by 5 per cent and gas usage reduced by 4 per cent since the previous year
- Point source VOC emissions on average reduced by 20 per cent
- Average water usage reduced by 22 per cent
- The total carbon footprint of the coil coating process has been measured at 0.53 kg(CO<sub>2</sub>)/m<sup>2</sup> of finished product which represents an improvement of 7 per cent over 2009 figures
- Serious accident rate reduced by over 40 per cent.

Safety is also the driving factor for REACH environmental regulation. Eric Brasseur, of ArcelorMittal Flat Carbon Europe, gave a short review of how the coil coating industry is affected. New duties are now being applied to operators. Substances that are of particular concern for their negative impact on human health or the environment are being identified for future banning, or restrictions on their use are being introduced. REACH is also imposing new communication duties between the coil coater, its suppliers and customers.

The revised Safety Data Sheet is at the heart of this process. Information regarding the substances contained in articles must also be available through the whole supply chain, down to the distributors and individual consumers.

### CONTACT



ECCA's next conference, with the theme of 'Building a Greener World', will be held from 16 – 17 May 2011 at the Steigenberger hotel in Berlin. Speakers include representatives from ArcelorMittal, Rautaruukki, Akzo Nobel and Tata Steel, with a keynote address from Tim Jones (Future Agenda – Innovation, Growth and Futures expert). See [www.prepaintedmetal.eu](http://www.prepaintedmetal.eu)

Hanife Banabak from Tata Steel gave an example of how sustainability is dealt with in the coil coating industry. At its production site at Shotton, North Wales, Tata Steel has set itself a challenging target to deliver a 50 per cent reduction in Shotton's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2012.

"We have already reduced our carbon footprint per person by 26 per cent over the last two years," Banabak said. But there are some other targets to further reduce carbon footprint, including switching from road transport to rail transport, converting household waste into energy, reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and using heat exchangers to capture waste heat and generate steam for use elsewhere in the process. ■

**“ In the coil coating industry, sustainability is a driving force for new development ”**