

Industry Insights

The Australasian Institute of Surface Finishing



Secretariat's message

To All AISF Members and Industry Stakeholders,

The start of 2020 has seen us living through a 1 in a 100 year event. The COVID-19 pandemic has turned the world upside down. Non-essential businesses have been put into lock-down and those essential businesses who didn't have the capabilities to adapt and "work from home" were faced with the difficult task of both working and acting upon the government sanctioned social distancing requirements or, if production had slowed, they needed to let go of staff.

The Australian Government was quick to respond by delivering on a stimulus package which saw the introduction of both the Job Keepers and Job Seekers packages. While the Australian Bureau of Statistics official unemployment rate from the end of March 2020 remained steady at 5.2% on a national level, there are fears that unemployment may reach 10%. Both Government assistance packages are designed to minimise the impact on families and businesses as the economy inevitably contracts.

I would also like to point out that if your business's revenue has declined by 30%, then eligible staff should be on Job Keeper AND they are still required at work as per usual. This is the perfect time to do everything around your business that is in the "rainy day" list such as painting business premises to meet lease conditions and to enhance your business's marketability. Internal training should be ramped up to fill in idle time. Focus on internal processes and procedures and even train more staff in equipment operations. This will mean that when things get back to "normal", your business will be stronger and better placed to make the most of opportunities in the eventual recovery.

Looking back through history, when Australia has been faced with an economic downturn, the production of non-essential services have been greatly impacted. *So what does this mean to our industry?*

Again, by following the patterns of history, economic downturns have led the manufacturing industry to experience a downturn in production. However, that has been short lived as the manufacturing industry has received an influx in demand because of:

1. the need to make Australia self sufficient is resurrected; and
2. economic output resumes to increasingly higher levels.

The importation tariffs in the 1930's were brought in to try to assist the Australian manufactures from being undercut by cheaper overseas imports, however as we can see in today's manufacturing environment, imports have persisted.

While imports in an open economy have good and bad effects on business, as the peak body for the surface finishing industry, we have produced some information booklets for our members which outline the benefits of choosing an Australian manufactured product over a cheap imported product. It also outlines the benefits of choosing an AISF member to manufacture your products. If you would like a copy of the brochure for use on your website or to email/ print to accompany your quotes, please contact me and I will forward it to you.

N. Miles

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Industry News:

Register your interest in attending training:

- Introduction to Powder Coating in NSW
- Introduction to Powder Coating in VIC
- Basic Electroplating Principles in NSW
- Cyanide Handling training in NSW
- Online Powder Coating Basics

Please note, our face to face training has been temporarily suspend to adhere to the Government sanctioned social distancing requirements.

Email your interest to:

training@aisf.org.au

To quote Robert Jordan, Author of *The Fires of Heaven*:
"The oak fought the wind and was broken, the willow bent when it must and survived."

New members to the Board of Directors

Last month in our Industry Insights newsletter, we announced we were pleased to have received 3 new nominations for representatives on our Board of Directors. These were:

Simon Voss - Anodisers WA who will be representing both our Western and Anodisers divisions

Ben Braszell - BASF who will be further representing our chemical suppliers on a national scale (along with Mitch Connelly from Auschem who is already on our Board of Directors)

James Sloan - Azko Nobel who will be replacing Eli Atallah due to his promotion.

We will be holding our next Board Meeting in mid May where these nominees will be officiated to their positions on our Executive Committee. If you oppose any of these nominees, please contact the Secretariat no later than Tuesday the 5th May 2020 to express your concerns.

We still have an additional seat available for any interested member to represent our Electroplating members. Please contact our Secretariat if you would like to nominate yourself or another member to this position.

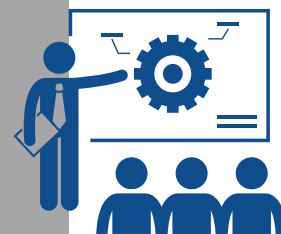
Training update

We have had many members contact us about arranging future training for their staff during some potential down time as a direct result on COVID-19. The Secretariat at the AISF, our Board of Directors and key Supplier members are working on making some online training available to ensure we can continue to train our members, while adhering to the social distancing rules placed by the government to keep everyone safe.

As this is an enormous undertaking to generate a new platform for training delivery this will take some time, but please be assured we are working hard to make something available in the near future

If you have any questions, or would like to register your interest in our training please contact us at :

training@aisf.org.au



VIC Environment Protection Amendment Act 2018 introduction postponed until 1 July 2021

The *Environment Protection Amendment Act 2018* (the Act) will transform Victoria's environmental protection laws and Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA).

The Victorian Government has developed the new Act in response to the Independent Inquiry into the Environment Protection Authority. Due to the implications of the current circumstances and to support the Victorian Government's response to it, the Government has announced its intention to postpone the commencement of the Act to 1 July 2021. Following a sitting of Parliament on Thursday 23 April, it is expected the legislation will be formally postponed until 1 July 2021.

Following a sitting of Parliament on Thursday 23 April, the expected outcome is that EPA will continue to regulate under the *Environment Protection Act 1970*. This includes all subordinate legislation (regulations and statutory policies including state environment protection policies and waste management policies) until the new commencement date.

New South Wales EPA Assurance of Support

Last month, Tim Elley and our Secretariat Natalie Miles attended an online information session, facilitated by the New South Wales Environmental Protection Authority discussing the draft extension of the Assurance of Support policy. We would like to point out, this is not a new policy, but an extension of their current policies to "industries of concern". Currently the EPA hold 173 Financial Assurances of Support.

What is a Financial Assurance?

A Financial Assurances are in the form of a Bond or a Bank Guarantee. The guarantee amount is determined by an independent Audit of the individual licensed facility. The purpose of the Assurance of Support is to provide some certainty and assurance around who will pay for any future environmental impact imposed by a company. In the past the NSW EPA (or more importantly the NSW taxpayer) has borne the cost of environmental clean-ups when businesses have disappeared. To prevent this from happening in the future a Licensed Premises must provide Financial Assurances in the event of potential pollution/contamination clean-up costs.

All businesses within the Metal Processing industry that are licensed may be required by the EPA to have a financial assurance.

Which businesses should have an EPA License?

In accordance with the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 (POEO);

- *Schedule 1 of the POEO Act - Scheduled Activities - 26. Metallurgical Activities* - Metal Coating, meaning the coating of metal by any method (including spray painting, powder coating, enamelling, electroplating, anodising and galvanising, but not the coating of metal on vehicles or vessels). Criteria for needing an EPA License is the capacity to process more than 10,000 tonnes of metal per year.
- *Schedule 1 of the POEO Act - Scheduled Activities - 9. Chemical Storage* - on-site generated chemical waste storage means the storage of any chemical substance produced on site that is prescribed waste (that is, hazardous waste, restricted solid waste or liquid waste, or any combination of them). Criteria for needing an EPA License involves storing on site at any time more than 5 tonnes of any chemical substance produced on site that is prescribed waste.

What can we do about it?

The EPA have opened a public forum where all businesses can review the draft Financial Assurances policy and have their say on the draft Financial Assurances policy prior to Friday 1st May 2020. We recommend all affected businesses review the draft policy and contact the EPA directly with any questions.

<https://yoursay.epa.nsw.gov.au/assurances>

Please remember the AISF are here for our members and if you feel we need to advocate on your behalf, please contact us to discuss your concerns.

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New Electricity & Gas relief package information

We know that businesses have had a tough start to 2020 and we wanted to be able to help our members get through this unprecedented time.

For a lot of businesses in the manufacturing industry, energy bills can be a significant cost, so we reached out to our energy partner Make it Cheaper to see what relief there is for your business during COVID-19.

Here are some good insights to help you save money on your energy bills

There is some good news for businesses when it comes to energy cost savings.

- The Federal Government has announced a [new electricity and gas relief package](#), this spares small businesses from paying gas or electricity **network charges** from April to June if their consumption is less than 25% of what it would typically be. From the information available currently, businesses will need to apply directly with their retailer to receive this discount and the usage charges are still in place and must be paid.
- Some retailers have launched very aggressive plans which are up to 26% cheaper than the default market offer, we believe that every dollar saved counts, we encourage Australasian Institute of Surface Finishing members to get a free energy comparison to see what savings can be achieved for their business.
- A lot of people will be working from home and their energy consumption is likely to increase, they can find out if there are better energy rates available for their household with a free energy comparison- also people should note for the time they are working at home, there are tax deductions to be had of utility bills.

For any large energy market user, help is at hand with the following services:

- o Renegotiating your existing rates
- o Facilitate conversations with your retailer if your company is in distress
- o Review possible network tariff options

To to find out what you can save go to:

www.makeitcheaper.com.au/landing/aisf



The advertisement features a dark blue background with a red circular graphic on the right. The text 'Get a FREE energy comparison' is prominently displayed in white. Below it, the 'make it cheaper' logo is shown. To the right, a lightbulb icon with a dollar sign inside is accompanied by the text 'Every dollar saved counts' and a button that says 'Find savings today'. At the bottom right, there is a logo for 'Supporting Local Business' with a red heart icon.

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Member Information

The Secretariat and Executive Officers of the AISF have been working hard at producing and distributing member only information during this COVID-19 crisis. These include (but are not limited to):

- COVID-19 FAQ guide;
- Employers information on Job Keeper and Job Seeker payments; and
- How to maintain a safe workplace during COVID-19.

If you have not been receiving our member exclusive emails, please contact Natalie and she will ensure your details are correct on our database.

Australian Standards

Currently the Executive Officers of the AISF have tasked a technical committee to reviewing and rewriting the AS 3715 Metal finishing - Thermoset powder coating for architectural applications of aluminium and aluminium alloys. This process is in its final stages of writing and will soon be available for a broader review by our Institute Members. Please contact us if you would like to get involved in this review process.

Following the completion of the revised AS 3715, we are looking at next dedicating some resources to reviewing both the AS4506 Metal finishing - Thermoset powder coatings and AS 1231-2000 Aluminium and aluminium alloys— Anodic oxidation coatings. Please contact us if you would like to get involved in either of these Technical Committee.

Do you need assistance with setting up or reviewing your coating line?

If yes, contact the AISF today as we can put you in touch with our supplier members to assist you with the planning, purchasing and set up of your specific needs.

AISF MEMBER UPDATE: DESIGN AWARDS 2020



Good afternoon

Given the current global situation we are experiencing, it is understandable for all to focus on the "doom and gloom" news which we have all been witnessing of late.

The Australasian Institute of Surface Finishing (AISF) feel it is important to take a moment and reflect on what you have accomplished over the last 12 months and show us what projects you are most proud of by submitting your application for the AISF sponsored award for the Most Innovative use of Surface Finishing. Awards will be presented later in the year on an online format to ensure we are adhering to the new social distancing normality we are all facing.

The most Innovative Application of Surface Finishing Award recognises projects which distinctly take into account growing issues that are present in today's market such as exposure of location, colours, type of coating, specifications, and innovative use of materials/ coatings being used in Australia.

The AISF Design Awards aim to:

- Raise the awareness and profile of quality surface finishers within our industry and with the end users.
- Increase the level of interest in quality coatings.
- Provide a showcase of unique surface finishing practices across the industry.
- Celebrate and recognise excellence within our industry

Please note the deadline for submissions have now been extended until

Monday 31st August 2020.

APPLY NOW

COVID-19 AT THE WORKPLACE...

Safe work Australia have put together some guidelines on what courses of actions businesses should follow in the event of a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19. Please review the below guidelines to help protect you and your staff at the workplace.

swa.gov.au/coronavirus

Suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 at work

If the suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 is at work



1. ISOLATE

Isolate the person from others and provide a disposable surgical mask, if available, for the person to wear.



2. INFORM

Ring the national COVID-19 hotline (1800 020 080). Follow the advice of health officials.



3. TRANSPORT

Ensure the person has transport to their home or to a medical facility.



4. CLEAN

Clean the area where the person was working and all places they have been. This may mean evacuating those areas. Use PPE when cleaning.



5. IDENTIFY

Identify who at the workplace had close contact with the infected person in the 24 hours before that infected person started showing symptoms. Send those people home to isolate. Allow employees to raise concerns.



6. CLEAN

Clean the area where the close contact people were working and all common areas they have been. This may mean evacuating those areas. Use PPE when cleaning.



7. REVIEW

Review risk management controls relating to COVID-19 and review whether work may need to change. Keep employees up to date on what is happening.

If the suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 is not at work when diagnosed



1. INFORM

Ring the national COVID-19 hotline (1800 020 080). Follow advice of health officials.



2. IDENTIFY

Identify who at the workplace had close contact with the infected person in the 24 hours before that infected person started showing symptoms. Send those people home to isolate. Allow employees to raise concerns.



3. CLEAN

Clean the area where the infected person and their close contacts were working and all common areas they have been. This may mean evacuating those areas. Use PPE when cleaning.



4. REVIEW

Review risk management controls relating to COVID-19 and review whether work may need to change. Keep employees up to date on what is happening.

Remember:

- > From a WHS perspective, there is not an automatic requirement to close down an entire workplace, particularly if the person infected, or suspected to be infected, has only visited parts of the workplace.
- > Workers assisting the person who has suspected or confirmed with COVID-19 should be provided with appropriate PPE, if available, such as gloves and a mask. They should also follow hand hygiene procedures.
- > Consider whether you have to notify your [WHS regulator](#) - see our [Incident Notification fact sheet](#).
- > Be aware of privacy obligations.
- > Follow the advice of health officials at all times.