Our first printed newsletter welcomes you to Nice!
The AECM welcomes all participants to the AECM 2015 Conference in Nice. We are delighted to take this opportunity to present to you our first printed issue of the AECM Newsletter! As you will see, we have expanded the content with new sections including interviews, expert advice on candle making and as always detailed information on the activities of the AECM.

The Milan Study is now finalised
In April 2015, the Milan Polytechnic University (Politecnico di Milano) completed the report of the study which was sponsored by the AECM and ALAFAVE (Asociacion Lationamerica de Fabricantes de Velas), examining the relationship between combustion products in scented candles and the characteristics of raw materials.

The main goal of this study was to identify and characterize a class of substances, volatile aldehydes, which previous research had suggested was emitted from burning scented candles. Several combustion experiments were carried out to characterize emissions produced by different scented candles in order to determine aldehydes produced under controlled heating conditions by the raw materials in fragrance-containing candles.

Given the technical nature of the report, AECM has hired a communications specialist to prepare an executive summary, which can be easily understood by all audiences. The detailed report is available for AECM members at the members only section of our website. An executive summary for the public has been uploaded to our general website, where it can be downloaded.

New AECM Website
AECM decided to give a fresh look to its website and worked together with a web design company to completely renovate the website, making its content more accessible, user-friendly and more appealing to all visitors. Don’t forget to check these new features!
“Dipping in deep”

“Bleeding” of candles

The so called “bleed” in candles occur when the liquid component separates from the solid wax mass. This is sometimes caused by incorrect processing when the candle is made. It also happens due to the incompatibility of an additive, fragrance or solvent with the wax. It sometimes happens immediately, at other times it only manifests over time. The product life cycle may also contain conditions which may lead to bleeding of the candles. When “bleed” occurs, the candle develops a greasy surface. In extreme cases droplets may appear on the outside of the candle. In addition, surface crystallization or mottling may occur. The higher the melting point of the wax the less the bleed (for straight waxes). Storage and transport conditions may cause or aggravate bleeding too.

As suggested by the testing carried out by The International Group Inc.¹, it seems that adding certain additives to the candle can reduce the bleeding significantly. The best additives found for reducing bleeding are Microcrystalline wax, polyethylene, perlatum, Vybar and EVA (Additives function differently depending on fragrance and wax selection). The additives that were found to reduce “bleed” also reduce the amount of mottling, and consequently cannot be used to reduce candle “bleed” in mottled candles. However, optimizing production conditions may reduce the bleed in mottled candles. This would include optimizing pour temperature and cooling temperature. However the most important factor to optimize is the fragrance: taking care to find fragrances that are compatible with the wax.

Consumer Survey

This year AECM commissioned a consumer survey to the market research company ComRes, to understand the consumption of candles in key European markets, the ways in which candles are used across Europe, and the opinions and beliefs underpinning candle consumption patterns and driving behaviour. Initially the board members of the AECM decided to focus this research on the markets of Poland, Italy, Germany, United Kingdom, France, Finland and the Netherlands. The research has provided data that will be presented by AECM and ComRes to the full members of the AECM during the AECM Conference in Nice, France, on 12 June.

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The AECM newsletter now contains a new section where members will be interviewed about their background, their personal history and relationship with candles and their views on the world of candle making. We wanted to start this series of interviews with Miquel Roura, Export Manager and CEO of the Catalan candle maker company Ceras Roura, and member of the board of the AECM.

- When did you start being involved in the candle business?
  
  Well, since I was a kid I remember my father bringing candles home many evenings to test them, checking the burning time, flame size, etc. I also remember my grandfather showing me the differences between different wicks and how to know when a candle is burning properly. When I was 5-6 years old, my father many times used to bring me to the factory and I remember I played together with my sister touching the wax and making shapes.

  Then, when I was 12 I started to “work” during summer school holidays, every year on different types of machines, at the warehouse, unloading trucks, etc. It can be said that I have been involved with candles all my life.

- Since when Ceras Roura starting producing candles?

  Some of the old papers we found from our ancient relatives mention that our family started producing candles back in 1912. Right now, I am the 5th generation, always passing the business from father to son.

- What were the major changes since your family started over 100 years ago?

  Yes, it changed a lot! Since the beginning until around 1975 the family was producing only candles related to religious services. During the 70’s my father started to introduce some decorative candles, adding colour and fragrances to the candles.
At the beginning, our customers were only Spanish churches; now we are exporting to different countries and different kind of costumers, such as supermarket, retail shops, garden centres, hotels, etc.

- **How do you see the future of the candle market, especially regarding consumer trends?**
  
  *In my opinion the candle market will grow step by step; currently it looks like the younger generation demands coloured and scented candles for decoration, and also more candles that come in a jar.*

- **What do you think are the main challenges for candle makers in the coming years?**
  
  *I think that the key for success is to be very active in the market, innovating and knowing the customer’s needs very well.*

- **Regarding the AECM, what do you think should be the main priorities of the association for the next year?**
  
  *The main priorities of AECM should be keeping the sponsoring and preparation of more studies and candle testing to provide more information to all our members. For this purpose, it will be very important that the Technical Committee of the AECM keeps monitoring the relevant regulatory developments, in order to keep all the members of the AECM up to date on all policy issues, such as new safety requirements for candles, or European standards being developed. Also, another key priority is to keep the association growing with new members, and resolve the enquiries and requests of our members.*

- **What would you recommend to someone that is interested in starting their own business and join the world of candle making?**
  
  *I would recommend patience at the beginning and testing all the components of a candle to produce a good quality product. It also important not to forget being innovative.*
Technical Committee Update

1. Draft Safety Requirements for candles

The candle Industry Task Force (composed of AECM, ECA and A.I.S.E.) is involved with the European Commission’s CSN (Consumer Safety Network, formed by Member States) in the context of the drafting of the new Safety Requirements for candles.

The European Commission aims at finalizing the draft safety requirements this year, and for this reason the work is focused on closing the main two issues of concern:

• **Allergenic components in fragrances:** The current draft includes a proposal to impose additional restrictions specifically for allergenic components of fragrances used in candles. In January 2015, the European Commission reached out to the candle industry Task Force, IFRA and the Member States involved in the debate (Denmark and Germany) to continue the discussions as agreed during the meeting of the CSN in October 2014.

The representatives of the industry were kindly asked to react to an initial non-paper proposed by the European Commission on the issue, with the idea of also having a face-to-face meeting between stakeholders and the CSN.

Both IFRA and the candle Task Force sent position papers outlining the main concerns with the proposed draft requirements. The European Commission expects that during the next meeting the CSN on 12 June they will make a final decision on this issue, which will take into account the feedback received from the industry.

• **The proposed limits of lead and nickel:** Originally the candle industry Task Force was asked to provide a set of data from their suppliers indicating the lowest possible limit values they could achieve of lead and nickel. In their meeting of October 2014, the CSN representatives considered that the values were still high and proposed trying to achieve lower levels. For this purpose the candle industry Task Force was given 6 months to propose again lower limits set by their suppliers. The main goal of this second submission of limit values is to allow suppliers to feel confident enough to guarantee lower limits. The compilation of the information has been finalised and sent to the European Commission before the next CSN meeting.

Next steps:
AECM will continue to be actively involved in the process with the European Commission through the candle industry Task Force. The next CSN meeting is scheduled to take place on 12 June 2015.

2. AECM Internal Guidance - Container candles

The European Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive (Directive 94/62/EC) aims at providing environmental protection and functioning of the internal market by avoiding obstacles to trade and distortion and restriction of competition. In 2004, the Directive was amended to provide criteria clarifying the definition of the term ‘packaging’, including in its Annex a list of indicative examples of what was not packaging. One of these examples was graveside lights.

The AECM Technical Committee has prepared a Document that aims to provide internal guidance and
clarification to AECM members on the qualification as packaging or non-packaging of certain container
candles under the Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive (PPWD). The interpretation and references
made in this Document are based on the text of the PPWD, as well as information stated in official com-
munications between AECM and the European Commission.

3. AECM Internal Guidance on the European Classification and Labelling of Products regulation:
   CLP
The Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 on the classification, labelling and packaging of substances and
mixtures (CLP Regulation) communicates potential hazards presented by chemicals to workers and con-
sumers in the European Union through classification and labelling of chemicals.
The CLP Regulation entered into force in January 2009, and the method of classifying and labelling che-
micals it introduced is based on the United Nations’ Globally Harmonised System (GHS). The Regulation
replaces over time two previous pieces of legislation and there was a transition period until 2015.
Under the current text of the CLP that will be applicable of 1 June 2015, candles are considered to be a
mixture, and therefore subject to classification and labelling of the final product: the candle. Before pla-
cing chemicals on the market, the industry must classify and label the product according to a standardi-
sed system outlined in the CLP Regulation.
Given the complexity and extensive requirements foreseen in the CLP regulation, the AECM Technical
Committee is working on a Guideline document explaining with practical examples a harmonized inter-
pretation and application of the classification and labelling requirements for candle makers. The Technical
Committee has finalised the first section of the Document, providing guidance on how to classify substan-
ces present in certain candles, and will start working on a second section addressing the labelling (hazard
statements) of the candles according to classification in June.

Contact AECM

If you have any questions, suggestions for articles or any other feedback, please do not hesitate to let
us know.

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