

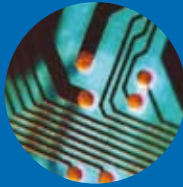
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Epoxy Resins Committee



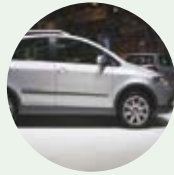
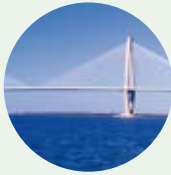
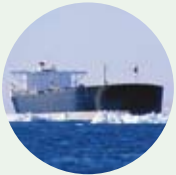
A profile of *PlasticsEurope*
Epoxy Resins Committee (ERC)

At the forefront of development

Over the past 50 years epoxy resins have become established as one of the most versatile and widely specified high performance polymers, supporting growth and innovation as critical raw materials across many diverse industry sectors throughout the world.

Whether specified in forms varying from low viscosity liquids to high melting point solids, epoxy resins contribute to the effectiveness of products used in various markets:

- Aerospace
- Automotive
- Aviation
- Construction
- Consumer goods
- Domestic appliances
- Electronics
- Electrical
- Food and beverage packaging
- Sport and leisure
- Marine
- Wind energy





PlasticsEurope, through its Epoxy Resins Committee (ERC), has represented the interests of Europe's principal manufacturers of epoxy resins since the early 1980s.

Today PlasticsEurope ERC members produce over 95% of the epoxy resins manufactured in Europe. In its dealings with the plastics industry, relevant European and international authorities, downstream users and the public, PlasticsEurope ERC acts as a central source of action and information for all issues affecting the epoxy industry.

The ERC consists of a central steering committee of leading industry executives representing member companies which oversees and defines objectives and policies. Reporting to this main body are sub-committees, most notably the Health, Safety and Environment sub-Committee which provides fundamental technical expertise and advice.

Over the past 10 years, member companies of PlasticsEurope ERC have invested several tens of millions of Euros on HSE related issues, providing reassurance to all stakeholders of the suitability of epoxy resins in all applications and helping to develop safe methods of use for all those who use epoxy resins.

Current members of PlasticsEurope ERC





Activities and mission of the Epoxy Resins Committee

The techno-commercial success of epoxy resins in many different industries and applications makes the role of the ERC vital. This body represents the common interests of the European manufactures of epoxy products enabling to respond to issues of concern with a powerful single voice.

The ERC has committed in its mission statement to:

- Analyse and influence regulatory activity at EU and national level affecting the manufacture and use of epoxy products, aiming to achieve realistic and reasonable regulations. Contacts include other industry trade associations, the European Commission and the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA).
- Monitor and analyse all issues affecting the epoxy industry, and assess their impact on manufacturers and users of epoxy products.
- Pro-actively develop and communicate safe methods for usage of epoxy resins.
- Develop positions and policies which allow constructive dialogue with all interest groups on issues including health and environment, industrial and product safety and fair trade practices.
- To support joint industry programmes and scientific studies, and make the information obtained widely available.
- To communicate and co-operate globally with other trade associations and industry groups but with a strong emphasis on Europe.

Achievements

Over the last decade the ERC has been successfully active in the following issues, among others:

- NLP (no longer polymers list): all NLPs of interest to the epoxy industry are listed in the NLP list.
- In collaboration with the Joint Industry Group on metal packaging (JIG) conducting the BADGE carcinogenicity study and related activities to support re-evaluation by EFSA (formerly Scientific Committee on Food, SCF).
- Safe handling literature to deal with skin sensitisation issues in the building industry, giving support to downstream users.
- Recommendations for gloves in Safety Data Sheets (SDS), following an extensive investigation of glove suitabilities.
- Conducting toxicological studies to support classification and labelling of epoxy products. (e.g. reclassification of CGE).
- Agreed classification of epoxy resins, diluents and hardeners under the German “Wassergefährdungsklasse” system.
- Support for industry defence in Bisphenol A (BPA) issues, including contribution towards the EU risk assessment of BPA.
- Development of a Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) for Basic Liquid (epoxy) Resin (BLR) and publication of the results.

The Health, Safety and Environment sub-Committee (HSE)

The HSE serves as a focal point for health, safety, environmental, toxicological and regulatory issues.

A prime responsibility is to monitor and influence regulatory and legislative at national and EU level, and liaise with regulators. With a firm commitment to the concept and principles of product stewardship all relevant HS&E aspects of epoxy products are addressed from development and manufacture through to use and ultimate disposal. Where appropriate, issues are tackled via working groups and task forces which are formed and disbanded as required. The HS&E sub-Committee reviews, co-ordinates and prioritizes the activities of these groups, develops position papers and presents action plans for endorsements by the main ERC Committee. Important ongoing activities include:

- Collaboration on pre-registration and registration requirements under REACH.
- Contribution towards the development of harmonised EU legislation on materials in contact with drinking water. Other working groups and task forces reporting to the HS&E sub-Committee may be formed on an adhoc basis. Previous working groups (currently dormant) include:
 1. the Analytical Advisory Group (AAG),
 2. the Food Contact Group, which is now incorporated in the JIG,
 3. Polymers definition task force,
 4. ECH task force,
 5. Curing agent task force.

Customer support

Plastics*Europe* Epoxy Resins Committee represents an unrivalled source of knowledge, information and expertise, drawn from the leading European manufacturers of epoxy resins. The Committee makes information available to all who have an interest in, use and specify epoxy resins material through:

Publication of scientific reports, research studies and technical papers.

Access to industry specialists through Plastics*Europe* and advice.

Information on, and interpretation of, legislative and regulatory developments.

For more details on Plastics*Europe* Epoxy Resins Committee please contact:

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