



President's Corner

Paul Frank
AESF President

Managing the ISO Secretariat: You Should Take It Personally

Most of us likely feel far-removed from AESF's involvement of managing the ISO/TC 107 Secretariat. A common belief is that this responsibility is just one of those "motherhood and apple pie" issues, and we just do it because it's the right thing to do.

While that's true, don't think for a moment that this duty doesn't hit you right where you live. Managing the ISO Secretariat has definite, direct value to the AESF and you.

To explain why, I'm going to borrow heavily from a January 1999 report to Past President Bob Groom by Dr. George DiBari, AESF's current manager of the Secretariat:

Reason #1

The technical work program is extensive and covers just about every aspect of surface finishing. By maintaining a leadership role, the finishing industry in the U.S. has the opportunity to influence the technical content and requirements of the International Standards and also those being developed by the Committee for European Standardization (CEN).

Reason #2

Strengthening the business of surface finishing is in the best interest of the AESF, and that translates directly to you. If the U.S. did not hold the Secretariat of ISO/TC 107, the corresponding CEN committee would

develop its own standards, disregarding the position of the U.S. This could lead to the creation of technical barriers to trade that would make it difficult to sell some products finished in the U.S. in the European Union (EU). By the same token, if the standards adopted by the EU are not

"AESF's management of the ISO Secretariat is consistent with the educational goals of the Society. By protecting and strengthening the surface finishing industry in the U.S., the AESF helps the industry to grow."

—Dr. George DiBari
Manager, ISO Secretariat

as strict as those specified in the U.S., then products finished in Europe and sold in this country would be inferior and less expensive.

The goal is to develop *uniform international and regional standards of excellence* so that the finishing industry in the U.S. can compete on a level playing field all over the world.

Reason #3

Promoting high-quality finished products is in the best interest of the AESF and you, too. Why? Because the development of surface finishing standards of excellence improves the quality of finished goods and metal finishing processes. Quality creates business. Inferior quality destroys it. An expanding finishing industry in

the U.S. is in the best interest of the AESF and its sister organizations.

Because of Dr. DiBari's long-time involvement in standards and his high visibility in the industry through his career with Inco Ltd., he knows what he's talking about. In this issue (on page 66), he provides an update of

what's happening now in the Secretariat. I urge you to take the time to read it thoroughly. When you finish reading, you're sure to have an appreciation for our role in managing the Secretariat. It's a motherhood and apple pie issue that you should strongly support and stay informed on. P&SF

P.S. If you want some additional background, please refer to the column "Standards Topics" in the December 1994 issue of Plating and Surface Finishing and to the December 1996 article, "Standards: Sometimes You Can't Live With Them, But You Sure Can't Live Without Them!" Each was written by Al Grobin, Jr. (now deceased), AESF's former manager of the Secretariat.