

# The AESF/NAMF/MFSA Government Relations Program— What It Does

## 1. It offers a technical resource to government agencies.

As a result of the government relations program, government agency representatives now encourage the receipt of technical information from industry. In previous years, rules and regulations were often written and imposed, with little input from industry. The result was regulations that were often unrealistic and burdensome.

The AESF, in particular, is now recognized as having a great deal of technical expertise to offer. If upcoming rules and regulations are not scientifically achievable, representatives of the government relations program let those responsible know about it.

## 2. It saves the surface finishing industry millions of dollars annually.

Through the government relations program, members are alerted to new regulations and enforcement deadlines. They can plan ahead and try to find "cleaner, cheaper, smarter" technologies that will work for them.

*Example #1:* AESF representatives met with EPA regarding the scientific basis of the proposed guidance on the "method detection limits" (MDL) for water quality standards set below the level of scientific detection. As a result of the meeting, EPA decided to withdraw the guidance on test results variability for compliance measures used with water-quality-derived numerical surface water discharge limitations set below the limit of detection.

*Example #2:* Because of its input, many of industry's concerns were addressed in the final rule, published January 15, 1995, regarding the national emissions Maximum Achievable Control Technology (MACT) for chromium. Industry is still in negotiation with the Office of Air Quality and Standards on specific issues.

## 3. Having an office in Washington, DC gives the industry a visibility that is necessary in today's times. Three associations working together provides a more effective industry voice.

The surface finishing industry was selected to participate in EPA's new "Common Sense Initiative" (CSI). The CSI Federal Advisory Committee Act



As a result of the government relations program, industry's input is now welcomed by government representatives. The photo shown here captures a landmark moment: The July 20th, 1994 meeting with EPA Administrator Carol Browner, when she announced the "Common Sense Initiative." With her (L-R) are Frank Altmayer, CEF, chairman of AESF's Government Relations Committee; Bob Sizelove, MFSA president; Administrator Browner; B.J. Mason, AESF past president; Gregory Hadgis, NAMF president; and Bill Bonivert, AESF president.

(FACA) is designed to review existing and forthcoming environmental laws and regulations to identify options for "cleaner, cheaper, smarter" regulations on an industry sector basis. Industry representatives from AESF, NAMF and MFSA participate on the CSI FACA Steering Committee, the metal finishing sector steering committee, and on various workgroups.

## 4. The government relations program is multifaceted, covering all the important areas: Water quality issues; air quality issues; hazardous waste and Superfund issues; environmental and pollution prevention technologies; TRI reporting; and international activities. Involvement within each of these areas varies, but it's all important to companies and individuals in the industry.

**5. The program is funded by contributions from companies, groups and individuals.** Your support is essential. Much is done by a few people for the benefit of all. AESF has promised to support the program for \$125,000 annually. Contributions/pledges are encouraged. Please send them in care of the Government Relations Program, AESF Headquarters, 12644 Research Parkway, Orlando, FL 32826-3298.

**Editor's note:** Since October 1993, the AESF has been a partner in the government relations program originally established by the National Association of Metal Finishers (NAMF). This program expanded again in 1995 to include the support of the Metal Finishing Suppliers Association (MFSA).

Funds contributed by the three associations support an office in Washington, DC, which is headed by the Director of Government Relations, who is assisted by two additional staff members.

### AESF/NAMF/MFSA Government Advisory Committee

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