



**Christian Richter**



**Jeff Hannapel**

The Policy Group, Washington, DC

## Is Nickel Really Next?

### **SURFIN Special Session to Focus on European Nickel Cancer Labeling and Chemicals Decisions**

The “globalization of regulation” phenomenon has meant new challenges for the surface finishing industry in recent years. Job shops and suppliers in the automotive, electronics, aerospace and other sectors have made major commitments in time, resources and technology innovation to comply with expansive European mandates restricting certain metals and chemicals in products.

Just as the industry was mastering the new reality of product-based rules for chromium, cadmium and lead under the automotive (ELV) and electronics (RoHS/WEEE) directives, the European Union is now moving to mandate major cancer classification and labeling requirements under its *Dangerous Substances Directive* for over 140 nickel compounds, including nickel carbonate, nickel sulfate and other basic materials used in finishing.

### **Potential Impacts for Nickel Coatings**

The NASF Government Relations program has been monitoring nickel science and regulatory activity in the U.S. and the European Union for some time. With the new nickel decisions, the NASF is concerned that these decisions could have major economic impacts on the industry, including:

- new reporting requirements,
- new regulatory controls under the EU REACH chemicals legislation and other requirements; and
- disruption of nickel uses in the major finishing supply chains.

The NASF is now launching a major effort, in collaboration with the Nickel Institute, to oppose implementation of the new nickel classification and labeling scheme. Among other activities, the NASF is working to prompt the US Trade Representative to join 16 other nations – including Canada and Australia – and formally oppose the EU decision at the World Trade Organization’s Technical Barriers to Trade Committee.

### **SURFIN Special Briefing Session**

To ensure that finishers and suppliers are up to date on these and related developments affecting nickel, the NASF is adding a special briefing session at SURFIN. Attendees will hear presentations and a panel discussion, and participate in a question and answer period as follows:



**Wednesday, June 18<sup>th</sup>  
2:00 – 5:00 p.m.**

**Chair:** Christian Richter  
The Policy Group

#### **Presentations/Panel:**

Christopher Bell, Sidley Austin  
Dr. Keith Legg, Rowan Technology  
Joelie Zak, Scientific Control Laboratories  
Doris Hill, General Motors  
Dr. Claudia Duranceau, Ford Motor Co.  
Stephen Gaydos, Boeing (*invited*)

The panel discussion will cover technical and legal aspects as well as the regulatory implications of the recent nickel decisions and the REACH legislation, as well as key supply chain issues raised for major automotive and other customers.

*For questions or further information related to the session, please contact Christian Richter at [crichter@thepolicygroup.com](mailto:crichter@thepolicygroup.com) or Jeff Hannapel ([jhannapel@thepolicygroup.com](mailto:jhannapel@thepolicygroup.com)).*



### **2009 NASF Washington Forum**

**The L'Enfant Plaza Hotel  
Washington, DC  
April 28-30, 2009**

Don't miss the opportunity to be in the nation's capitol next spring for the NASF Washington Forum.

Get the latest updates and insights on key policy issues and trends impacting the finishing business.

**For more information go to: [www.nasf.org](http://www.nasf.org) (click on events)**