

Report on the meeting of the FEIBP WG “Technical Brushes” on 24th September 2015 in Salento

Chairman: Dr. Florestan von Boxberg

Participants: see annex

Mr. von Boxberg opens the meeting and expresses his expectation, that the work of the WG will be further improved in the future and made more attractive for other companies. Each participant is shortly introducing himself.

On this occasion, Rainer Langelüddecke, director of the Association of German Tool Manufacturers FWI, informs, that FWI will run the office of the German brushware association VDPB from January 2016.

Report of the meeting of the Working Group Technical Brushes, held on 26th September 2014 in Brussels

Mr Holland-Letz recalls the decision at the last meeting to finance the secretariat services provided by FWI via a contribution of 100 € per year and company. As no objections against this decision were raised after this meeting, FEIBP will now send invoices to the WG members. Mr. Holland-Letz thanks all members for their trust and their support.

Economic issues

The business climate of the German suppliers of the automotive and machinery industry, which is an important economic indicator, is stable on a satisfactory level (see annex).

The business climate of the German manufacturers of technical brushes shows a significant decline in August, which seems to be a periodical trend due to the summer break.

After short discussion it is decided to introduce a quarterly survey on the business climate on WG level. The members will be asked in October to provide their data for the 3rd quarter 2015. In order to ensure a sufficient number of participating companies, only data for the technical brushes in whole shall be collected. On a possible separation, e. g. into brushes for handheld applications and brushes for industrial applications (stationary machines) will be decided later.

Raising awareness for the European brush industry: Collection of application reports from the member companies

To provide content for the new FEIBP website, each company (including suppliers) is invited to provide short descriptions of brush applications to show the benefits of brushes. In order to ensure the neutrality of FEIBP, no company names shall be published.

In a second step, also video clips may be used by FEIBP, provided that the copyright of the companies can be guaranteed.

The companies will provide also contributions to the *Brushpedia*.

Mr. Lessmann asks, to list at the new FEIBP homepage all member companies of the national associations, not only the addresses of the association offices.

Revision of EN 1083-1 and -2

As per introduction, Mr. Holland-Letz recalls the importance of a safety standard for brushes. Although the standard is not mandatory, because brushes are not covered by the EU Machinery Directive, it gives a guideline for the manufacturers for the design and the testing of brushes and is the legal base for product liability.

A first meeting on FEIBP level took place on 30. June 2015 in Frankfurt. The proposals of the German expert's group have been discussed. According to Mr. Aquaderni, who attended this meeting, this was very helpful to understand the German proposals. Unfortunately, no other non-German delegate attended this meeting.

Mr. Holland-Letz informs that the complete English translation of part 1 will be made available as soon as possible. Mr. von Boxberg announces that all future drafts and meeting reports should be provided in English language to all WG members, which are invited to contact Mr. Holland-Letz in case of questions or comments.

Note: After some more corrections and clarifications of the draft for part 1 have become necessary, the English translation will be available not before January 2016.

Mr. Holland-Letz shortly goes through the current draft for part 2. He underlines that it is proposed that dimensional limitations, e. g. for the bore diameter, should be applicable for brushes for hand-held applications only, because the design of brushes for stationary machines is under the responsibility of the machine manufacturer or end user. As consequence, brushes which are not designed for hand-held applications, but may be used on such machines, had to be marked with a pictogram, as this is already the case for abrasive tools.

For safety reasons, most experts support that brushes with multithreads (combination of metric and inch threads) shall be no longer covered by the standard. As consequence, such brushes would not be forbidden, but they may not longer be marked with "EN 1083-2" and the manufacturer will take a higher level of responsibility in the case of an accident.

After the two drafts will be finalised by the WG, an official request for revision of the standards has to be submitted to CEN via one or more national standardisation bodies. The revision process will be under the responsibility of CEN. In the CEN committee, only national mirror committees of the single national standardisation bodies are involved officially, but it will be possible to represent also FEIBP in a non official way.

Mr. Aquaderni underlines that it should be a mid-term goal to harmonise the safety requirements of the EN with the ANSI standard, also to be prepared for TTIP.

FEIBP Safety Instructions for the selection and use of technical brushes

The company SIT has updated its safety instructions. The new instructions refer to the EN as well as to ANSI.

It is decided to work on a common text for safety instructions, which can be used exclusively by FEIBP members. As a first step, the companies will provide their current safety instructions to the WG secretariat.

Mr. Lessmann asks for clarification on how many copies of safety information have to be provided to the customers. For grinding tools sold in DIY and professional stores, the German authorities demand that a safety leaflet has to be provided with each single tool.

California Proposition 65

Jeff Malish gives a short overview on the marking requirements according to California Proposition 65. To avoid penalties, all companies exporting to the USA should check if their products are concerned, even if the customer is located in another federal state, because it can not be excluded that the products are used in California. In the meantime, the US customers got used to the relevant warnings on products (and even at hotel entrances etc.!) and that buy the products anyway.

All relevant information can be found under <http://www.oehha.ca.gov/prop65.html>. Members of ABMA can download a presentation about California 65 from the members' area of the ABMA website.

Any other business

Mr. von Boxberg asks all WG members to make suggestions on topics for the future work of the WG.

The next WG meeting will be organised in Freiburg during the *Interbrush*.

The FEIBP price index in raw materials for brushes shall be continued without chances.

Mr. von Boxberg thanks all participants for their contributions.

Th. Holland-Letz 9.7.2015 / rev. 25.11.2015

Annexes:

- list of participants
- meeting document