

# Technical Services

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The PPMA provides the processing and packaging machinery industry with an unrivalled range of technical services both in support of members' own businesses and for the benefit of the industry as a whole. Many of these services, particularly training, are also employed by end-users of machinery.

Within its ranks, the PPMA has access to some of the most experienced technical experts within the industry with many years experience in machine design, contract management and safety matters. This experience is brought to bear on all technical matters of concern to PPMA members: standards, training and education, legislation, research and statistics. In addition Technical services provides information and advice to help members resolve specific technical problems.

## Standards

Participation in writing Standards has been a principal source of the PPMA's technical status and influence with the DTI, HSE, major equipment users and the equivalent trade associations around the world.

Participation in the development of Standards also provides the PPMA with the knowledge to keep members fully aware of events and gives the Association the authority to organize seminars and training courses on Standards and legislative matters.

The PPMA is currently represented on EU committees writing safety standards for packaging machinery, a standard on case-packing machinery, safety in food processing machinery, a standard on food depositors and standards to support the recent Measuring Instruments Directive.

## Training and education

The PPMA Technical Services Department runs a full programme of seminars on both legislative and technical matters as well as training courses such as machinery risk assessment and the evolving requirements of the Machinery Directive. Both users and suppliers are found amongst delegates.

Courses are also provided which are aimed specifically at PPMA members. Such courses include a wide range of both business and technical topics such as public relations, strategic marketing, project management, shelf ready packaging and RFID. The programme is regularly updated to ensure that all subjects are topical and reflect the latest needs and developments in the industry.

## Safety Passport Schemes

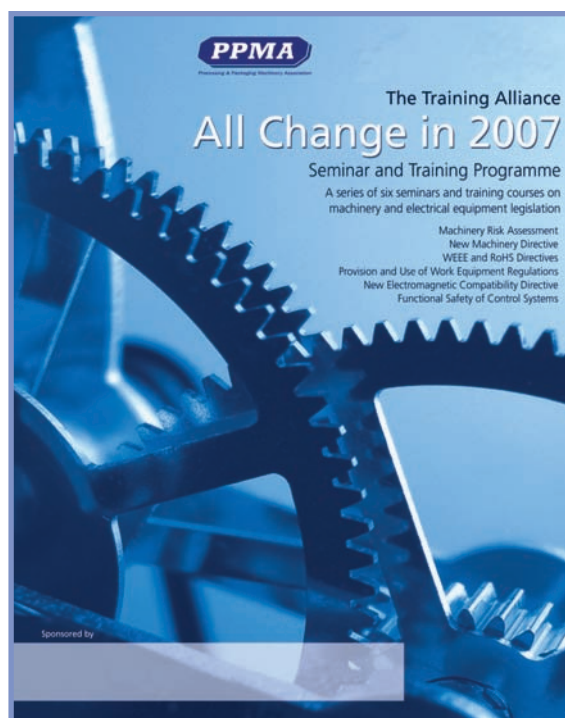
The PPMA also helped set up safety passport schemes for service engineers within the food and drink and pharmaceutical industries and organises the training necessary for member's staff to acquire this qualification. PPMA representatives sit on the steering committees.

## Working with academia

In 1996 the PPMA received a DTI grant to establish a course on packaging machinery within the engineering school at the University of Bath. The Association helped devise two 12 week modules for third and fourth year mechanical and production engineering undergraduates, which have run each autumn ever since.

## Legislation

The PPMA Technical Services team monitors the development of any legislation that will affect PPMA members. With most legislation the department's role is simply to inform members on the effects of the legislation and to help members understand and comply. However in some cases the PPMA has successfully taken steps to change legislation where its effects would be detrimental to the industry or its customers and to clarify the interpretation of the legislation.



PPMA 2007 Seminar Programme Brochure

## Technical Services *continued*

### Research

The PPMA has been invited to be a partner in a succession of Government funded research projects which have involved PPMA Technical Services and a number of PPMA members.

In terms of direct benefit for PPMA members, one of the most successful research projects has been the 'Impact' research project led by the University of Bath which modelled the behaviour of carton board and flexible films in packaging machinery. This research was undertaken at the suggestion of the PPMA Technical Services team and was funded by EPSRC.

Currently the PPMA is a member of the steering committee of the Impact 2 research project at the University of Bath which is funded by Bath's Innovative Manufacturing Research Centre (IMRC). This project is continuing the work of investigating how packaging materials behave in machinery and has already produced information of commercial value to machinery manufacturers.

### Technical publications

Technical publications are produced by the PPMA on an ad hoc basis to bring members up to date on new or changing regulations that affect the design and use of packaging and processing machinery. Most recently these have included booklets on European Machinery Legislation and on CE and PUWER.

### Statistics

Annual surveys are conducted amongst members to establish market trends and give industry averages for a range of costs that affect the membership. In addition Government and COPAMA statistics (see International Services), are interpreted at regular intervals to give information on trade in processing & packaging machinery throughout the world.

*Whether you are seeking basic technical information, help in solving a packaging or processing problem, legislative data, training or consultancy services, the*



*PPMA Members attending one of the many seminars held at a Presidents lunch*

*PPMA Technical Services team are available to help and support you. Call us on +44(0)20 8773 8111 and ask for either David Harrison, John Cowdrey or one of our support staff.*