

Organizers of the largest Exhibition for the Decorators Industry in Germany "Farbe – Ausbau & Fassade 2007" evade Discussion on "Paint Stripping"

Professional decorators experience the highest number of incidents with dichloromethane (DCM) paint removers, yet the organizers of the 2007 event were not interested in hosting a presentation on this topic by our German EASCR member, Scheidel GmbH & Co KG offering DCM-free alternatives since 1984.

We consider this interesting behaviour, especially when one bears in mind that the British consultancy RPA conducted a survey in April 2007 on dichloromethane (DCM) paint stripping, at the request of the EU Commission, and concluded:

- ...to date, a single professional user of DCM-based paint stripper, who monitors the airborne concentration of DCM during use has not been identified.
- ..it has emerged that users have limited knowledge of the role and importance of OELs (occupational exposure limits) and may have limited knowledge on how to assess the risks from the substance...
- ...inappropriate and inconsistent use of PPE (personal protection equipment) is also an issue
- ...around 30.000 decorators (in Germany alone)...companies frequently do not have knowledge or means to adequately protect their employees..

Above quotations can be found on pages 84 and 85 of the RPA report issued in April 2007.

Link: http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/chemicals/legislation/markrestr/j549_dcm_final_report.pdf

The image shows a two-page spread from an exhibition catalog. The left page is the cover, featuring a colorful circular graphic and the title "Farbe – Ausbau & Fassade 2007 Köln/Cologne, 18. – 21. April 2007". The right page is a program listing with various topics and speakers. A yellow highlight on the program page points to a specific entry: "Thema: Anti-Graffiti-Schutzbeschichtungen und Imprägnierungen, technische Voraussetzungen und Grenzen (nicht über Abbeizer sprechen) Referent: Georg Scheidel, Scheidel GmbH & CoKG Freitag 20.04. 16:00 Uhr". A red arrow points from this entry to a larger yellow highlight at the bottom of the page, which contains the same text in a different format.

Thema: Anti-Graffiti-Schutzbeschichtungen und Imprägnierungen, technische Voraussetzungen und Grenzen (nicht über Abbeizer sprechen)
Referent: Georg Scheidel, Scheidel GmbH & CoKG
Freitag 20.04. 16:00 Uhr

Topic: **Anti-Graffiti-Protection coatings and Impregnations, technical requirements and limits (Do not talk about paint strippers)**

Interestingly, this desire to avoid the topic even found its way into the official printed catalogue!