

## Business Council on Indoor Air

### Summary

The Business Council on Indoor Air (BCIA) was formed in late 1988 by chemical, consumer goods, ventilation and engineering firms concerned about the regulatory, legislative and public affairs implications of the indoor air quality issue.

The purpose of BCIA is to help educate staff at federal and state regulatory agencies charged with interpreting, administering and enforcing laws related to the composition and management of indoor air. These agencies include but are not necessarily limited to the federal Environmental Protection Agency, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, Consumer Product Safety Commission and the Department of Energy.

BCIA also is working with those Members of Congress and their staffs drafting and considering legislation to broaden or modify the roles various Agencies play in this issue.

Finally, BCIA will work with the news media as it covers this evolving story.

### Membership

The following business organizations are charter members of BCIA:

- o Dow Chemical
- o Owens-Corning Fiberglass
- o ICI Americas
- o Union Carbide
- o ACVA Atlantic
- o Environmental Air Control
- o Envirodyne

Richard Dempster, president of Environmental Air Control, is chairman; Richard Herrett, Ph.D., Director of Legislative Affairs, ICI Americas, is vice chairman.

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In addition, BCIA is forming a committee of representatives of other trade associations concerned about IAQ. They have met once and include: Chemical Manufacturers Association, American Petroleum Institute, American Industrial Health Council (Synthetic Organic Manufacturers Association), Chemical Specialty Manufacturers Association, Chlorobenzene Producers Association, Halogenated Solvents Industry Alliance, National Paint and Coatings Association, Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association and Society of the Plastics Industry.

Finally, BCIA is about to solicit approximately 7,000 businesses as associate members. These members will receive information but will not vote as members. The 7,000 are businesses with more than 50 employees in the following industries: cooking equipment, home furnishings, plastics, toiletries, paints, adhesives and sealants, air conditioning and ventilation, lead pencils and art supplies, pest control.

### Current Activities

BCIA has three priorities at this time.

1. Identifying, assessing and influencing all current and potential regulatory activity on IAQ in the federal government.

Literally scores of research, educational and policy development projects are underway at EPA and other agencies.

#### **Current activity:**

Developing a response to the EPA's Report to Congress on IAQ which is now before the EPA Scientific Advisory Board and Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

Monitoring all projects on the EPA's list of IAQ projects within the federal government.

2. Developing working relationships with key officials at EPA and other agencies.

Paul Cammer, BCIA executive director, possesses strong working relations with EPA officials directly responsible for IAQ. His work has resulted in:

- o receipt of early drafts of the EPA report to Congress
- o EPA agreeing to a special briefing of BCIA members the day the Agency releases its report to Congress.

3. Building the organization.

Because it is new, BCIA must also concentrate on attracting additional members and serving those it has. The membership recruiting efforts are described above. BCIA also generates regular mailings to its members and conducts periodic meetings and work sessions as needs arise.