

Scope

The Consortium's starting point is fire protection and how it relates to environmental quality, human health and competitiveness in markets.

The need for the Consortium was obvious when it was formed because conflicts between environmental quality, human health and fire safety were all too common. The precipitating event prior to its formation was a meeting in which American fire safety officials met with Swedish environmental authorities in what started as an argument and rapidly became an agreement on the relative importance of fire safety, human health and environmental quality.

Guiding principles

The Consortium is guided by:

- ⇒ *Science*. How materials and products interact with people and the environment.
- ⇒ *The real world*. How finished products perform when used by consumers in typical settings.
- ⇒ *The need for clarity*. Fire safety, environmental, health and economic policy must be integrated so that industry has a clear path forward.
- ⇒ *The reality of global harmonization*. Markets and public policy must work together to achieve true harmonization.

What kind of organisation is this?

The Consortium is not just another standards or trade organisation. The Consortium will not set standards, nor will it represent any one interest. The Consortium will be a place where people come together to understand and shape the ways in which the public need and commercial interests intersect.



How is the Consortium funded?

The Consortium finances are overseen by a Finance Committee of the Board of Directors. The charter of the Finance Committee specifies that all financial and other resources that are sought or accepted must support directly and clearly the mission of the Consortium and the programs, projects and other activities approved by the Directors. Financial and in-kind startup support has been provided by the founding members of the Consortium. Contracts specifying actions and goals may be sought and accepted by the Consortium and its programs, with the approval of the Board of Directors. Materials produced by the Consortium and its programs may be sold. Registration and other fees may be charged for participation in Consortium activities. It is the policy of the Consortium that sponsorships received by the Consortium will inure no substantial return benefit to those persons or businesses giving the sponsorship.

Board of Directors

Chief George A. Miller (Chairman)

George A. Miller is Chairman of the International Consortium for Fire Safety, Health and Environment and a policy advisor to the National Association of State Fire Marshals.

On March 1, 2005, Mr. Miller retired, after 20 years of service, as Chief of the Bureau of Fire Code Enforcement, Division of Fire Safety, New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, where he had been responsible for the development of a uniform fire code and for statewide enforcement of its provisions.

From January 1991 until his retirement from State service, Mr. Miller served as a director and officer of the National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM), which he also helped create. He was elected NASFM President in July 2000 and served a two-year term in that position.

Mr. Miller joined the career fire service in Bayonne, New Jersey, in 1967. In that municipal fire department, he progressed through the ranks from firefighter to Fire Prevention Bureau Chief, serving for three years in the latter position before leaving to join State service.

Mr. Miller received a B.A. Degree from Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey in June 1972.



Major Franklin De Herdt

Maj. Frank De Herdt is the Chief of Logistics for the Service d'Incendie et d'Aide Médicale Urgente de la Région de Bruxelles Capitale in Belgium. Maj. De Herdt first joined the Brussels Fire Service in 1975 and served in a number of roles, including earning the recognition of chartered fire prevention officer from the Belgian Ministry of Home Office. Today he is a member of the hotel-fire security prevention board (in charge of the region-wide inspection of fire security in hotels) for the French-speaking part of Belgium.

Among Maj. De Herdt's accomplishments were leading a Belgian delegation in charge of creating a fire fighting task force unit for the medical city of the Saudi Royal Guard in Riyadh in 1977 and 1980-81. From 1979 to 1989, he was an arson investigator for the Belgian Ministry of Justice.

De Herdt has served as chairman in exercise of the Association of the Professional Fire Officers of Belgium since 1995 and co founder of the Belgian Branch of the Institution of Fire Engineers (MIFireE). Additionally, he is a lecturer (F.S.E.) at the Faculté Polytechnique de Mons and a lecturer for the agency Protection + of Tunis (fire audit and fire investigation) since 1994. He has degrees in civil engineer architecture and security engineering from la Faculté Polytechnique de Mons and Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, respectively.

David J. Harper (non-voting member)

David John Harper joined the fire service in his native Suffolk in 1965 and then served in West Sussex and Royal Berkshire before taking up an appointment as HM Inspector of Fire Services in February 2001. In his current post, Mr. Harper is a Lead Inspector having a territorial responsibility for the inspection of brigades in the south east of England and Lancashire. In addition, he holds central references for fire safety legislation and standards, community fire safety and fire safety in crown premises.

During his 36 years in the Service, Mr. Harper has held operational and managerial roles at all levels including 6 years as the senior officer in charge of fire safety and 8 years as Chief Fire Officer. He was awarded the Fire Service Long Service and Good Conduct Medal in 1985. In November 1992, he was the Fire Incident Commander at the major fire that occurred at Windsor Castle and was subsequently made a Member of the Royal Victorian Order (MVO) by Her Majesty the Queen in the 1993 New Years Honours List in recognition of his role at the incident.

Mr. Harper has served as an assessor for the extended interview process for candidates for the prestigious Brigade Command Course, which is a prerequisite to appointment as a Chief Fire Officer, and for 6 years prior to taking up his current role, he was a Co-Director of the Course.

Mr. Harper was made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in the 2001 New Years Honours List for his services to the fire service. Mr. Harper is a Fellow of the Institution of Fire Engineers (FIFireE).



Commissioner Rick McCullough

Rick McCullough has been Fire Commissioner of the Province of Saskatchewan, Canada, since 1991. He is responsible for developing provincial fire safety and prevention policy, legislation and programs; administering fire safety and prevention legislation; recruiting, training and leading fire safety, prevention and investigative teams; and developing and managing public education programs. The Fire Commissioner functions at senior levels across both provincial and municipal governments, as well as nationally and internationally, providing expert advice on technical and policy matters relating to fire and life safety.

Mr. McCullough is in his second term as President of the Council of Canadian Fire Marshals and Commissioners. He also has served for the last 13 years on the Board of Governors for the International Fire Service Accreditation Council; is Secretary-Treasurer for Fire Education Canada; and currently chairs the subcommittee responsible for developing the National Fire Code for Canada. Since becoming a firefighter in 1968, Mr. McCullough has progressed through fire officer and fire chief ranks to serve as Principal of the Saskatchewan Fire College prior to being appointed Fire Commissioner.

Commissioner McCullough holds a diploma in Business Administration from the College of New Caledonia and has completed several courses of study at the University of Regina, where he currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Rams football team. A physical fitness devotee, Rick completed both the Boston and New York City marathons in 2002.

Chief Frederick Postel

Since 1993, Chief Frederick Postel has served as Fire Chief of West Sacramento, California, in the United States. He has 38 years of active fire service experience, including firefighting, emergency management, training, fire prevention/code enforcement, and management/administrative responsibilities. In 1964, he joined the City of San Francisco (California) Fire Department, starting as a firefighter and working his way up the ranks until he earned the position of Fire Chief of the City and County of San Francisco, where he served in that capacity from 1988 to 1992.

Chief Postel also has served as an adjunct instructor at the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Emergency Management Institute in Emmetsburg, Maryland. He obtained an Associate of Science degree in Fire Science with Honors from the City College of San Francisco. He has also taken an Executive Development Course through the Executive Fire Officers Program at the National Fire Administration.

Chief Postel is an active member of the California Fire Chiefs Association (CFCA), the International Fire Code Institute, the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Local 522, the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). He also served on the board of directors of several community organizations including the YMCA and the Salvation Army. He has participated in numerous television, radio, newspaper and personal appearances, interviews, presentations and seminars



relating to fire safety, public education, earthquake preparedness, response and recovery issues and high-rise safety.

Dr. Manfred Sonneborn

Manfred Sonneborn recently retired as Director and Professor at the Federal Institute for Health Protection of Consumers and Veterinary Medicine (formerly the Federal Health Office) of Germany. His areas of expertise include special instrumental analysis of environmental samples and development; water, air and soil hygiene, evaluation of environmental aspects; biochemical toxicology; risk assessment of chemicals under the aspects of the Chemicals Act; data collection and processing, development of information systems; and cooperation with German Fire Departments on information of health and environmental hazards of chemicals.

Dr. Sonneborn worked as a research assistant at the Institute of Biochemistry at the University of Marburg and Heidelberg and as an executive plant supervisor and researcher before joining the Federal Institute. He obtained a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry and a Doctorate in Biochemistry, Physiochemistry and Nuclear Chemistry.

Dr. Sonneborn has been involved in the planning and organization of interlaboratory testing systems and research coordination for the CEC. Dr. Sonneborn was part of the ISO working group on "PAH" and the national delegation. He also was a member of the OECD working groups on Water Pollutants and Existing Chemicals, and participated in the World Health Organisation's International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS) and International Chemical Safety Cards (ICSC).

Professor Martin van den Berg

Prof. Dr. Martin van den Berg is Professor in Veterinary Environmental Sciences and Toxicology at the Institute of Risk Assessment Sciences(formerly RITOX) of the University of Utrecht, The Netherlands. In this capacity he is director of the toxicology division and leader of the research group Biochemical Toxicology. The laboratories of biochemical and molecular toxicology at IRAS are under his direct responsibility. On the average his research group consists of 1 assistant professor, 5 to 7 Ph.D. students and 1-2 technicians, annually. The Toxicology Division of IRAS consists of 30 to 40 scientists, technicians and supporting staff. His teaching responsibilities are in the area of Environmental Sciences, Toxicology and Chemistry at both undergraduate and postgraduate level at the Faculties of Veterinary Medicine, Biology, Medical Biology and Environmental Sciences.

He is a graduate of the University of Amsterdam (Supervisor Prof. Dr. Otto Hutzinger, 1986) with an M.Sc. and a Ph.D. in Environmental and Toxicological Chemistry. Prof van den Berg's current areas of research include: toxicokinetics, metabolism and reproductive and interactive effects of halogenated polyaromatics, interactions of xenobiotics on steroid hormone synthesis, metabolism and their relation with hormone dependent tumors, development of in vitro assays to detect endocrine disruptors. These studies are done with mammals, birds and fish as well as in in vitro systems. The results of his scientific work and



that of his research group have been published in more than 170 scientific articles and papers. Prof. Van den Berg is a European registered toxicologist.

Prof. van den Berg is connected to several national and international organizations which are involved with the (eco)toxicological risk assessment of dioxin or PCB like compounds. He is an appointed member of the Health Council of The Netherlands and served on several of its committees. He is also head of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Research on Environmental Health Risk Assessment, which is based at IRAS (Utrecht University) and a collaboration with the Dutch National Institute of Public Health and Environmental Protection (RIVM, Bilthoven). During the last five years he has been acting as an advisor on many WHO, EU and US committees that are dealing with the (environmental) health effects of dioxins, PCBs and endocrine disruptors or the use of bioassays for rapid screening techniques.

Prof. van den Berg is member of the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry, Society of Toxicology (US) and Dutch Society of Toxicology. Within the Dutch Society of Toxicology he is a member of the registration committee for toxicologists. Editor of Chemosphere Environmental Toxicology and Risk Assessment Section and Member of the Editorial Boards of Environmental and Toxicological Chemistry and Toxicological Sciences.

Robert W. Varney

Robert W. Varney was appointed administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's New England office by President George W. Bush and Administrator Christie Todd Whitman in August 2001. In this capacity, he is responsible for managing an agency with over 700 employees and a budget of \$532 million.

Prior to joining EPA, Mr. Varney was one of the nation's longest serving state environmental commissioners. Appointed by 3 governors, Mr. Varney served as Commissioner for the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) for 12 years. During his tenure, he is widely credited with instituting many management, program and policy changes that have served as national models.

Mr. Varney was voted by his peers to serve as President of The Environmental Council of the States (ECOS), the national non-profit, non-partisan association of state and territorial environmental commissioners. As DES commissioner, he chaired regional and national committees such as the Gulf of Maine Council, Ozone Transport Commission, New England Governors Conference Environment Committee and New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission.

He holds a bachelor's degree from the University of New Hampshire and a master's degree from Michigan State University.



Professor Ulf Wickstrom

Professor Ulf Wickström heads the Department of Fire Technology at the Swedish National Testing and Research Institute (SP). The department has a staff of about 55 involved in fire testing and research. He was given the name "professor" in 1988 by the Department of Industry of the Swedish Government. His special scientific interest lies in heat transfer analysis of structures exposed to fire, a subject on which he has published several scientific papers.

Prof. Wickström joined the Department of Fire Technology of SP in 1979 and has been leading it since 1986. The laboratory is one of the foremost of its kind in the world, active in international research as well as providing direct services to industry in the field of fire safety testing and evaluation.

Prof. Wickström has been active during his entire career in international research and standardisation committees and working groups and is internationally well known in the field. For more than 10 years, he has led the Swedish delegation in the European standardisation committee on fire safety.

Prof. Wickström holds a Ph.D. from the Lund University of Technology (1979) in fire technology, a Master of Science from University of California (1977), Berkeley, and Master of Science in civil engineering from the Lund University of Technology (1974).

History and Background

Asbestos, PCBs, and halons are just some of the unfortunate examples of where fire safety and environmental quality conflict. Current controversies include the widespread use of lightweight but highly flammable plastics in automobiles as automakers seek to improve fuel efficiency and lower tailpipe emissions.

Safety, environment and health officials exist in different – sometimes competing – agencies. Industry can fairly say that it does not know what regulators want. Although public policy should encourage industry to seek simultaneously high levels for human health, safety and environmental quality, authorities have had no way of discussing much less resolving these policy conflicts.

In 2001, safety, health and environmental officials in NAFTA and the European regions organized the Transatlantic Fire Safety Consortium, a US-based not-for-profit corporation. The Consortium's mission is to promote more balanced environmental, safety and health public policy and manufacturing practices in the NAFTA and European Regions.

In 2002, the Consortium Board changed the organization's name to the International Consortium for Fire Safety, Health & Environment to reflect the broadened scope of the group, but its mission remains the same.



Although organized in late 2001, the Consortium has several active programs and others in planning.

- ⇒ Task forces are conducting research into how fires start and are best prevented in the home, public places and automobiles – and what the environmental costs are of the most effective fire prevention technologies. Each task force brings together experts from industry, academia, environmental and fire safety regulatory agencies.
- ⇒ A panel of environmental toxicologists, combustion scientists and others are gathering data on the environmental and health effects of chemicals used in fire protection, so that meaningful choices can be made. This same Combustion Chemistry Council will rate the use of science by policy-makers engaged in regulating fire protection technologies.
- ⇒ A Fellowships committee will sponsor teams of three experts – one environmental, one fire safety and one from industry – to determine how public and private policy might encourage greater cooperation among the three communities. Yet another committee will identify attractive Markets Incentives for companies to make and sell product that exceed mandatory standards.
- ⇒ For “the best of the best,” the Consortium offers the opportunity to achieve a “Green Flame.” Few companies will try, and of those, only some will succeed in demonstrating that their finished consumer products are significantly cleaner and safer than the rest. But politicians, regulators, procurement agencies, standards organizations, the news media and consumers will know that a product bearing the “Green Flame” is exceptional.

The Consortium and its programs were formed by environmental, health and fire safety regulatory officials and scientists from Belgium, Canada, Finland, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States. Authorities from Asia and the Pacific Rim will be added soon. Even so, the Consortium is not especially interested in regulation – it recognizes that given the right incentives, markets can move much faster than governments in achieving safer, cleaner products.