

Publications

zeolite. Included are stereo plots, framework compositions, crystal unit cell properties, cation or extra-framework site data such as locations, type, symmetry, and coordination distance, and specifics on all references. The explanatory notes at the beginning of the book are helpful in guiding the reader.

This document should be a valuable addition to the libraries of those researchers predominantly involved in the basic properties, structures and performance of zeolites.

Individuals working less frequently with zeolites or those not in need of structural detail may find the book less essential. The IZA Structure Commission plans to update this compilation in the future.

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International

AIS: soapers' voice in Europe

The Association Internationale de la Savonnerie et de la Detergence (AIS) is the major international representative for soap and detergent manufacturers in Europe.

Formed 30 years ago by representatives from The Netherlands, Germany, Belgium and France, AIS now represents 18 national associations covering the whole of Western Europe plus two extraordinary members, CESIO and the Australian Chemical Specialties Manufacturers Association. Only European-based national associations are eligible to be ordinary members.

AIS' general purpose is to promote the common interest and knowledge of its members, and more specifically to seek consensus solutions to questions relating to human and environmental health that involve the soap and detergent industry.

The AIS represents its member associations to the Common Market and other official international agencies. Having common governmental regulations throughout Europe is important to manufacturers whose products may be marketed in several countries.

Environmental and health regulations have become increasingly important in recent years. Standard test methods to determine surfactant biodegradability, for example, are needed. Legislation affecting phosphate content in one country can affect a detergent manufacturer in a second country. One of AIS current concerns is developing valid methods to test the safety of ingredients in personal care products.

Technical support for such projects is arranged by members on a voluntary basis. AIS maintains an administrative headquarters in Brussels, not far from the Common Market offices. AIS' chief administrator is Secretary-General Pierre V. Costa. AIS was a cosponsor of the 1977 World Conference on Soaps and Detergents where Costa presented the conference paper on Soap and Detergents in Western Europe.

AIS work programs are developed by the three com-

missions—Technical, Inter-Company Relations, and Economic and Social—for approval by the Administrative Committee and the General Assembly. The Administrative Committee has one representative from each regular member and, in effect, directs AIS activities. The General Assembly meets once a year formally to approve budgets and work programs. Each member nation may have up to 10 official delegates to the General Assembly.

Adolf L. de Jong, chairman of the AIS Technical Commission, said he expects major topics for that commission in coming years will continue to center around builders for detergents and the safety of household products. While the Common Market has established regulations on testing of new chemicals before they may be used, this will be of more concern manufacturers of raw materials for the detergent industry than to AIS-related firms, de Jong said.

As previously noted, CESIO and AIS have two combined work groups studying environmental concerns and analytical methodology.

Just as AIS was created after World War II when it became apparent that the economy of European nations was increasingly intertwined, so in recent years AIS has become more interested in what is happening outside Europe. The affiliation of Australian special chemical producers was mentioned previously. In addition, AIS has increased contacts with the U.S. Soap and Detergent Association.

As noted by de Jong, the proximity of AIS offices to the Common Market headquarters permits establishment of informal lines of communication, so that AIS keeps informed of Common Market proposals that could affect member companies, and the Common Market personnel know who to contact to determine if and how a proposal might affect AIS members.

In addition to the original four members, AIS member nations now include: Austria, Belgium (with Luxembourg), Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, and most recently, Iceland and Greece.