

Lead paint regulations being reviewed



In May, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention hosted a public meeting to solicit input on lead paint regulations that could be repealed, replaced, or modified to make them less burdensome.

The meeting was a result of President Trump's Feb. 24 Executive Order 13777 that requires each agency to identify unnecessary regulatory burdens. The meeting (one of two held that day) specifically addressed the Lead Renovation, Repair, and Painting Program (RRP) and related lead issues.

In response, Kevin McKenney, director of government affairs for the Window and Door Manufacturers Association, submitted a formal comment to EPA that pinpointed specific areas where the lead paint regulations have been problematic and counterproductive.

"Extremely few of the 30,000+ public comments actually addressed the lead paint regulations," said Tom Wadsworth, D+AS magazine editor. "More than 90 percent of the public comments were anonymous submissions that opposed any change to any regulation, even though that wasn't the purpose of the input-gathering process." ■

R+T Asia reaches new record of visitors and exhibitors

R+T Asia 2017, held March 21-23 in Shanghai, China, reported reaching new records of visitors, exhibitors, and floor space. The show annually focuses on roller shutters, doors/gates, and sun protection systems.

The 2017 show attracted 31,149 visitors, up from 27,088 in 2016. International visitors dramatically increased from 6,850 in 2016 to 9,291 in 2017, coming predominantly from Taiwan, India, Australia, Korea, and the U.S.

The show featured 519 exhibitors, surpassing the previous record of 486 in 2016. Floor space increased nine percent with 50,000 square meters, up from 45,000 in 2016. Exhibited products revealed a trend toward greater energy efficiency and smart home functionality.

The next R+T Asia will be held March 20-22, 2018, in Shanghai. ■



R+T 2018: European trends

According to a survey by the National Federation of Door and Gate Manufacturers (BVT) in autumn 2016, sales in the door and gate industry in Europe are increasing. Of the survey respondents, 59 percent of member companies reported an increase in incoming orders, and 33 percent were expecting higher sales in the near future.

"Sales in the industry as a whole rose substantially by 7.1 percent in the first six months of 2016," said Kai-Uwe Gröger, managing director of BVT. "This was primarily due to domestic business, whereas international business lagged well behind."

The topic of energy efficiency is still the focal point of product interest. Specific areas of interest are suitable insulation, preventing energy from escaping structures, exploiting natural daylight to reduce the costs for artificial lighting, and intelligent control units to optimize door opening and closing times.

R+T (Europe), held every three years as "the world's leading trade fair for roller shutters, doors/gates and sun protection systems," will focus on these topics at its 2018 show from Feb. 27 to March 3 in Stuttgart. The 2015 show attracted 888 exhibitors and 59,057 visitors from 131 countries, with 54 percent coming from abroad. ■

Attendance drops at R+T Turkey

Some 5,000 visitors attended the third R+T Turkey in Istanbul, held March 1-4.

Attendance was down from 7,021 at the previous

event in November 2015. Organizers said that the drop was due to "the current situation in Turkey."

Of all 104 exhibitors, 36 percent came from abroad, up from 29 percent in 2015. More than half of the visitors (55 percent) were previous attendees, and 88 percent already plan to return in 2019.

Foreign visitors primarily came from North Africa (Morocco, Tunisia), the Middle East (Israel, Jordan, Lebanon), Eastern Europe (Romania, Ukraine, Bulgaria), and Russia. ■



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