The Polyurethane Foam Association: A powerful partner representing the flexible polyurethane foam industry

For more than 30 years, the Polyurethane Foam Association (PFA) has represented flexible polyurethane foam manufacturers and suppliers to the industry, leading the way in advocating for the interests of the industry.

Responding to legislative and regulatory issues, changes in the legal landscape, misinformation in the media, false advertising claims, threats to market share from alternative products that claim to be substitutes for flexible polyurethane foam and from suspect imported goods — these issues are all better addressed as an industry.

Pulling together — harnessing the power of the industry — gives us a stronger voice in the nation’s capital, in state capitals — and around the world — and allows us to overcome obstacles that individual member companies could not successfully take on alone. What’s more, putting the association on the front lines can diffuse the glare of attention on any one member company.

Milestones and accomplishments:
Working together, the PFA and its members . . .

- Negotiated with EPA on implementation of Clean Air Act requirements (NESHAP) for regulated air emissions
- Responded to The Montreal Protocol by phasing out all ozone-depleting CFCs well ahead of the international deadline
- Prevented numerous regulatory efforts to impose standards that were unwarranted and counterproductive
- Developed and received EPA approval for a group stormwater permit for member companies' compliance with EPA permitting requirements
- Launched an industry-wide advertising and promotion campaign to promote the benefits of flexible polyurethane foam
- Created www.pfa.org as a resource, one of the first websites to be established by any industry
- Facilitated the phase-out of PBDEs in U.S. flexible polyurethane foam manufacturing in 2005
- Provided public comments to support industry positions on numerous legislative and regulatory initiatives
- Developed the CertiPUR-US® program initiative, now an independent voluntary product certification program focused on environmental, health, safety and performance attributes
- Founded the Fire Prevention Alliance for inter-industry consumer fire education outreach
- Succeeded in efforts to resist a move to have the Department of Transportation classify flexible polyurethane foam as a hazardous material
- Conducted benchmark and continuing research documenting the safety of existing TDI workplace exposure limits
- Tracked events, conducted parallel studies and advocated for good science related to the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services’ and the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry’s exhaustive seven-year study of TDI emissions and their possible effect on respiratory health in communities near foam plants

“If it weren’t for the PFA, there wouldn’t be a flexible polyurethane foam industry today.”

Dennis Peterson, former president of the Polyurethane Foam Association
PFA benefits that benefit every member

Having industry-experienced legal representation in Washington, D.C.

◆ Detecting and correcting unfair regulatory initiatives, policies and practices ◆ Publishing the PFA FastRead e-newsletter
◆ Advocating good science, fact-based decision-making ◆ Correcting misinformation and inaccuracies related to FPF products ◆ Developing position statements and white papers on important issues
◆ Tracking ‘pounds poured’ statistics through monthly reporting to an independent auditing firm ◆ Publishing InTouch technical bulletins
◆ Providing educational forums ◆ Sharing the cost of independent product research and testing ◆ Fielding industry-wide occupational health surveys ◆ Publishing PFA Legal Brief ◆ Maintaining the website at www.pfa.org as an online presence and resource ◆ Monitoring media coverage to track trends, minimize inaccurate reporting and maximize opportunities
◆ Pursuing improper and misleading competitive claims ◆ Hosting Spring and Fall Industry Issues and Technical sessions ◆ Representing industry and advocating positions on flammability issues ◆
Providing comments and participating in regulatory public meetings ◆ Hosting Flexible Polyurethane Foam Hall of Fame and Lifetime Achievement programs ◆ Leading industry initiatives on safety, health and environmental issues ◆ Building alliances and coalitions with related industry groups ◆ Providing a forum for thought leaders to share ideas and create a vision for the future of the flexible polyurethane foam industry
Join today. Get involved.

**Manufacturing Membership:** Companies that use chemical raw materials to manufacture flexible polyurethane foam — both flexible slabstock and molded foam — in U.S. facilities.

**Federated Membership:** Companies based outside the U.S. — and without U.S. facilities — that use chemical raw materials to manufacture flexible polyurethane foam — both flexible slabstock and molded foams.

**Associate/Supplier Membership:** Companies that provide raw materials, equipment, technology, consultant and other services to flexible polyurethane foam manufacturers.

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Founded in 1980, the mission of the PFA is to educate customers and other groups about flexible polyurethane foam and to represent the industry before governmental legislative and regulatory bodies. This includes providing facts on environmental, health and safety issues related to flexible polyurethane foam production. The PFA also provides its members and their customers with generic technical information on the performance of flexible polyurethane foam in consumer and industrial products.

**Responsible Leadership on Flammability Issues.**
PFA was originally established in 1980 to address issues related to flexible polyurethane foam and flammability. The organization has continued to be an advocate for the industry, working with government, consumer and fire safety groups to improve product safety. Over the years, PFA has participated in fire safety education programs, fire service training, retail seminars and other programs focused on reducing fire deaths through such organizations as the Fire-safe Cigarette Coalition and the U.S. Fire Administration. PFA founded the Fire Prevention Alliance to provide important consumer fire safety education tools needed to supplement product flammability regulation.

www.pfa.org