



SAFEX Newsletter

December, 2005
Number 14

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Secretary General

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SAFEX International *Safety in explosives*



Bernard Hueber resigns as Secretary General.

By now you should have received Mr Bernard Hueber's letter in which he advised members of his resignation as the Secretary General of SAFEX International with effect from the end of December, 2005. This marks the end of a long and illustrious association with SAFEX. Bernard tells how he was involved with arrangements for some of the earliest SAFEX Congresses. He also presented papers at the Athens (1981), Stockholm (1984), Casablanca (1987) and Vienna (1990) Congresses.

Bernard was active in the SAFEX Governing Committee for a number of years. He also served as Chairman of SAFEX International until he retired as CEO of Nobel Explosifs, France at the end 2002. He then took over as Secretary General of SAFEX International and organised the 2005 Congress in Geneva.

Bernard has made many friends over the years and we will miss his intimate knowledge of the industry and its members. He impressed people with his quiet sophistication and commitment to safety.

He always had the interests of SAFEX and its ideals at heart. We will remember Bernard in particular for establishing the new SAFEX website at which he worked enthusiastically. We want to thank him for his service and for promoting SAFEX's interests in so many ways.

Bernard will continue to serve the Federation of European Explosives Manufacturers (FEEM) as Secretary General and we look forward to an ongoing association with him in that capacity.

Governing Committee receives a vote of confidence

SAFEX members re-elected the outgoing Governing Committee in its entirety at the General Meeting held on 27 May 2005 during the XV SAFEX Congress in Geneva. This is clearly a vote of confidence in the Committee and indicates support for the number of initiatives it took during its preceding term of office. The Governing Committee is a vital element of the SAFEX organization and is tasked with the governance of the Association and managing its ongoing affairs on your behalf. It comprises a maximum of ten members who meet formally every year during

the ISEE Conference in the USA. Committee members assume responsibility for one or more portfolios which represent the range of services SAFEX offers its members. This means they are actively involved on behalf of members throughout the year. SAFEX is indeed fortunate to have within its ranks individuals who are willing to share in this manner their expertise and commitment to improving the safety, health and environmental performance of the explosives industry worldwide. . Your Governing Committee for the next three years are, in alphabetical order: Jose Ayensa

(UEE); Frank Barker (Orica); Andy Begg (Individual Associate); Boet Coetzee (Individual Associate); Stephen Connolly (Orica); Dave Gleason (Austin Powder); Piet Halliday (AEL); Tov Haugen (Dyno); Karl Maslo (EXSA); and Claude Modoux (Poudrerie d'Aubonne). During its next meeting on the 29th January 2006 in Dallas, Texas, the Governing Committee will review the SAFEX strategy and organisation for the forthcoming three years. Members will be kept informed about the most important developments arising from this meeting

Change in SAFEX International contact details

The SAFEX head office has moved to Switzerland and has the following address:

Head office

**SAFEX International
c/o Modoux Services Sàrl
Route du Village 13
CH-1807 BLONAY
Switzerland**

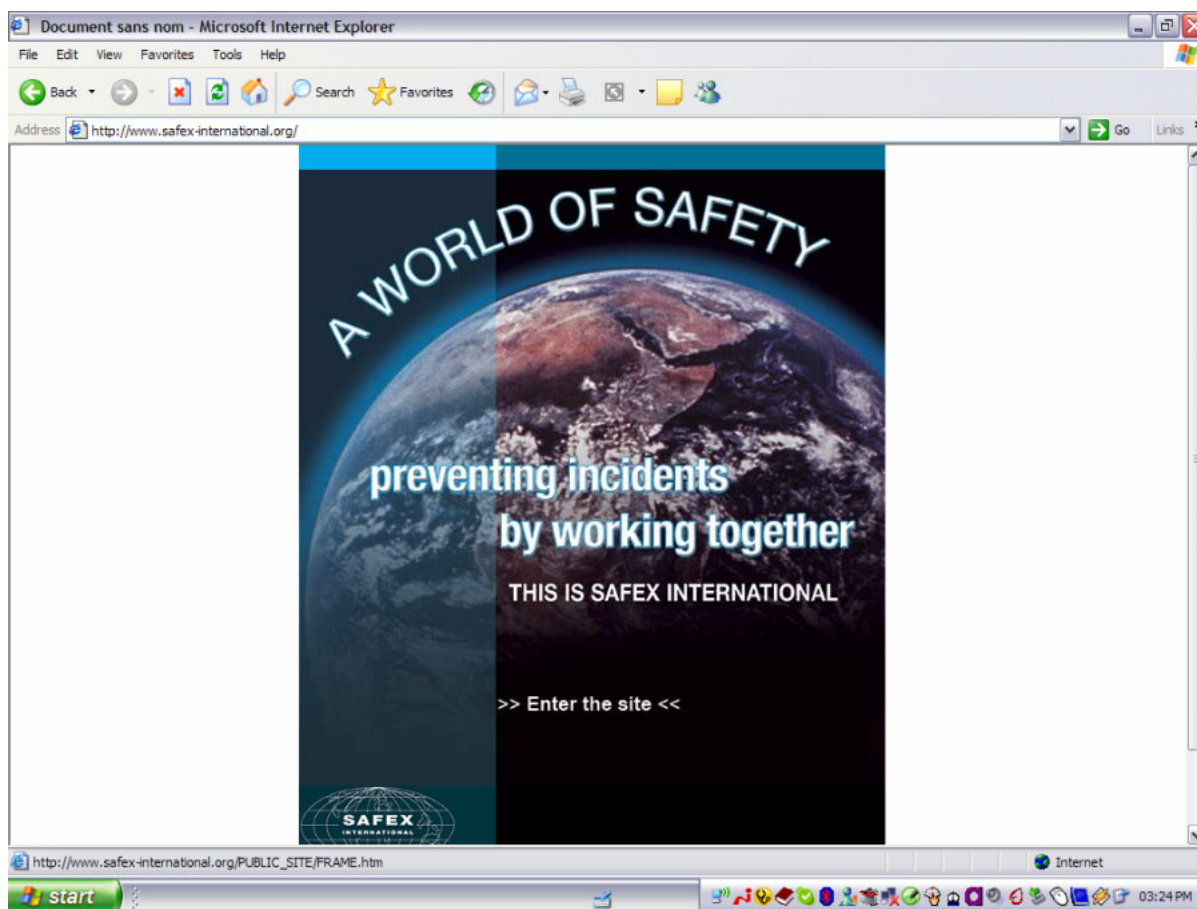
**Tel: + 41 21 943 0101
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Please direct all communications to Boet Coetzee who has taken over as Secretary General and can be contacted at:

Secretary General

**Tel: + 1 919 342 5848
Fax: + 1 919 342 5448
E-mail: secretariat@safex-international.org**

The SAFEX International website



Bernard has recently advised members that the first draft of the SAFEX website can be viewed on the internet. The URL is <http://www.safex-international.org>. This site comprises two sections: a **Public** area directed primarily at non-members and aimed at promoting SAFEX International and its ideals; and an **Intranet** for SAFEX members only. It is through the Intranet that SAFEX will increasingly be communicating with its members. Communication is a two way activity and we encourage members to use the Intranet for communicating with

the SAFEX Secretariat as well. The Intranet contains information on all the services SAFEX offers ranging from incident details to Congresses.

Access to the SAFEX Intranet will require a User ID and Password, which Bernard has issued paid-up members of SAFEX during the latter part of the year. The Password will be validated every year as members pay their annual subscriptions. If any member in good standing has not received an ID and Password to enable them to access the Intranet, please let the SAFEX Secretariat know as soon as possible. (See the contact details

elsewhere in the Newsletter).

The website is in its early stages of development. However, we do not want to start the refining process without feedback and further ideas from our members. Please use the opportunity to give us your ideas and to tell us how we can improve the user friendliness of the site. We need your help and input to make this site something of which SAFEX can be proud and a worthy tribute to Bernard's efforts.



Seasons Greetings



If you celebrate Christmas, as many of our members do, this is a special time of the year. Besides the significance of the Season, with the hope of peace and goodwill to all men, it also signifies the end of another calendar year. In itself that provides a tinge of nostalgia as we reflect on the past year. For those members who experienced incidents which resulted in fatalities or serious

injuries during the year, this is a time of sadness. Our hearts go out to family and friends of former colleagues for whom this is a difficult time of the year. However, the end of the year means the beginning of a new year. May any reflection on our safety, health and environmental performance during 2005 strengthen our resolve to do better in the year to come.

The Governing Committee joins me in wishing you compliments of the Season. We trust you will have a blessed time with your families and friends. Our prayer is for an increased commitment from all of us to ensure we are not adversely affected by mishaps in the workplace or at home. We look forward to supporting our members even more in those endeavours.

Boet Coetzee

Boet Coetzee
Chairman, SAFEX International

18 December 2005
