

INDUSTRY FORUM

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to PWTAG's Industry Forum. The forum is a fairly new initiative which allows the swimming pool industry to get involved directly in PWTAG's work.

As you probably know PWTAG plays a major role in the treatment and quality of public and private swimming pool water, through:

- monitoring and advising on important issues and developments – infections, pool management, pre-swim hygiene, new processes etc.;
- reviewing existing advice and publications – on design, spa pools, cryptosporidiosis, filtration, asthma etc.;
- publishing books, reports, guidance notes and press releases – on pool atmospheres, interactive water features etc.; and including our definitive book, *Swimming Pool Water*
- developing standards and legislation – including in 2012 the PWTAG Code of Practice which provides a functional benchmark for pool operation and a basis for PWTAG's Poolmark accreditation scheme. This Code of Practice will form part of the revised HSG179 for Safety in Swimming Pools. PWTAG was also one of the authors of the WHO guidelines on pools;
- developing training materials for pool operators, and accrediting trainers;
- research projects – on *Cryptosporidium*, filtration, sulphate attack of cement etc.

This work covers water in all types of pools whether under public or private ownership and management. PWTAG's brief includes research; work on guidelines and standards; product assessment; advice to pool managers and operators as well as to local authorities (particularly environmental health), industry etc. Some of the issues addressed by PWTAG arise from within the group; many come from outside – either as specific requests and suggestions or as a consequence of PWTAG's advisory role. In general, PWTAG acts as a focus for debate and improvement in management and operational standards.

In order to further improve that debate, PWTAG has set up an Industry Forum which enables member companies or organisations to be a part of formulating and updating the PWTAG national guidance standards in line with standards such as DIN, AFNOR, ANSI etc.

Membership provides a unique opportunity for you to have a say directly in the formulation of new guidance and revision of existing guidance and provides your company with a heads-up on the direction in which the industry is moving.

In joining the forum you will receive privileged information and be a part of forming future guidance to the industry. You will be included in the circulation of draft documents for comments etc, and be involved collectively in agreeing the technical content of the guidance documents prior to their publication and distribution. This will all be achieved using a website forum and responding to posted correspondence. It is envisaged that there will be at least one group meeting each year with all forum members being invited to attend.

Forum members can also raise issues for discussion or subjects for consideration that they believe require industry guidance and can advertise their companies or groups as being members of the PWTAG Industrial Forum.

I hope you will agree that this is unique opportunity – and all for an annual fee of £500. So far 15 companies have signed up. You will find them listed on the Industry Forum section of pwtag.org.

If you feel that your membership is consistent with our aims please complete the attached application form, return it to PWTAG, and we will consider your membership