

“Prospects for International Harmonization of Technical Guidelines and its Benefit for Globalized Markets”

More Than Twenty Years of CAGI – Pneurop Cooperation

Dan Ryan – 6 November, 2008

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Good evening, ladies and gentlemen

I am here tonight representing the Compressed Air and Gas Institute, a US trade association that is very similar to Pneurop.

The Compressed Air and Gas Institute represents approximately 36 companies, who manufacture air and gas compressors, low pressure high volume blowers, air treatment equipment including air dryers and filters, pneumatically operated tools, and small air compressors for home use.

The members of the Compressed Air and Gas Institute serve on various committees, all designed to promote our industry, and improve our customers experience with their use of compressed air and compressed air equipment. Our primary committees are the Marketing, Awareness and Education Committee, and the Standards Committee. The Compressed Air and Gas Institute also has membership groups that we call sections, whose membership is based on the equipment that each member company manufactures. I'm a member of the Air Filtration and Drying Section, and other sections include the Rotary Positive Compressor Section, the Air Tools Section, the Air Blower Section, the Centrifugal Compressor Section, and others.

One of the primary activities of the Compressed Air and Gas Institute has been to prepare standards for the safe and efficient use of air compressors, air treatment equipment, and pneumatically operated tools. Traditionally, the standards prepared by the members of the Compressed Air and Gas Institute were published in the US by ANSI, the American National Standards Institute. But in the mid 1980's our view of the compressed air industry began to broaden.

Around 1985, one of our member companies asked the Compressed Air and Gas Institute Board of Directors to investigate the activities, scope, and charter of the European organization called Pneurop. The request was made in hopes of formalizing the method of developing joint standards for compressed air equipment, because it was discovered that Pneurop was just as busy authoring European standards as the Compressed Air and Gas Institute was authoring US standards.

Our General Secretary, Mr. John Addington, was invited to attend the next Pneurop Plenary meeting. He returned to the US with a favorable report of the meeting, so the Compressed Air and Gas Institute invited Pneurop to send representatives to the next Compressed Air and Gas Institute meeting to continue the dialogue between the two organizations.

The following year the Compressed Air and Gas Institute President joined Mr. Addington at the Pneurop Plenary meeting in Europe. Our president at the time was Mr. Hugh Whitehous, who was employed by Stanley Air Tools. During that era, that the Priesident of Pneurop was Jan Wenstrom of Atlas Copco.

Mr. Addington, when telling me of his history with Pneurop said “When I started attending, the Pneurop Technical Officer was Peter Spiro, of the British Compressed Air Society. A wonderfully talented gentleman! Peter knew his subject technically, and he spoke four or five languages, so during a meeting he could slip into almost any language, help the members to reach an understanding, and move the meeting along.”

After a few joint meetings between the Compressed Air and Gas Institute and Pneurop, the Compressed Air and Gas Institute Board of Directors realized that it was critical that we send technical experts to the Pneurop meetings, rather than the Secretary and President of the Compressed Air and Gas Institute. And that is how I came to be standing before you, today! My first visit to Pneurop was in 1996, and I’ve not missed a meeting since then.

The similarities between the structure of the Compressed Air and Gas Institute *sections* and the Pneurop *committees* made it very simple to choose the technical representatives that would be sent to work with their counterparts at Pneurop. The Compressor Sections of the Compressed Air and Gas Institute are very well aligned with Pneurop’s PN2 Compressors Committee. The Air Drying and Filtration Section is similar to Pneurop PN14, the Compressed Air Treatment Committee, and the CAGI Tools Section aligns perfectly with Pneurop PN3, the Tools Committee.

Over the more than twenty years of working together, the relationship between Pneurop and the Compressed Air and Gas Institute continues to strengthen. There are numerous Pneurop/CAGI joint working groups in place today, working on standards in areas such as noise, safety, product performance, and the testing and rating of pneumatic equipment.

In addition, most of the technical members of the joint working groups are also involved with the writing and revising of ISO standards. Pneurop and CAGI members, along with the support from their member companies, are at the forefront of providing the technical expertise that’s required for producing useful standards for our own industry.

The Compressed Air and Gas Institute has recently started to shift its focus away from producing ANSI standards, and toward the production of ISO standards whenever possible.

One example of this policy shift comes from my own personal experience. Working together with other technical experts from the Compressed Air and Gas Institute and Pneurop member companies, we set out to create an ISO standard for testing compressed air filters that was to be based on an existing US ANSI standard. Once the ISO standard was published, the members of the Compressed Air and Gas Institute’s Air Drying and Filtration Section recognized that the ISO standard was actually was an improved version of the original ANSI standard, so last year we petitioned ANSI to withdraw the US standard, and now we direct all inquiries to the International standard.

Today there is only one world-wide standard for testing and rating this particular type of compressed air filter! In my opinion, that was quite an accomplishment, and it wouldn't have happened without the joint effort of Pneurop and CAGI members, working together to provide global standards for our member company's global customers.

So what does the future look like for Pneurop and the Compressed Air and Gas Institute?

It looks very bright indeed!

Today the Compressed Air and Gas Institute is working with Pneurop on not just standards, but in other areas as well, including reducing energy usage and promoting the "green" aspects of using compressed air to power tools and improve processes in our customer's factories. Both organizations will continue to provide education for our members, and for the users of compressed air and compressed air equipment.

The Compressed Air and Gas Institute will continue to send delegates to the Pneurop Plenary meetings, and we will continue to populate working groups with technical experts. And in return, we've extended an open invitation for Pneurop members to visit and contribute to Compressed Air and Gas Institute meetings and working groups.

So I'll close tonight by saying that I'm looking forward to another 20 years of productive cooperation between the members of Pneurop, and the Compressed Air and Gas Institute.

Thank you.