

Low-VOC update

Ottawa event kicks off BASF waterborne information sessions

BASF Canada, in collaboration with Co-Auto Co-Operative Inc., recently held an information session on the transition to low-VOC refinish technology. The event, held at the Southways Inn and Conference Centre in Ottawa, was aimed at preparing local collision centre owners for Environment Canada's upcoming VOC emission regulations.

"BASF is using its waterborne low-VOC expertise and partnerships with industry members and government bodies to raise awareness regarding the upcoming VOC regulations and the need to transition to the more environmentally friendly low-VOC technology," said Cameron Lavender, business development manager for BASF Canada. "This information session is the first of a series of sessions that will be held across Ontario."

GM approves two waterborne systems for collision repair

Sherwin-Williams' AWX and Akzo Nobel's Sikkens Autowave waterborne paint systems have received approval from General Motors for use in North American collision repair centres. "Balancing concerns for the environment with those of our customers is a key motivator for Akzo Nobel," says Tim Loden, director of marketing for Akzo Nobel Car Refinishes. "Waterborne technology is a change; however our California shops who have



BASF presented an award to CAMCO Acura for deciding to convert their paint shop to waterborne technology. From left to right: Steve Holmes, Co-Auto Ottawa; Mike Neville, fixed operations manager, Camco Acura; Joe Pereira, painter, Camco Acura; Mark Byers, collision centre manager, Camco Acura; Cameron Lavender, business development manager, BASF Canada.

Michelle Raizenne, Chemicals Sector Division, Environment Canada, outlined the regulations being developed to limit the VOC content of automotive refinish coatings, as well as considerations for refinish shops regarding the transition to compliant coatings.

According to BASF, minor equipment changes needed to transition to lower VOC products can be implemented in minimal time. Ron Tarini, training instructor for BASF Canada's Refinish Solutions, reviewed the process as well as the advantages of waterborne low-VOC technology.

been early adopters have found both the Sikkens Autowave system and the training assistance we are providing makes conversion virtually seamless."

The Autowave system has been in use in Europe since the early '90s.

Sherwin-Williams' AWX is a waterborne basecoat/clearcoat system which uses a proprietary resin system that behaves like the solvent-based systems currently in use.

"Our goal in launching this prod-

uct was to ease the fears and concerns bodyshop owners have in changing from a solvent to a waterborne system," explains Jason Crager, OEM account executive, Sherwin-Williams Automotive Finishes Corp. "Because AWX has solvent-borne-like application properties, it ensures a seamless transition and conversion. Technicians will be familiar and comfortable with the process already, requiring minimal training and start-up costs."