



## CHEMICAL BONDING

Stewardship is the key word in the relationship between Chartis and the Society of Chemical Manufacturers & Affiliates. The net result: reduced risk and safer, more environmentally friendly practices

Stewardship and success go hand in hand, particularly in an industry such as chemicals, which touches so many facets of our lives. As an association serving batch, custom and specialty chemical manufacturers whose products are essential to the well-being of people everywhere, the Society of Chemical Manufacturers & Affiliates (SOCMA) supports its members in their efforts to continuously improve the stewardship of all aspects of their operations.

The SOCMA ChemStewards® environmental, health, safety and security (EHS&S) program, designed specifically for small chemical manufacturers, serves as the foundation of these activities. Members commit to five core principles: improving employee safety, and employee and community health; promoting the concept of product stewardship; lowering the facility's environmental footprint; and increasing facility and supply-chain security.

The ChemStewards program is facility-

based because SOCMA's membership is so diverse. The program's requirements are determined according to the level of on-site risk, and third-party audits of every member EHS&S program ensure that companies continuously progress toward a higher level of performance. With more than 90 percent of members receiving verification of compliance, ChemStewards has proven to be one of the most successful initiatives of its kind.

For members, benefits go well beyond improved operational efficiency, increased regulatory compliance and reduced energy, raw material and waste handling costs. The ChemStewards program is recognized by government agencies, the chemical industry and many SOCMA member customers and suppliers, which equates to an competitive advantage. Increased employee participation in and commitment to EHS&S activities, and a demonstrated company commitment to continuous improvement and stewardship, are additional benefits.

One reward for SOCMA members is the

specialized Member Select Insurance Program offered by insurance company subsidiaries of the leading property-casualty and general insurance organization Chartis, which recognizes the commitment that members make to adhere to strict risk management programs. Participants receive specialized coverage enhancements, and the application of risk management underwriting credits (with a value of up to \$6,000 per verification term), following a successful audit and verification. They also receive access to other valuable policyholder programs.

"Risk management is a key aspect of the Chartis/SOCMA relationship," says Kimberly Hanna, President of the Environmental division of Chartis. "In addition to day-to-day business risks, chemical companies must deal with potentially catastrophic losses from accidental releases and spills, injury or damage from their products, and natural and man-made disasters. Through the SOCMA Member Select Insurance Program, Chartis provides insurance solutions for the most challenging environmental risks faced by SOCMA members. To make this happen, Chartis insurance companies provide specialized programs that are designed to help reduce risk before an incident happens, and coverage upgrades that help mitigate the financial impact in the event of an incident."

The relationship with Chartis is one example of programs SOCMA develops for its members. Recently, ChemStewards hosted the EHS&S and Sustainability National Conference to discuss the immediate impact of sustainability on business, and future options. At the conference, SOCMA, along with member Gabriel Performance Products LLC, introduced the ChemStewards Integrated Management System, a database that integrates SOCMA's program with other government-sponsored performance improvement programs including ISO 9001, ISO 14001 and OHSAS 18001.

"At SOCMA, stewardship of chemical-related business activities throughout the supply chain and the life cycle of chemical products is a prime focus. We develop tools and programs that educate our members and equip them to be good stewards, whatever they do and wherever they operate," says Lawrence D. Sloan, SOCMA's President and CEO. ●

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