



# Newsletter

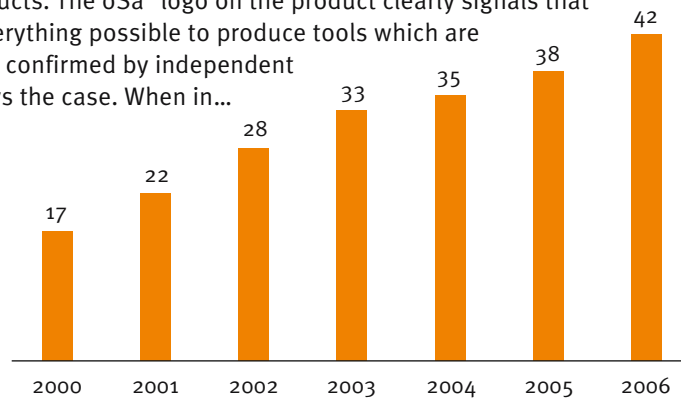
December 2006

## 5 years oSa® – a success story

At the start of 2000, 14 abrasives manufacturers founded oSa®; by the end of the year this had grown to 17 companies. Today our safety organization has 42 members worldwide. And interest continues to grow as industry, trade and users increasingly recognize the advantages of oSa®-labelled abrasive products. The oSa® logo on the product clearly signals that the manufacturer has done everything possible to produce tools which are as safe as possible. And this is confirmed by independent inspectors. That was not always the case. When in...

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oSa® membership trends since foundation



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### More training, fewer accidents – What users need to know about abrasives.

Interview with Geoff Clarke, TASSIA

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### Manufacturer of diamond tools for natural stone and construction

No other material is harder.

For around 40 years now tools have been available which use diamonds as an abrasive.

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## Editorial



Dear oSa® Newsletter Readers,

When oSa® was launched in 2000 there were many in the trade who doubted that this vision could actually be realised. After more than 5 years of oSa® we can say without exaggeration: it's a success.

Today oSa® is recognised and demanded by the abrasives sector as the number one safety brand. This did not happen by accident. The member companies of oSa® committed themselves firmly to this safety philosophy and took a great deal of additional effort to offer a genuine alternative in this area. Safety is becoming more and more a competition-relevant advantage. Provided safety standards are fulfilled, there is no fear of negative reports.

Best regards  
Dr. Markus Fischbacher  
oSa® President

oSa® – The Symbol of Safety

## 5 years oSa<sup>®</sup> – a success story ▶ Continued from page 1

... 1998 the DSA (Deutscher Schleifscheiben Ausschuss) was dissolved, abrasive tool manufacturers first found themselves in a helpless position. The DSA system had failed, mainly due to liability problems. It simply was not enough only to examine test samples selected by the manufacturer himself and to dispense altogether with works inspections in order to grant the seal of approval "DSA-tested". The idea was good, in particular the detailed safety requirements for the abrasive products. These were assumed into the European safety standards and are a keystone of the oSa<sup>®</sup>-philosophy.

### Accountability and independent inspection

What makes oSa<sup>®</sup> a success? On the one hand it is the fact that an external agency no longer guarantees or assures anything, but rather the manufacturer himself who is accountable. He must permanently monitor his production, document all of the relevant data, observe the safety standards and mark every product correctly.

And above all, he has to carry out the production-accompanying inspections himself, as ultimately every delivered product has to be as safe as possible. The oSa<sup>®</sup> monitors this with independent on-site inspections. First the applicant sends a large number of test samples to an independent test institute. During the actual audit, a further intensive inspection is carried out. A subsequent audit can also be ordered at any time if there is any reason for complaints.

Another reason for the success of oSa<sup>®</sup> is the fact that dealers and buyers are increasingly only ordering oSa<sup>®</sup>-labelled abrasive products. They are confident that these products have a recognised, high standard of safety in contrast to some cheap alternatives. This means that they can also share in the responsibility for the safe handling of abrasive products. Anyone involved in the sale of such products benefits from deciding in favour of oSa<sup>®</sup> products.

oSa<sup>®</sup> – The Symbol of Safety

## SERIES TESTING BY THE MANUFACTURER

### How well is the abrasive surface bonded to the substrate?

Following the bursting test, the second part of our series introduces tests which are important for diamond tools. These are grinding tools which have a body of metal with a grinding coat applied by laser welding, soldering or sintering. Typical examples of this product group are diamond saws or grinding plates. The safety standard EN 13236 stipulates in Sections 5.2.9 and 5.5.7 the requirements for the bond between grinding coat and metallic body. Destructive and non-destructive tests can be used, whereby the manufacturer can choose the method of proof

himself. The bending test on grinding discs (diamond saws) is possible without any major investment in test equipment. A (regularly calibrated) torque wrench is sufficient. In order to test the shearing strength of the segments on a grinding disc a more complex test set-up is usually required. The disputed non-destructive bending test of segmented diamond saws with regard to the possible pre-damaging of the connection between the segment and the disc is clearly regulated in the current standard EN 13236. The standard is currently under re-

view. Up to now, however, no majority has been found for the abolition of this test. The still valid rule which makes a distinction in the destructive test between a break in the connection zone and a break in the segment will be omitted from the revised standard. It had repeatedly led to discussions. In future the decisive criterion will be whether the segment fulfils the requirements. Loading until breakage point is no longer necessary. Whether testing is carried out manually or by machine – with documented measurement results the manufacturer



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

Figure 1–3: Segment testing

can, in the event of an accident with a grinding tool, prove that he has fulfilled his testing obligations. For oSa<sup>®</sup> members this seamless documentation is an obligation.



Geoff Clarke, TASSIA

## INTERVIEW

## “The trend is towards well trained abrasive tool users.”

TASSIA – Training and Safety Specialists in Abrasives is based in Stafford, England and was established in April 2000 by Geoff Clarke to provide comprehensive and up to date training and safety advice to the grinding industry. In addition to his work with the British Abrasives Federation (BAF) and FEPA, the Federation of European Producers of Abrasives, Geoff is the chairman of both the ISO Standards Committee and BSI Standards Policy Committee for abrasives and the principal UK expert for CEN, the European Committee for Standardisation. He has been a factory inspector for oSa for the past three years. He tells us about his work and his experiences in the following interview.

### Why was TASSIA formed?

It is a legal requirement in the UK for people using abrasive wheels to be properly trained. Many courses being provided were too general, inaccurate or out of date. Because of recent major changes to standards, legislation and codes of practise there was a need for a more specialised and

recognised training organisation specifically to train the trainers.

### How is this achieved?

TASSIA is the vehicle through which the British Abrasives Federation promotes safety in the use of abrasives. Our common aims to provide the most comprehensive, accurate and up to date information and training available has the full support of the Health and Safety Executive

### In your experience, where do the most accidents occur?

Where the machine or workpiece is hand-held.

### In your opinion, why do these accidents occur?

Lack of training in or failure to follow the correct procedures for selection, mounting and use of abrasives..

### What are the most common accidents?

Bodily contact with the abrasive, eye injury and wheel breakage.

### What are the main causes of injuries?

Lack of suitable machine guards, lack of suitable personal protective equipment and poor control of the machine or workpiece.

### What are the main causes of wheel breakage?

Damaged or faulty wheels, incorrect mounting and wheel jam.

### Does this mean that there are unsafe abrasives still in use today?

Yes, the sole consideration to many buyers of abrasive wheels is price. The current safety standards are not legally binding and action is rarely taken unless a serious accident occurs. This is why it is so important to buy only trusted abrasives from reputable manufacturers and this is what TASSIA promotes.

### Do users of abrasives recognise the EN number and oSa logo as the guide to safe products?

Many people who attend TASSIA training courses in the UK have little knowledge of oSa® and few are aware of the EN Standards. Hardly any of them have ever seen a FEPA safety leaflet or safety code or have heard of BAF or FEPA. We still have a major task in promoting these organisations and their objectives.

### How can this be achieved?

In addition to the current advertising, through our members' sales and marketing organisations,

### Revision of the European safety standards – current status

EN 12413 – Safety requirements for bonded abrasive products: The consultations for the revision will be finally concluded with the CEN meeting in June 2006. At present the formal adaptation is being initiated by CEN in Brussels. The new version of EN 12413 is expected to be published in the spring of 2007.

EN 13236 – Safety requirements for superabrasives: At the European CEN meeting expected to take place in spring 2007 all of the revision proposals made will be discussed. The new version of the standard could thus be published before the end of 2007.

EN 13743 – Safety requirements for coated abrasives: An application was made this year for a revision of the standard. The experts from the manufacturer companies are currently working on the revision proposals. The new version of the standard is not expected before 2008.

through our national trade associations and safety bodies and through abrasives training organisations.

**Mr. Clarke, thank you for this interview**

## PORTRAIT

## Manufacturer of diamond tools for natural stone and construction


For around 40 years now tools have been available which use diamonds as an abrasive. The natural stone and construction industries are the obvious application areas for these tools.

The worldwide market volume for diamond tools in stone and construction in 2004 amounted to around USD 720 million. This is a growth market, particularly with the construction industry booming in

Asian and South American companies and new stone quarries being opened up all the time. Some thousands of manufacturers are estimated to be operating here. Thus it is all the more important that the user can depend on the safety of a diamond tool. A hand-held diamond saw turning at a speed of 100 m/s can quickly become an extremely dangerous instrument. Our Newsletter of March




2005 reported on a typical accident. It is essential to put safety first and to trust in the products of our members. These products are manufactured and tested pursuant to EN 13236.













Today oSa® members who manufacture and sell diamond tools – see companies with the diamond symbol  at the backside.

# Welcome to the Club – oSa® Members

## NEW oSa®-MEMBERS:

-  **PENTAX SRL**  
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-  **BEIJING GANG YAN DIAMOND PRODUCTS COMPANY**  
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info@gy-diamond.com, www.gangyan-diamond.com

## oSa®-MEMBERS:

- ABRA BETA S.P.A.**  
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- GRANIT GRINDING WHEEL LTD.**  
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## TRADE FAIR DATES 2006/2007

15.12. – 17.12.2006	IIHT Expo   Mumbai (Bombay), India India International Hardware and Tools Expo
07.03. – 10.03.2007	Metall München   Munich, Germany
08.03. – 11.03.2007	Xiamen International Stone Fair   Xiamen/China
14.05. – 18.05.2007	LIGNA Hanover 2007   Hanover, Germany World Trade Fair for the Forestry and Wood Industries
30.05. – 03.06.2007	CARRARA MARMOTEC   Carrara, Italy International Fair for Marble
06.06. – 09.06.2007	Stone+tec 2007   Nuremberg, Germany
17.09. – 22.09.2007	EMO Hannover   Hanover, Germany
04.10. – 07.10.2007	MARMOMACC   Verona, Italy
05.11. – 10.11.2007	BATIMAT   Paris, France International Building Exhibition
13.12. – 15.12.2007	IIHT   Mumbai (Bombay), India India International Hardware and Tools Expo

## Imprint

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