

Introduction to EIGA

EIGA (European Industrial Gases Association AISBL), based in Brussels, is a safety, quality and technically oriented organisation representing the vast majority of European and many non-European companies producing and / or distributing industrial, medical and food grade gases.

The member companies co-operate closely in safety, quality and technical matters to achieve the highest level of safety and environmental care in the manufacture, distribution and handling of gases.

Support to authorities and standardization bodies

EIGA is in frequent touch with Standardisation and Regulatory Organizations and Authorities as well as trade and industrial organisations. EIGA is actively represented on relevant UN and ISO working groups and committees and provides Authorities with professional advice in the preparation of laws and regulations concerning gases and pressure equipment. EIGA also initiates the development of appropriate standards and provides standardization bodies with technical expertise.

Co-operation with other associations

EIGA co-operates with over 27 National Industrial Gas Associations in Europe, Middle East and Northern Africa and its sister Regional Industrial Gas Associations around the world such as AIGA (Asian Industrial Gases Association), ANZIGA (Australia/New Zealand Industrial Gases Association), CGA (Compressed Gas Association, USA), JIMGA (Japan Industrial and Medical Gases Association), and SACGA (South Africa Compressed Gases Association), which are all associated members to EIGA. EIGA is an Affiliate Member of CEFIC and participates in a number of CEFIC working groups.

Mission Statement

EIGA's mission is to:

- maintain the highest standards of safety and concern for the environment at work and in the community,
- provide Authorities and Standardisation Bodies with expert advice on production, transport, storage and applications of industrial, medical and food gases, and
- promote consistency of safety, health, environmental and technical standards throughout the gas industry.

Anti-Trust Policy

It is the strict policy of EIGA to comply with the letter and spirit of the European Union (EU) antitrust law and similar laws in the EU Member States and other countries. EIGA shall not be used as a forum for the discussion of business secrets. EIGA's meetings must always be conducted to avoid even the appearance that its Members are taking common action which might restrict competition.



Advice and guidance to the industrial gases industry

EIGA reviews reported accidents with the objectives of providing advice to members on how to prevent reoccurrence. EIGA provides advice and guidance on technical matters, particularly those which are safety-related.

EIGA gives guidance on relevant environmental issues to ensure respect for the environment and to prevent pollution.

EIGA informs and provides advice to members on relevant international legislative issues and the actions required for effective compliance.

EIGA produces position papers reflecting the industrial gases industries view on specific issues.

EIGA publishes a large range of useful documents, written by experts in technology and safety. The publications entitled "IGC / MGC Documents", "Position Papers", "Safety Newsletters", "Environmental Newsletters" and "Safety Information" are all available to the public on the EIGA website for downloading free of charge.

In addition, members can download " EIGA Office Documents", "Briefing Notes", "Training Packages" and "Safety Alerts".

The documents are reviewed and revised every 5 years by the working group experts.

Organization

EIGA has a President and a Board of Directors, which constitutes the governing body. The EIGA office deals with legal, financial and administrative matters and supports all technical and safety work.

Under the supervision of the Board, EIGA's four Councils, the Industrial Gases Council (IGC), the Medical Gases Council (MGC), the Regulatory Environment council (REC) and the Safety Advisory Council (SAC), direct the safety, environmental, regulatory and standardization activities of the various working groups in their respective fields of expertise.



Become a Member

In this spirit, EIGA as one of the oldest Industrial Gases Association, has developed continuously over the past 90 years and has grown to currently represent more than 160 members and continues to change to ensure it represents the interests of the industry.

Membership of EIGA is granted to those persons and legal entities that fulfil the criteria – even when based outside Europe - and that are duly approved by the EIGA Board of Directors.

EIGA membership gives you the opportunity to get access to a professional network amongst experts from the largest and most competent companies in the world with a broad background from gas manufacturing, analyzing, filling, distributing etc.

Furthermore, as an EIGA member, your staff has full access to the extensive and valuable EIGA library with its technical documents, training packages or safety alerts etc, as well as to the working groups and experts that create them.

Representatives of your company will be personally invited to all EIGA events, to develop and enlarge their network with people not only from Europe but from around the globe as a result of our good cooperation with other regional associations.

If there are individual problems to be solved in your plants or for example with your authorities regarding regulations, our experts will give you advice or written support.

Become an active participant to all EIGA events and you will get all the benefits of our services.



How to apply for EIGA membership:

The steps are:

Send an informal letter on your company's official paper to EIGA, applying for membership.

Please provide details of your activities and operations and state that you are a producer and /or distributor of industrial and/or medical gases or CO₂ and that your company has a safety management system in place. If available, ISO certificates or equivalent and company brochures should be attached to your letter.

Please confirm that your company will comply with EIGA's Mission and guidelines (see above and our website at www.eiga.eu).

You should also indicate your approximate aggregate annual turnover for industrial and medical gases and carbon dioxide as our active members are categorised by turnover /year:

- Turnover up to 40 million € / year. Annual fees for Category 3 membership for 2011 are 6,120 € / year.
- Turnover between 40 and 500 million € / year. Annual fees for Category 2 membership for 2011 are 12,240 € / year.
- Turnover above 500 million € / year. Annual fees for Category 1 membership for 2011 are 35,700 € / year.

The letter should be signed by your managing director.

To ensure delivery, please also fax it to EIGA, fax no +32 2 219 85 14 or scan and email with attachments to the General Secretary at p.brickell@eiga.eu.

Your application will be reviewed and presented to the EIGA's Board of Directors for approval. The Board's approval must be ratified by the Annual General Meeting (AGM) held in June each year.

After these steps you will receive all membership forms, access details and an invoice for the complete current year.

Please send your application for membership to:

Mr. Philip Brickell, General Secretary

EIGA

Avenue des Arts, 3-5

1210 Brussels

Belgium

In case of queries please do not hesitate to contact the General Secretary at any time at p.brickell@eiga.eu or by telephone on +32 2 209 60 35.

EIGA Objectives

EIGA actively promotes safety, health and environmental care through working groups at management and technical expert levels, through the publication of a wide range of technical literature, and through the organization of conferences and symposia.

The objectives that these activities address can be defined as follows:

- To promote general safety, health, and environmental awareness in the Industrial, Medical and Food Gases and Carbon Dioxide industries so that occupational injury and illness is minimised, environmental damage is avoided, and continual improvement of performance in these areas is achieved.
- To review accidents and identify their causes for the purpose of providing guidance on preventing their recurrence or minimising their consequences.
- To provide information and recommendations to local, national and international authorities and organizations for their guidance in the preparation of laws, regulations and standards which are both practical and effective.
- To promote harmonization in technical and safety related standards and practices within the industry through establishing effective liaison with other international and national gas associations, and working with them to achieve international consistency.
- To co-operate with other organizations on safety and environmental standardization matters.
- To organise and arrange international congresses or conferences on topics within the Associations field of activities, and make the outcome available to the Associations members, to the relevant national and international authorities, and to the general public.
- To initiate research and studies, through its Experts Working Groups, in the Associations field of activities, particularly in the area of safety, and to prepare and issue publications.