

SAFEX CONGRESS XX



SALZBURG

23 till 28 April 2023

Congress Bulletin – Overview

What are the Congress Bulletins?

While there is only 8 months to go before Congress, we need to plan for it sooner rather than later. To help you plan and help us make this Congress even better than the previous one, we must communicate with each other. To this end we will issue two Congress Bulletins.

These Bulletins focus on the Congress only.

Reach for your diaries!

After several postponements caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, the SAFEX Board of Governors agreed to hold the next SAFEX Congress, our 20th, from **Wednesday, 26 April to Friday, 28 April 2023** in **Salzburg, Austria**. The pre-Congress activities will commence on **Monday, 24 April** and run through to **Wednesday, 26 April 2023**. The Saturday will be dedicated to an excursion to the Salzburg surrounds.

Will your Company be represented?

On Wednesday afternoon, **26 April 2023** we will be registering delegates for the XX Congress in the foyer of the **Salzburg Conference centre in Salzburg, Austria**. The question is: Will you be among those delegates, and will we have the pleasure of handing you your Congress materials? If you can't make it, will there at least be a representative of your Company attending Congress? SAFEX wants to see as many of its member companies represented at our Congress as possible. The greater the representation at our Congress, the more opportunities we have to learn from each other and so improve the health, safety, security and environmental (HSSE) performance of our industry. This is after all the SAFEX way.

Why should my company be at the Congress?

Congress is the forum where as many SAFEX members and associates as possible get together to exchange experiences that will make our industry across the world healthier, safer, more secure and friendlier to the environment. It is the place where we learn from each other. Therefore, every member company has something to give (a responsibility) and will, in turn, get something back (a benefit). The fact that SAFEX Congresses have grown over the 69 years of its existence is proof of this.

What is this Bulletin about?

This bulletin answers the basic questions you have about going to the Congress such as:

- ? **Why** should my company be at the Congress?
- ? **What** will it cost my company?
- ? **Who** should attend from my company?
- ? **When** and **where** will the Congress be held?

Answers to these questions will help you get started with your planning. Further information will be provided in subsequent Bulletins.

This Bulletin's Key Points

- The XX SAFEX Congress in 2023 will be held from 23 till 28 April 2023.
- The Congress will be held in Salzburg, Austria.
- Kindly diarise these dates and advise others in your Company
- Note the Congress activities and milestones that are planned

How do we exchange experiences at Congress? We do it through the activities we arrange. Some of them take place before the Congress starts. These pre-Congress activities include:

- **Training Session.** This is a 2-day training course run on the Monday and Tuesday preceding the Congress for the first 30 people that sign-up for it when we ask for participants. **Basis of Safety Applications** training will be the focus of this Training Session.
- **Workgroups.** SAFEX established 5 Workgroups to look at good practices for (1) Remediating explosives plants and facilities (2) PETN Safety in Manufacturing; (3) Explosives Transport Safety; (4) Primaries Safety in Manufacturing (5) Electrostatic Discharge Controls. Workgroup members offer the best expertise available from our member companies and meet on the Wednesday. While these Workgroups have a core membership of standing members, any SAFEX member is welcome to attend their meetings as ad hoc participants.

Congress Registration takes place on the Wednesday afternoon. This is followed by the official Welcome on the Wednesday evening. Other Congress activities comprise:

- **Two days of Plenary Sessions** giving unrestricted attendance to all Congress goers. The Plenary Sessions will be dealing with Incidents that members encountered and learnt from, safety and health systems employed, security issues and much more. The themes for the days will be announced in future bulletins.
- **General Assembly.** We hold the Ordinary General Meeting of members as required by our Articles of Association at the end of the first day on Thursday. It only takes about an hour during which we deal with the acceptance of new members and associate members, the appointment of the Board of Governors and other standing items. It is the opportunity for members to influence the future direction of SAFEX.

While the emphasis at Congress is on work, we believe our Social Programme can promote the networking among members. This is a crucial benefit of any Congress. The Congress Social Programme includes:

- **Partners' Programme.** There is a programme on the Thursday and Friday for spouses and partners that accompany delegates to the Congress. Lunch is provided on both days. This is a small way in which SAFEX members recognize the role partners play in supporting our industry.
- **Gala Dinner.** The Gala Dinner takes place on the Friday evening and is the climax of the Congress and its official closure.
- **Delegates Excursion.** We traditionally have a full day excursion on the Saturday after the Congress for those that can stay on after the Congress.

What will it cost my company?

SAFEX Congresses are funded from members' annual membership fees. There is, therefore, no Congress fee. However, your company will be expected to pay the transport and accommodation costs necessary for you to attend the Congress. This means if you want to participate in the Training Session or Workgroups beforehand it only entails the extra cost of the hotel accommodation. We will be advising you of the accommodation arrangements and costs in a subsequent Bulletin.

Who should attend from my company?

Our rules allow every member company to send 4 delegates of their choice to Congress. Group members are allowed 12 delegates from the Group. Presenters of Papers, core members of Workgroups and participants in the Training Session are not included in this quota. We will be providing more information to presenters in a future Congress Bulletin. Besides possible presenters, we encourage chief executives and SAFEX contact persons of member companies to attend. Even if your chief executive can only make it on the Thursday, he/she will be most welcome. In the past Company delegates have come from functions such as production, maintenance, design and HSSE. However, it is up to every company to decide who its delegates should be.

When and Where will the Congress be held?

The Congress itself will take place from the evening of **Wednesday, 26 April until Friday, 28 May 2023 in Salzburg, Austria.** Please note the pre-Congress activities on the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning with a Gala Dinner on the Friday night. On the Saturday we will arrange an Excursion as mentioned before.

What is the way forward?

The next Congress Bulletin will be issued in the next few months and will cover:

- **The Congress Programme.** This bulletin will describe the full programme and include details on:

- **Hotel accommodation.** We will describe the accommodation options you have and how to go about making your hotel reservation.
- **Registration.** Registration documents will be sent out with above.

What must I do now?

Each Bulletin requires an action on your part. This Bulletin invites you to:

- Diarise the Congress dates
- Circulate this information to people in your organisation who may want to participate in our Congress.
- Note the Themes which the Board has suggested for the Plenary Sessions
- Be alert to subsequent Bulletins and act on them promptly.
- Plan next year's travel commitments with the Congress in mind.



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21 July 2022