



THE PIPELINE SYSTEMS MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION: GOALS, TASKS AND FIRST STEPS

By Vladislav Tkachenko

The Pipeline Systems Manufacturers Association (PSMA) is the legal successor to the Non-Commercial Partnership for Promotion of quality plastic pipeline systems. It was founded on 16 May 2017, when the Members of the Partnership approved the Rules of the Association, its goals and objectives and formalised its Charter which must be signed by all participating organisations. The amendments were registered with the Ministry of Justice and the Association officially began operating from 21 June.

One of the important priorities for the Association is a fundamental solution for counterfeit and fake products in pipeline systems. The suggested programme covers various stages of project implementation – design, construction and operation of the project – and includes the following measures:

- **Pre-bid prevention of counterfeit products:** Work with the design and operating companies to provide information about the current situation in the market, as well as the correct and precise preparation of technical requirements for product and project specifications.

- **Choice of equipment/technical solution supplier:** Work with construction companies, customers and design organisations to find optimal technical solutions within budget.

- **At the bidding stage:** In line with Federal Laws 223-FZ and 44-FZ, amendment of the tender documentation with the necessary requirements (sanctions), toughening requirements regarding the product supplied and include a warning about the significant material and legal fees (fines, penalties, non-return and non-payment for the products), which the supplier will bear in the event of non-compliance;

- **At the delivery stage:** Incoming product quality control screening by the construction company to identify obvious non-compliance with GOST in terms of appearance, size and marking of the product, violation in the accompanying documentation (quality statement and compliance certificate) or identify suspected defects. Compiling of formal report on sampling,

testing and expert evaluation report on compliance/non-compliance with GOST;

- **In the event of an accident during pipeline operation:** Conduct an internal investigation within the scope of the operating organisation in order to reveal any defects in the supplied equipment and materials which were not detected at the incoming control stage or at the commissioning of the site.

The information on fight measures against counterfeit and fake products will be posted on the Association website and sent to all the members of the Association and professional community.

In addition to the above, a museum of counterfeit products is planned which will present the following:

- An interactive map of the counterfeit producers included in the list of dishonest producers;
- Pictures of the workshops;
- Samples of the counterfeit products.

The Association plans to organise forums and seminars with participation of government representatives, public organisations, the media for the organisation and information support for the prevention of counterfeit and fake products. Particular attention will be given to the work with the State Committee for illegal circulation of industrial products with regional subcommittees and other authorised bodies.

The Association's website is currently being updated. It will contain lists of trusted and rogue producers of pipeline systems, accredited and unaccredited laboratories (testing centres) and certification bodies operating in the Russian Federation. Members of the Association and the professional community will be offered consultations and an insight into the problems related to pipeline systems.

The section containing regulating documents will be updated and the site will host the latest information on Federal costing for materials and works, the current domestic and foreign technical guidance documents (for application) and standards (for the products) for pipeline systems in

various industries, and lists of documents being translated or actualised. Feedback on actualisation of National regulations and standards will also be accepted.

There are plans for cooperation with International Associations to enable access to the world's leading experiences including:

- The European Plastic Pipes and Fittings Association (TEPPFA);
- Spanish Association of Fluid Handling Equipment Exporters (FLUIDEX).

The Association is currently establishing business relations with industrial, federal and regional ministries and bodies, regional and municipal legislative committees, international and domestic public organisations, and foreign and Russian companies.

The Pipeline Systems Manufacturers Association invites all interested parties in the professional community who care about market recovery and improvement of pipeline infrastructure in Russia to become members.

Charter of the Pipeline Systems Manufacturers Association

- The clauses of the current Charter are obligatory for the members of the Pipeline Systems Manufacturers Association (hereinafter referred to as Association) and have an advisory function for the other companies in the market of the Russian Federation.
- We, the manufacturers, sellers and consumers of pipeline systems products, representatives of domestic and international business community, have concluded the present Charter for the basic principles of responsible business we intend to follow. We believe that successful development of entrepreneurial activity is only possible with the development of the society, technological progress, safety and welfare of the citizens and environmental protection.
- The members of the Association, in their action and dealings with business partners, within and outside the Association, are responsible for the following:
 - Accept the following legal documents as the basis for the Charter:
 - Constitution of the Russian Federation;
 - Civil Code of the Russian Federation;
 - Administrative Offences Code of the Russian Federation;
 - Federal Law dated 12.01.1996 No.7-FZ "On non-commercial organisations";
 - Federal Law dated 26.07.2006 No. 135-FZ "On protection of the competition";
 - Federal Law dated 27.12.2002 No. 184-FZ "On technical regulation";
 - Federal Law dated 29.06.2015 No. 162-FZ "On standardisation in the Russian Federation";
 - Law of the Russian Federation dated 07.02.1992 No. 2300-1 "On consumer rights protection".
 - Not to seek economic benefits and conquering of the market by deviation from the technical requirements towards pipeline systems, drop of the quality of the offered goods and operational safety;
 - Conduct entrepreneurial activity ethically, in good manner, fairly and honestly with the partners and competitors;
 - Follow the principles of fair competition, care about own business reputation and that of the Russian business as a whole, abstain from defamation and allegations;
 - Follow the principles of fair price formation and responsible advertising;
 - Respect intellectual property law, take the right protection actions according to the current law;
 - Honour the conditions of the contracts with the business partners and bear responsibilities;
 - Be ready for the possible audit checks of the products and production conditions involving independent experts;
 - Try to increase the share of the products manufactured in accordance with the quality control standards. Do not allow application of fake raw materials for the production of pipe goods;
 - Use knowledge and experience in ecological safety to ensure health and welfare of public on the territory of production location and other sites;
 - Try to create and support the working conditions that do not harm health and dignity of the personnel;
 - Aim to produce only quality goods and services, favourable and safe for welfare of the consumers;
 - Aim to establish efficient partnership with regional and local authorities, public institutes with the intent of joint achievement of the goals of the Association and community development;
 - Uphold the principles of confidentiality, i.e. non-disclosure of the information related to activity of the member of the Association or the Association as a whole, that was specified by the member or the employee of the Association (verbally or in writing) as confidential;
 - Aim to resolve conflicts amicably by negotiations, mediation and compromise;
 - Promote Charter principles amongst the members of the market of pipeline systems;
 - Support and give preference to the suppliers which respect the principles of the present Charter.
 - Observation of the present Charter is the main element of the universal and unbiased evaluation of the member of the Association.
 - The evidence of Charter violation by the member of the Association are reviewed by the Board of the Association and/or by a General meeting with further sanctions implication including the possibility of exclusion from the Association at the General meeting.