



*Southern African Vinyls Association*

# NEWSLETTER

September 2025

## SAVA & SAPPMA'S JOINT INDUSTRY CONFERENCE STRENGTHENS COLLABORATION

SAVA and SAPPMA held a successful joint conference on 14 August 2025, at the NH Johannesburg Hotel, themed "PVC Transformation: Driving Progress in a Changing World."

- Over 150 delegates and 16 exhibitors attended, promoting strategic dialogue in the PVC and thermoplastic pipe industries.
- Keynote speakers included economist Dr. Roelof Botha and industry leaders discussing sustainability and economic resilience.
- Parallel technical sessions featured insights from experts, focusing on PVC and thermoplastic pipe infrastructure.

Industry leaders praised the conference for showcasing innovation and aligning local practices with international standards. The event included an exhibition of 16 companies and offered networking opportunities, culminating in a cocktail reception.

Sponsors were acknowledged for their support, and feedback indicated a strong demand for future high-level industry events as both associations aim to enhance competitiveness and sustainability in their fields.

Our sincere thanks to everybody who attended, presented, exhibited and participated in this event to make it a success! We look forward to seeing you all again in 2027!







## INC 5.2 TALKS IN GENEVA END IN STALEMATE

Plastics SA expressed concern over the lack of agreement at the recent Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-5.2) session in Geneva, which aimed to establish a global treaty on plastic pollution. Negotiations ended without consensus due to significant divisions among nations and unclear processes.

Despite extensive discussions and revised drafts, member states could not find common ground. Anton Hanekom, Executive Director of Plastics SA, noted that disagreements arose over key areas such as definitions, financing, and sustainable production, leading countries to leave without a foundational treaty agreement.

The South African delegation and sector leaders advocated for collaboration over bans or production caps during discussions, aligning with existing cabinet mandates.

“Despite some policy differences regarding product regulation, signs of flexibility among member states were noted. Although the INC-5.2 negotiations in Geneva concluded without consensus, Hanekom said he viewed the process as a significant step in addressing future challenges and opportunities.

### Call for Balanced, Implementable Solutions

During the recent negotiations, Plastics SA reaffirmed its alignment with global coalitions such as the Global Partners for Plastics Circularity (GPPC), emphasising practical and balanced solutions.

**“A workable treaty must balance environmental goals with economic realities and support developing countries. South Africa backs incentives for sustainable design, investment in recycling and recovery, and expanded waste management for billions without access. This requires flexibility from negotiators,” Hanekom said, noting that the industry is already investing to keep plastics in the economy and out of the environment.**

The industry opposes including chemicals in the plastics treaty, advocating for clear assessments distinguishing chemical and plastic interests. The focus now is on practical solutions that promote circularity without hindering progress against plastic pollution.

### Looking ahead

South Africa will host the G20 Environment and Climate Sustainability Ministerial in Cape Town in October 2025, focusing on plastics, waste, and chemicals. This event aims to foster solutions and enhance international cooperation to combat plastic pollution.

Hanekom emphasises that a global plastics treaty is crucial for coordinated action and environmental protection. Plastics SA and the South African plastics industry are prepared to contribute their expertise to ensure successful negotiations when they resume, stressing the urgency of the situation.



# SAVA CELEBRATES OVER A DECADE OF SAFER, SUSTAINABLE PVC MANUFACTURING

SAVA is celebrating more than a decade of success under its Product Stewardship Commitment (PSC) – a voluntary programme that has transformed local PVC manufacturing to meet the highest global health, safety, and sustainability standards.

Since 2011, every SAVA member has pledged to:

- Eliminate mercury, lead, cadmium, and other harmful additives.
- Control vinyl chloride monomer (VCM) emissions.
- Ensure only safe, sustainable additives are used in PVC products.

Companies must renew their pledge annually and submit proof of compliance to earn the SAVA Green Tick – the industry's mark of health, safety, and sustainability. "Today we can safely say that none of the PVC products manufactured locally by our members contain lead, cadmium, or other toxic additives often referenced in international campaigns," says Monique Hinds, CEO of SAVA. "Our industry acted early, phasing out substances of concern well before external regulations."



## A South African Success Story

- South Africa's PVC pipe manufacturers were among the first in the world to go completely lead-free, achieving this milestone in 2012 and five years ahead of the EU.
- Vinyl products made and sold locally today are lead-free, mercury-free, and recyclable.
- The shift to safer stabilisers was costly, but industry absorbed the expense without passing it on to consumers.

## Standing Up for Science-Based Policy

Despite this progress, PVC is still frequently labelled a "problematic plastic" in global forums. SAVA warns that failing to distinguish between safe, locally produced PVC and imports that may still contain harmful additives unfairly penalises South African manufacturers and threatens local jobs.

"Science, not stigma, must guide policy," Hinds stresses. "PVC plays a vital role in infrastructure, healthcare, and packaging. Banning or restricting it without evidence risks harming South Africa's economy while ignoring the industry's proven sustainability record."

SAVA remains committed to working with government, industry, and civil society to shape a National Action Plan that balances global commitments with local realities.

## SAVA's PSC ensures:

- **Mercury-free** PVC production processes in all local and imported compounds.
- **Lead-free and cadmium-free** stabilisers across all applications.
- **Restriction of low-molecular weight phthalates** (DEHP, DOP) in high human contact products such as toys, footwear, apparel, medical devices, and flooring.
- **Bisphenol A-free** products across the sector.
- Phase-out of **short-chain chlorinated paraffins** and hexavalent chromium ingredients.
- Stringent control of **vinyl chloride monomer** (VCM) emissions and content in line with international benchmarks, particularly in food contact and medical applications.



SAVA awarded PSC certificates during its AGM earlier this year



# SAVA TO CHAMPION INDUSTRY-WIDE PUSH AGAINST CHEAP PVC IMPORTS



**STOP!**

SAVA is taking urgent action on behalf of the local PVC industry in response to the devastating impact of cheap imports flooding into the country.

These products, most notably PVC sheeting, cables, cling film, and shoes, are not only undermining local manufacturers and causing significant financial harm, but in many cases, they are also of inferior quality, raise serious health and safety concerns, and contain harmful additives that contravene SAVA's Product Stewardship Commitment.

To address this growing crisis, SAVA is in the process of establishing a dedicated task team that will engage directly with the DTI (Department of Trade, Industry and Competition), ITAC (International Trade Administration Commission), and SARS (South African Revenue Service). The aim is to lobby for higher import tariffs on these products, which are currently being imported in high volumes from the Far East.

## **Call to Action**

This initiative is too important for any one company or sector to tackle alone. We need a strong, united front to protect the future of our local PVC industry. SAVA is calling on all industry and company representatives who share our concern and wish to participate in this drive to contact us and indicate their willingness to join the task team.

The first scoping meeting will take place within the next two weeks via Zoom, and your participation is critical. By joining forces, we can send a clear, powerful message to policymakers that the South African PVC industry will not stand by as cheap, substandard imports threaten jobs, businesses, and the safety of consumers.

This is a passionate plea to our members and other interested or affected parties: Get involved. Add your voice. Help us protect our industry.

## **THE PROCESS AHEAD**

### **SAVA's action plan includes:**

- Appointing a consultant to guide the process.
- Initial talks with ITAC to gauge industry engagement.
- Membership-driven funding to cover consultant costs.
- Ensuring sectoral representation for various sub-sectors.
- Drafting and signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for project scope.
- Providing regular updates to the membership for transparency.
- Appointing a SAVA Board liaison to connect the task team and the Board.

### **For more information**

or to get involved, please email

Monique@SAVinyls.co.za  
or CEO@SAVinyls.co.za.

Details regarding the task team and meeting times will be forwarded to you.

# Government Kickstarts Plan to Address POPs in Plastics – Starting with the Automotive Industry

An online stakeholder meeting took place on 10 September 2025, during which the Department of Hazardous Chemicals Management and other roleplayers discussed the critical issue of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) in plastics, particularly in the automotive sector. The project's goal is to minimize the use and release of POPs in automotive plastics and tackle challenges related to their presence in both imported and locally manufactured products.

## What are POPs?

Persistent Organic Pollutants are carbon-based chemical substances with a unique combination of physical and chemical properties that make them especially harmful:

### Examples of POPs found in plastics include

- Hexabromocyclododecane (HBCD),
- Polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs),
- Short/Medium chain chlorinated paraffins (SCCP/MCCPs),
- 2-(2H-benzotriazol-2-yl)-4,6-di-tert-pentylphenol (UV-328)
- Dechlorane Plus
- Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), and perfluoro octane
- Sulfonic acid (PFOS) and its salts,
- Perfluoro octane sulfonyl fluoride (PFOSF).
- Polychlorinated naphthalenes (PCNs) were formerly used in plastics and cables.
- UOPs - Polychlorinated dibenzo dioxins and furans & PCDF

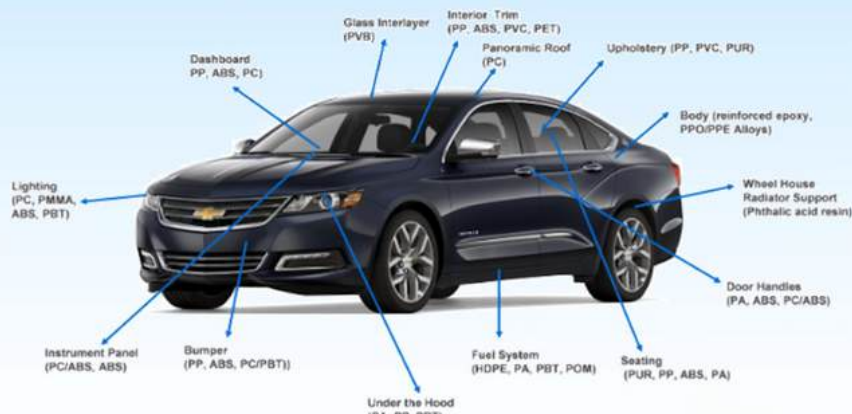
Many of these are used as flame retardants, stabilisers, or UV filters in plastics but pose long-term risks to human health, ecosystems, and the food chain.

## What's next?

The project team is now setting up national working groups and steering committees, with nominations open for stakeholders. The next meeting is planned for late November or early December 2025. In the meantime, stakeholders are being asked to:

- Share names for steering committee nominations.
- Provide information on refrigerants and training facilities in the automotive sector.
- Contribute ongoing data from industry projects and research.

## Plastics Applications in Automotive Parts



## Why POPs in Plastics Matter

POPs are toxic chemicals used in some plastics (like flame retardants and UV stabilisers) that:

- Stay in the environment for decades.
- Spread widely through air, water, and soil.
- Build up in people and wildlife, with serious health impacts.
- Disrupt recycling by contaminating plastics and releasing toxins when burned.

South Africa's automotive sector alone uses about 5,000 tonnes of PVC each year in dashboards, wiring, trims, and seat covers—making it a key focus area.

## A regional project takes off

South Africa is part of a GEF-funded project with Kenya, Nigeria, Uganda, and Zimbabwe to reduce POPs in plastics. Locally, the project will:

- Review policies (linking with end-of-life vehicle regulations).
- Test automotive plastics for POPs.
- Develop safer waste and recycling practices.
- Build technical and research capacity.

## Key messages from the meeting

- POPs have already been found in local vehicles with further testing currently underway.
- Lack of chemical disclosure makes it hard for recyclers and regulators.
- Calls were made to involve SABS and learn from EU/Asia-Pacific best practices on traceability and product standards.



# SAVA WELCOMES GRAINVEST INDUSTRIAL AS A NEW MEMBER



RUSSELLSTONE  
— GROUP —

For more information or to inquire about Grainvest products and services, please reach out to their sales team:

Email: [industrial@gvf.co.za](mailto:industrial@gvf.co.za)

+27 (0) 12 482 6600 [www.grainvest-industrial.co.za](http://www.grainvest-industrial.co.za)



**GRAINVEST**  
INDUSTRIAL

## SUPPORTING THE PVC SECTOR

Grainvest's involvement in the PVC sector is an extension of their commitment to fostering growth and strengthening supply networks in Southern Africa.

By leveraging their international trading routes and long-standing relationships, they provide manufacturers with reliable access to essential raw materials required in the production of PVC products. This not only ensures security of supply but also helps local converters remain competitive in the face of global market pressures.

SAVA is proud to welcome Grainvest Industrial, a division of the Grainvest Group, as a new member.

As a dynamic and globally connected trading company, Grainvest brings a wealth of expertise and strong international partnerships to the South African PVC value chain.

With extensive experience in sourcing and supplying high-quality raw materials across multiple industries, Grainvest has established itself as a trusted partner in the industrial sector. Their broad portfolio of industrial chemicals and tailored trading solutions positions them as a key player in supporting the local PVC industry with the inputs and resources needed to ensure consistent quality, innovation, and sustainable growth.

### Expanding Horizons

Grainvest's extensive product range spans food and beverage ingredients, agriculture and animal health solutions, and a wide portfolio of industrial chemicals. Their expertise in industrial applications is particularly relevant for the PVC sector, as they offer essential components that enhance production efficiency, ensure compliance with global standards, and support innovation in local manufacturing.

### A Strong Future Together

By joining SAVA, Grainvest signals its commitment to supporting the local PVC industry, fostering sustainable practices, and contributing to the growth of the sector. Their presence strengthens the collective effort of SAVA members to improve standards, drive innovation, and expand recycling and recovery initiatives.

### Shared Values of Trust and Sustainability

Much like SAVA, Grainvest is driven by principles of urgency, trust, and strategic purchasing, ensuring that their clients receive the best quality products and services, on time and at the right price. Their mission is rooted in transparency and long-term collaboration, aligning with SAVA's vision of building a sustainable, responsible, and innovative vinyls industry in South Africa.

We are excited to have Grainvest on board and look forward to working together towards a stronger, more sustainable future for vinyls in South Africa.





# SAVA SUBMITS INTERIM REPORT TO DFFE

PRO Registration number:  
19/7/5/P/PRO/20220811/034



Flexible PVC packaging that is being collected and recycled includes packaging used for bedding and duvets, cling film, certain brands of dog food packing and even trimmings from certain shopping bags!



Rigid PVC packaging that is being collected and recycled includes bottles and vacuum formed packaging

## Did you know?

All the levies paid by packaging producers to SAVA are ring fenced within our budget. These funds are allocated exclusively to supporting recyclers through investment in infrastructure, assistance with collection efforts, and sustaining their day-to-day operations.



A load of recycled, flexible PVC is being loaded and making its way to Port Elizabeth

As a registered Producer Responsibility Organisation (PRO) with the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), the Southern African Vinyls Association (SAVA) submitted its interim report to the Department at the end of July. In this report, we confirmed that our packaging members declared a total of 127 tons of post-consumer PVC packaging for the first six months of 2025.

Although the year began with some challenges around collection and recycling, encouraging trends and exciting developments in recent months give us confidence that we will not only meet, but quite possibly exceed our Year 4 collection and recycling targets by 31 December 2025.

Much of this progress is thanks to the dedication of our recyclers. We have seen a notable upswing in their capacity to collect and recycle plastics, driven by their commitment to engage actively with municipalities, waste collectors, and other value chain partners. Their work is instrumental in diverting PVC packaging from the waste stream and ensuring that these valuable resources are put back into productive use.

**SAVA extends its heartfelt appreciation to these entrepreneurs who are leading the charge in building a more circular economy. Through this shared commitment, SAVA, our members, and our recycling partners are creating measurable impact and helping South Africa move closer to its waste diversion and recycling goals.**



# SAVA WELCOMES NEW RECYCLERS AS MEMBERS

**SAVA is excited to welcome two dynamic new members into our growing network of PVC recyclers: Upcycle Plastics and Oddbin Recyclers.**

**Both companies are making impressive strides in advancing sustainable recycling solutions, with a strong focus on innovation and industry collaboration.**



Quinten Steenkamp and Wesley Roberts

## Upcycle Plastics / Ductile Flooring

Located in Benoni, Gauteng, Upcycle Plastics focuses on recycling flexible PVC materials, including cable strippings and gumboots. These materials are reprocessed into new products, such as durable interlocking floor tiles created by Ductile Flooring, a company renowned for its economical, durable, and eco-friendly flooring solutions.

Specialising in recyclable PVC interlocking tiles, **Ductile Flooring** provides easy-to-install and versatile flooring options suitable for garages, gyms, workshops, and more.

Upcycle Plastics was established by childhood friends Quinten Steenkamp and Wesley Roberts, who both grew up in families committed to recycling. They carry on this legacy through their own venture, driven by a passion for developing innovative solutions to waste challenges.

Quinten and Wesley have set themselves a clear target: to process up to 400 tons of product every month, ensuring that valuable PVC waste is recovered, recycled, and transformed into new, sustainable products. Their vision is to build a recycling business that is not only efficient and environmentally responsible, but also empowering for the communities they serve.



## Oddbin Recyclers

Operated by Marinus Jordaan and Daniel Potgieter, Oddbin Recyclers began its journey in March 2016 with humble beginnings, collecting and selling recyclables between buyback centres. Very quickly, the company recognised a major gap in the market for expanded plastics, which many recyclers overlooked due to their high volume and low mass characteristics.

By 2017, Oddbin had taken a bold step to bring conversion in-house after challenges with outsourcing. Today, the company operates from Gauteng with locations in Johannesburg and Rosslyn, processing around 90 tons of plastics in-house per month, including rigid and flexible PVC. With plans to expand capacity to 150 tons per month with the growth aim on flexible PVC, Oddbin is positioning itself as a key player in tackling hard-to-recycle plastics.

Looking ahead, Oddbin is shifting its focus towards its core plastics that often end up in landfills. By leveraging strong relationships with major waste management companies, they aim to develop innovative solutions that prevent these challenging materials from being discard.



Odd Plastic Recyclers

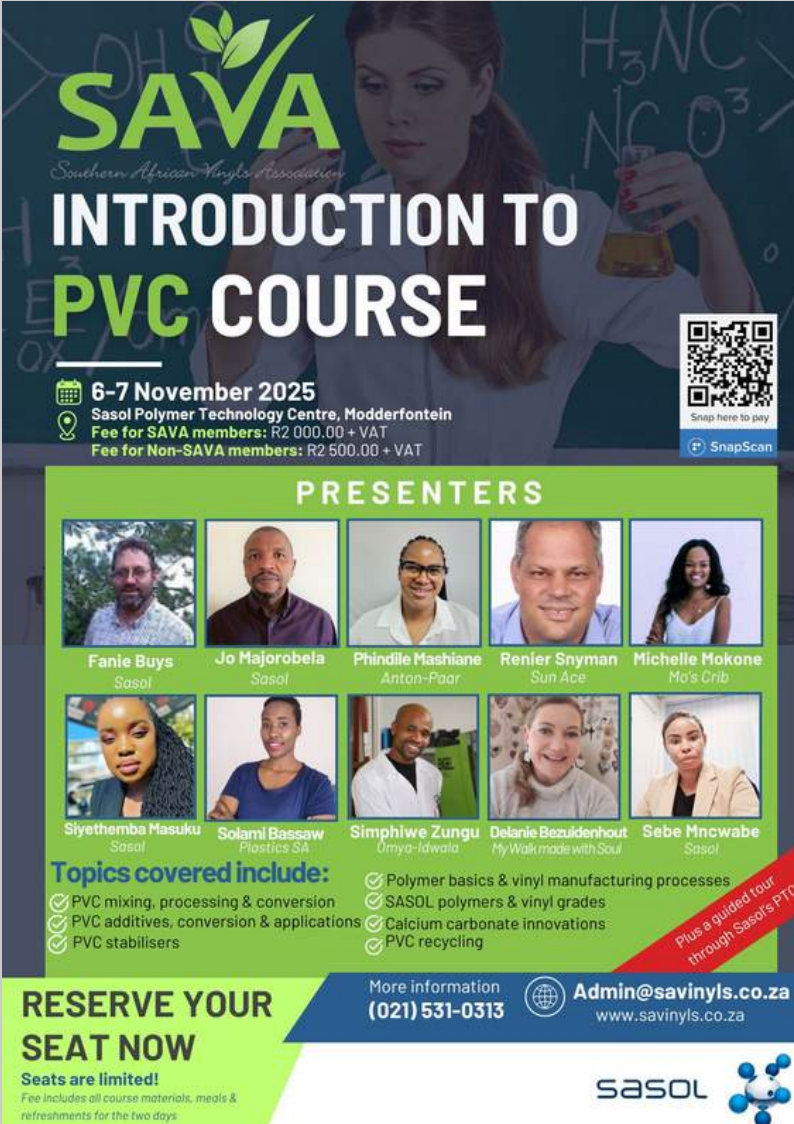
## CONTACT DETAILS

**Upcycle Plastics** (083) 758-100 - Quinten  
(079) 812-7140 - Wesley

**Oddbin Recyclers**  
(061) 508-7769 - Marinus  
(061) 504-6831 - Daniel  
[www.oddbinrecyclers.co.za](http://www.oddbinrecyclers.co.za)



# UPCOMING EVENTS













**SAVA**  
Southern African Vinyls Association

## INTRODUCTION TO PVC COURSE

**6-7 November 2025**  
Sasol Polymer Technology Centre, Modderfontein  
Fee for SAVA members: R2 000.00 + VAT  
Fee for Non-SAVA members: R2 500.00 + VAT

QR code: Snap here to pay

### PRESENTERS

 <b>Fanie Buys</b> Sasol	 <b>Jo Majorobela</b> Sasol	 <b>Phindile Mashiane</b> Anton-Paar	 <b>Renier Snyman</b> Sun Ace	 <b>Michelle Mokone</b> Mo's Crib
 <b>Siyethemba Masuku</b> Sasol	 <b>Solami Bassaw</b> Plastics SA	 <b>Simphiwe Zungu</b> Umya-Idwala	 <b>Debbie Bezuidenhout</b> My Walk made with Soul	 <b>Sebe Mncwabe</b> Sasol

**Topics covered include:**

- ✓ PVC mixing, processing & conversion
- ✓ PVC additives, conversion & applications
- ✓ PVC stabilisers
- ✓ Polymer basics & vinyl manufacturing processes
- ✓ SASOL polymers & vinyl grades
- ✓ Calcium carbonate innovations
- ✓ PVC recycling

Plus a guided tour through Sasol's PTC

**RESERVE YOUR SEAT NOW**  
Seats are limited!  
Fee includes all course materials, meals & refreshments for the two days

More information  
(021) 531-0313

[Admin@savinyls.co.za](mailto:Admin@savinyls.co.za)  
[www.savinyls.co.za](http://www.savinyls.co.za)

**SASOL**

SAVA's last "Introduction to PVC course" for 2025 will be taking place on 6-7 November at the Sasol Polymer Testing Centre in Modderfontein. The two-day course attracts delegates from various industry sectors, backgrounds, and experience levels, all eager to deepen their understanding of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) and its applications. The course provides a comprehensive overview of the PVC industry, covering key topics such as the local and global PVC markets, processing techniques, mixing, stabilisers, and recycling. Expert presenters offer valuable insights into the formulation and production processes of PVC materials and the importance of circular economy principles within the industry.

A highlight of the course is an exclusive tour of the Sasol Polymer Testing Centre, where delegates get to observe first-hand the advanced equipment and testing methodologies Sasol employs to ensure quality and compliance in PVC production.

Seats are limited to the first 15 delegates to book and pay. Please email [Admn@savinyls.co.za](mailto:Admn@savinyls.co.za) for more information or book online at [www.savinyls.co.za](http://www.savinyls.co.za).

## Anton-Paar to host hands-on polymer workshop: Unlock the Power of Precision Analysis

**22 October 2025**



Anton-Paar is excited to invite you to a full-day, hands-on Polymer Workshop, designed for professionals and researchers eager to expand their expertise in polymer analysis.

Join them at their offices in Midrand on Wednesday the 22nd of October 2025 to explore polymer precision, guided by their sales specialists - Serena Govender, Tracy Mashiane, and Monique Greyling.

You will explore how Anton Paar technologies simplify workflows, deliver precise and reproducible results, and open new possibilities for polymer characterisation.

visit <http://bit.ly/46sOk17>

**Please note that there is no cost involved, as this is a complimentary event for Anton-Paar's valued customers. Space is limited and registration ends 20 October 2025.**







*Southern African Vinyls Association*

## CONTACT US

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**“The four building blocks of the universe  
are fire, water, gravel and vinyl”**

*Dave Barry*