

Knowledge is the Best Insurance

If you were offered an opportunity to spend quality time with leading experts in your field, where in-depth discussions and dialogues occurred on subjects that directly impacted your business, would you do it?

If you knew of a meeting that was happening — where a decision that could mean the difference between meeting the needs of your customer, or not, was being made — and you had the opportunity to vote on that decision, would you do it?

AGMA holds 150+ meetings like this every single year through our Technical Division. These committee meetings have 250+ industry professionals participating in them. On a five-year rolling basis, AGMA updates 61 different standards and 39 different information sheets covering 23 different committees. These committees touch on every possible facet of gear design, nomenclature and manufacturing impacting 100% — that's right, 100% — of the products any gear company makes.

This isn't a free service — to participate your company must join AGMA, then join a committee in which you have specific interest. AGMA has two full time staff engineers and a full time publications manager who oversee this industry function — and the organization covers the cost for the Webex conference call system, the Higher Logic online information sharing portal and software, and covers the travel to attend a variety of ISO meetings that occur throughout the world.

Joining AGMA and a committee is an investment in making sure you and your team are up to speed on the latest math, science, strategy and execution of all facets of gear manufacturing and production. Without participation, you *may* be doing things in the most up-to-date way — but you would be **guessing**. Actively participating in the standards development process **ENSURES** you are current in process and with the latest information.

You may think your own internal team has all the answers, but by actively participating on a committee, you see and hear the vigorous debates members have on very in-depth topics. Through this process, your team learns what to focus on, what to consider, and what you may need to adjust within your own company.

And that knowledge is invaluable. Where else but AGMA can you leverage the opportunity to share knowledge with experts with 30–40+ years of experience, when the result can help you as a person, and your company as a whole?

Why not make committee participation a part of your team's human resource investment? Think of it as training that is done regularly, with the best teachers, and all you need to do is allow access via tele-conference.

Just more than 97% of the committee work AGMA does is done online via Webex. Gone are the days of considerable travel, and days on end meetings at hotels. The same conversations happen, but just about all of it is done online.



Matthew Croson
President of AGMA

Without this technical knowledge, built over 103 years of standards development — which is why AGMA was created back in 1916 — your company doesn't have the minimum technical requirements in order to do business in the U.S. or the world.

Think of it as technical insurance against your company's core product.

There isn't a serious customer in the world that isn't going to reference an AGMA, DIN or ISO standard when they put together the engineering specifications for their projects. So, without in-depth knowledge of these standards, through active participation in our technical committees, non-participating companies could be not current — perhaps leveraging decades old knowledge from the in-house engineering team. It could be right, or it could be very wrong. Is that knowledge gap a risk your company is willing to take? Is that the insurance you are comfortable with when it comes to your core product?

Now, more than ever, it's critical you and your company get involved.

Investing is all about managing risk — and for a reasonable cost along with about an hour each month on a WebEx-discussing important topics that directly impact your company — being an AGMA member is a good technical risk management technique.

In the past three years since I joined AGMA, I have had the honor of visiting 94 different AGMA members in the U.S., Canada, Germany, France, the Netherlands, and India — in every company I have visited, AGMA's standards have been talked about and discussed. If you are a current member, thanks for supporting our primary mission via your dues and your participation — and please consider investing in your people via active technical committee participation.

If you are not a member, consider joining AGMA and supporting our efforts to ensure both your people and your company have the most current technical standards to leverage as you innovate for your customers.

It's an investment in your people and your company — and I guarantee it will pay off — just like it does for 472 current AGMA member companies.

Working together, we have created a strong technical platform to ensure our industry is meeting the needs of its customers via standards and information sheets. To ensure we maintain this business insurance policy, we need more companies to get involved. Visit www.agma.org and see how we can connect your company to leaders and get you started. 