

SPECIALITY CHEMICALS ESTABLISHED 1981 MAGAZINE

Speciality Chemicals Magazine (SCM) is a monthly publication dedicated to the fine and speciality chemicals sectors and downstream consumer industries, notably – but not limited to - pharmaceuticals, agrochemicals and personal care. It has a historic link to the Chemspec shows, which originally grew out of SCM from the 1980s.

SCM is mainly features-led and the feature articles are a mixture (approximately 1:2) of articles written in-house and submitted articles from industry, consultants and academia and linked to a specific subject in the schedule for a particular edition. There is also scope for ad hoc articles on different subjects, both in the magazine itself and the bi-weekly newsletter.

The features are mainly themed around an end-use for fine and speciality chemicals, e.g. Pharmaceuticals, Biocides, Surfactants, Flavours & Fragrances etc. There are also some on areas of chemistry, such as Peptides & Proteins or Flow Chemistry, and others like Regulation & Compliance.

Submitted articles in SCM are generally 1,000-2,000 words in length (1-3 pages), with at least one appropriate photo, diagram, tables or figures per 500 words. Some articles have been longer than 2,000 words, where appropriate. About 800 words is the basic minimum.

Our readers are mainly working chemists and managers in the fine and speciality chemicals sector with a background in chemistry. Therefore, we mainly look for technical articles focusing on (relatively) new developments in chemistry and technology for applications relevant to fine and speciality chemicals and the industries they serve, though we also use articles with a business, market or regulatory focus.

SCM's commitment to editorial integrity is absolute. There is no charge for publishing an article or any requirement to advertise alongside one (although it is, of course, welcome and many companies choose to do this). Nor will articles be accepted purely because a company is advertising with us.

By prior agreement only, we carry Sponsored Content, which by design fits in well with the rest of the content and is flagged up as Sponsored Content. We do not publish purely promotional articles or accept placed news stories.

All articles that are agreed for publication in principle and arrive on schedule will be used, provided that they meet our editorial standards. All of them will be edited for quality and to ensure that they meet house style. The edited version is sent back to the author(s) for comment and feedback, so that a final version can be agreed. Normally changes are made for spellings, clarity, house style and length (including having too many figures).

The revised version will then go to the production editor to be put on the page. Further small changes may be needed at this stage, mostly to ensure that the article looks good on the page – such as removing widows and orphans from the tops and bottoms of columns or adding further cross-headers. We do not send out galley proofs, but will send a PDF of the article on the page, if requested.

Key guidelines in terms of the process are as follows:

When suggesting an article, please include an outline of the planned contents so that it can be evaluated immediately for suitability, as well as a date you are confident you can deliver it by

A deadline will always be agreed and the editor will send an email reminder a couple of weeks before, but please stay in touch and let us know ASAP if you might be struggling to meet the deadline. There is generally an option to hold an article to a future issue and deadlines can sometimes be stretched a little

Articles should be submitted as a Word document in the following format: Normal Style, Times New Roman 14 point 100% size, justified to left and right. Please do not, for example, centre headings or indent paragraphs or otherwise suggest styles

Images should be JPG, EPS or TIF files of at least 300 dpi resolution and no smaller than 150 x 120 mm. We can source generic images if needed but those supplied by authors are usually preferable. We cannot use BMP files or PowerPoint illustrations

All figures, tables, etc., should be numbered consecutively and captioned in fewer than ten words. Details of reaction conditions etc. should usually be in the text rather than by the figure. We do not use the terms ‘Scheme’ or ‘Diagram’; these are always figures.

All illustrations should be sent separately, not embedded in the article. Also, do not indicate where they should go, as our lay-out does not work that way

Key style guidelines are as follows:

Articles should begin with a title (no more than 10 words) and a standfirst of no more than 20 words, introducing the author(s), their affiliation and the subject of the article, e.g. ‘Catherine Gondran and Anne Clay of Ashland share some results of tests with Procataline G2’. The standfirst should have a maximum of two named authors; any others can be acknowledged in a footnote

No need for an abstract or author biography. Author photos are welcome but not required

Articles should ideally include short cross-heads in bold, introducing different sections, spaced as evenly as is practical throughout the article. We may alter the position of these cross-heads or add/remove some as seems appropriate when putting the article on the page.

House style is UK English, e.g. –ise rather than –ize. However, the editor will routinely apply this in the editing process and explain any changes so there is no need to worry about this unduly. Given enough time, the editor can also translate from French, Spanish and Italian

Keep paragraphs shorter than would usually be the case in academic or technical journals. Two to three sentences per paragraph is about right most of the time

Words not of English origin should be *italicised*

It is fine to mention company and product names in context, but please do not use trademark symbols. A footnote clarifying this can be made at the first mention of the product, e.g. ‘Atlox is a registered trade mark of Croda’

It is also fine to write in the first person (i.e. ‘I’, ‘we’ rather than ‘the author’)

Company names should be in the short form (e.g. ‘Dow’, not ‘The Dow Chemical Company’) and without the use of legal suffixes like ‘Corp.’, ‘Ltd.’, ‘GmbH’, etc. They should also be in the grammatically correct form, regardless of how they are written for marketing communications, e.g. no names entirely in capital letters, unless they are spelled out as such when spoken (e.g. BASF, DSM)

Please avoid generic marketing messages and other marketing clichés (e.g. use ‘services’ or ‘systems’ rather than ‘solutions’), and other unenlightening techno-speak (e.g. ‘seamless integration’)

Please spell out acronyms first time, then use them in second references, e.g. ‘polyethylene glycol (PEG)’ thereafter ‘PEG’. There is no need to do this for very common acronyms that are part of everyday speech (e.g. R&D) or that everyone in this industry will know (e.g. API, CEO). Long acronyms should generally not be capitalised unless not doing so would cause confusion with a real word (e.g. REACH)

Job titles should be in lower case, except in the contact details

Avoid colloquial phrasing (e.g. ‘isn’t’) outside reported speech

Avoid internal quotes, i.e. any by the author or anyone else working for the company

Monetary values should be converted to Euros using the € symbol, unless there is a particular reason not to (such as quoting historic figures or directly quoting someone from outside Europe, particularly the US, who would naturally use another currency in speech)

Weights and measures should be metric, not imperial – i.e. kg not lbs, tonnes not tons, km not miles, unless there is a specific reason not to. Please beware, especially, of using ‘tons’ and ‘tonnes’ as if they were the same.

Percentages: Always use the % symbol rather than spelling out ‘percent’

Chemical compound names: Subscript or superscript numbers as appropriate – thus H₂O, 20 m², etc. Where Greek letters are used in chemical names, use that letter

Capacities, sales etc. should be rendered ‘1,000 tonnes/year’ or ‘€500 million/year’, not ‘a year’ or ‘per year’ or ‘per annum’, ‘p.a.’ etc.

At the end, please include the contact details (Name, Job Title, Company Name, Telephone, Email, Website) of someone who could respond to

reader enquiries. This is usually the author but does not have to be. Generic 'info@' email addresses should be avoided

Footnotes are welcome. These should always be to specific publications from which a statement is derived or supported, using standard abbreviations. Our standard format is 'J.G. Thomas *et al.*, *J. Org. Chem.*, **1960**, *14*(2), 223-225'. Do not put additional information in a footnote, but include it in the text. Please also do not include a general 'Further reading' list of publications; only those publications being cited directly should be listed