

## EGGA committee meetings in Liverpool 19-21 November 2014

EGGA autumn committee meetings was held in Liverpool 19-21 of November. Liverpool is also the city for the worldwide galvanizing conference Intergalva 2015. Below is a summary of what was discussed in the committees.

### ***Environmental committee***

#### **CLASSIFICATION OF LEAD METAL AND RELATED ISSUES**

One quite important question for those who use lead in the zinc bath is the suggested EU classification of lead metal for reproductive toxicity, which means a limitation of lead in consumer products. From the beginning the suggested limit was 0,03 %. According to latest news the new limit is proposed to be 0,3%. Lead is used as an addition to the galvanizing bath in many countries, and it is known to improve the process. For those that use recycled zinc for galvanizing it will be hard to stay below the suggested limit value. Murray Cook suggested that the position from the galvanizing industry should be that galvanizers want to have the possibility to use recycled zinc to be environmental friendly, and because of that we don't want a too low lead limit. Murray's advice was "Don't talk about that lead additions to the zinc bath facilitates the process, since we not want to be seen as lead proponents".

The directive WEEE/ROHS is also about lead limitations, in this case for electrical components. There is an exemption that allow higher lead content in galvanized steel, due to an EGGA collaboration with the electronic industry. For batch galvanizing 0,1 % of lead is accepted.

Lead related questions are quite a big issue for galvanizers in many countries in Europe. Galvanizing without or with very low lead content is problematic and less profitable according to many galvanizers.

#### **ZINC IN WATER ISSUES**

##### *Water Framework Directive (WFD)*

There is now a new review of the list of priority substances. Frank van Assche from the zinc producers association IZA made a presentation about the latest news regarding the WFD. Until now zinc is not classified, instead it is a "Specific Pollutant" and is measured in most EU member states. But in the new review zinc is back in focus! The authorities are interested in checking the quality of the measured zinc data, collected in different countries around Europe. New data is collected, and there are discussions regarding national monitoring data, if the BLM-model should be used or not, etc. In some countries there are point sources with high zinc levels, for example in Cyprus and Slovakia. These point sources are often due to historical metallurgical activities. The accepted limitation value for zinc in water in Europe according to the commission is 10,9 µg Zn/l. Thus, the limit value in Sweden is suggested to be lower than that, which is something we now discuss with the authorities.

##### *The situation in Stockholm*

Nordic Galvanizers and many other branch associations for different types of products and construction materials commented on the new "Stockholm Chemical Plan" last spring, but the plan was accepted without any changes. None of the comments was accepted or reacted on. Both zinc and copper and other substances are on the local "Watch List" for Stockholm, i.e. usage and how the components spread will be studied, but there is no specific limitations of use so far.

The Stockholm Environmental Plan, according to which zinc in roofing and facades should be avoided, will be updated next year. Pia Voutilainen, representing Copper industry in Scandinavia, suggested that zinc and copper industry should do a project together and hire a lobbyist, for example from the company Kreab, for activities next autumn. The main goal for the project is to get all restrictions for usage of zinc and copper removed from Stockholm Environmental plan.

##### *Evaluation of the BLM model usability in Nordic countries*

A new project to evaluate the usability of the BLM-model for Nordic waters will start in Nordic countries, coordinated from Finland. Experts from Stockholm University and the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency will participate in the project and it is important that the industry is present too.

## **CONSTRUCTION PRODUCTS DIRECTIVE/REGULATION – ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS**

The standardisation group CEN/TC 350 has now proposed to include ecotoxicity indicators in life cycle assessments, EPDs and sustainability assessments for buildings. Ecotoxicology is the study of how chemicals affect the environment and the organisms living in it. The goal of ecotoxicity is to understand the concentration of chemicals at which organisms in the environment will be affected. This concentration should be avoided in order to protect the environment. The conventional methods to evaluate ecotoxicity is not applicable on metals, so the metal industry has to work together to protect metals from unfair assessment. A “Metals for Buildings” alliance has been created.

### *PEF pilot project*

‘Product Environmental Footprint’, PEF, is a new important way of evaluate the environmental friendliness of products. The Product Environmental Footprint (PEF) is a multi-criteria measure of the environmental performance of a product or service throughout its life cycle. PEF information is produced for the overarching purpose of seeking to reduce the environmental impacts of goods and services taking into account supply chain activities (from extraction of raw materials, through production and use, to final waste management). EGGA takes part in a pilot project on metal sheets together with other metal industries.

## **MATERIALS IN CONTACT WITH DRINKING WATER**

Germany and some other EGGA member countries run a project for that topic since about two years back, but there was nothing new to report at this meeting.

## **CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Gerhard Remerink from the association Zink Info Benelux (Belgium and Holland) will retire and Annikki Hirn from Nordic Galvanizers will take over the chairmanship of the committee.

### ***Technical committee***

## **EN 1090 AND CE MARKING FOR STRUCTURAL STEELWORK**

EGGA has worked together with the steel association ECCS to produce a guideline for steel constructors and galvanizers. The EGGA Guidance was published in June 2014 and is now translated to many different languages, Swedish among others. EGGA and National Associations in some countries works together with Notified Bodies to develop a system for certification/approval of galvanizers that are subcontractors to steel construction companies that CE-mark their products. In Sweden/ Nordic countries we work together with Nordcert on this issue.

## **REVISION OF EN 1090**

### *EN 1090-2*

EGGA:s position is that a revision is not needed. The existing requirements are good basis for CE-marking. From Germany there has been a suggestion to expand 1090-2 with about 22 pages including requirements on surface treatment and corrosion protection. EGGA has reacted against that, since the German suggestion will increase the work and make galvanizing much more complicated. It is important to follow the work in the standardization group TC 135 very closely to defend the galvanizing industry.

### *EN 1090-4*

There is a proposal for a new part of 1090: “EN 1090-4 Execution of Steel Structures and Aluminium Structures Part 4: Technical requirements for thin gauge, cold formed steel elements and structures for roof, ceiling, floor and wall applications”

## **STANDARDS**

Many of the standards galvanizers use or is in contact with is now subject to possible revision.

- Revision of EN ISO 1461 and EN ISO 13713. Secretariat ISO TC 107 SC 4

- prEN 10348 – ‘Galvanized Reinforcement for Concrete’. Part 2 (non-harmonized, no CE-marking)
- ISO/TC 156 – ‘Corrosion of Metals and Alloys’.
- ISO 16701 (revision) ‘Accelerated Corrosion Testing’.
- ISO 11303 ‘Guidelines for selection of protection methods against atmospheric corrosion’.
- EN 1317-5 ‘Vehicle Restraint Systems’.
- EN ISO 12944 – amendments for longer service life for paint coatings.

#### *DASt 022 Revision*

Next version is expected to end of 2015. Fully linked to Euro Code 3 and EN 1090. Venting and draining: reference to EN ISO 14713-2. Pre treatment parameters; min flux concentration 350 g/l. The new revision will also include high temperature galvanizing. All load bearing constructions that will be used in Germany have to fulfil the requirements in DASt 022.

### **ONGOING RESEARCH AND PROJECTS**

#### *AVCOP Sol Gel Post Treatments*

A post treatment that prevents white rust formation on the galvanized steel and make it bright and shiny after galvanizing.

#### *SIROCCO – Slip Resistant Connections*

To pass annex G in the standard 1090-2 the displacement must predict a maximum displacement of no more than 0.3 mm in 50 years.

### **NEW PROJECTS**

#### *Zincfire*

The Zincfire research proposal, in which fire resistance of galvanized steel will be evaluated, didn't get any official financing from the European research funds, but since it is an interesting topic EGGA intend to run it as a smaller EGGA-project with a lower budget.

### **Marketing committee**

#### **PAST REFLECTIONS ON THE EGGA MARKETING COMMITTEE**

An interesting presentation was made by Klaus Niederstein, the first chairman of the Marketing Committee (in 1972). Klaus gave a summary about how his own company and the EGGA marketing committee has grown during the past years. In 1955 the “galvanizing legend” Bablik was the first president of EGGA! Klaus also reminded us to analyse the market place continuously, be innovative and creative and stop the competitive products by offering better solutions!

#### **LOGO/SYMBOL FOR BATCH GALVANIZING**

There was a discussion about establishing a symbol and identity for batch galvanizing. The focus should be on the unique features; thick coating, bonded to the steel, total coverage. It should be a global symbol, not to indicate a specific quality, and not only for association members. Some examples of symbols created by a marketing company was shown during the meeting, but they didn't look very impressive. This topic needs further work.

#### **COMPETITIVE THREATS FROM CONTINUOUSLY COATED STEELS**

Continuously galvanized steel with alloys containing aluminium and magnesium is a threat to batch galvanized steel. Marketing of such products are very aggressive and they show quite good result in some accelerated salt spray tests. Thus, full scale studies has shown corrosion problems and it is

obvious that this types of products are not suitable as replacement for galvanized steel, but this has to be shown also to the customers.

## **ECO-MARKETING PROJECTS**

### *EGGA LCI Project Update*

EGGA will update the earlier LCI work, which is the base for the book “Galvanizing and sustainable construction” and the EPD (Environmental Product Declaration) for galvanized steel. Detailed work is now ongoing to define the questionnaire for a web-based collection of data in line with the requirements in the standard EN 15804.

## **EGGA Board meeting**

### **MEMBERSHIP QUESTIONS**

Turkey entered as member for 2014 Progression to full fees over 4 years (25/50/75/100%) The fee for 2014 is paid in full but now Turkey has asked to terminate their membership. The outcome of informal discussions with the Turkish Association is that they have financial problems because of non payment of fees by their members. They are not able to pay 2015 EGGA fee, which is a problem since their request for termination was too late to make it possible for them to leave without paying for 2015.

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| Hungary | New representative: Tomas Banoczki  |
| Poland  | Further discussions will be performed (Cooperation on WFD activities, Invite to Polish Corrosion Society annual conference) |

Other; Romania / Portugal / Baltic States. Nothing new from the Baltic States. One Baltic galvanizer visited Nordic Galvanizers conference last spring, but no further discussions about membership have been performed.

### **RE-ORGANIZATION OF EGGA WORK AND OFFICE**

The EGGA secretary Frances Holmes will retire in spring 2015. Financial administration (payments, banking, etc) will then be outsourced to a part-time specialist in these functions (estimated one day/week). The formal role of ‘Company Secretary’ and legal responsibility for corporate affairs will be transferred to Murray Cook. A new staff person will be recruited to conduct the remaining functions, with particular emphasis on events and internal communications. Combined with a change in office location, this revised administrative arrangement would have a lower overall cost than at present. It is proposed to appoint the new administrative staff person during January 2015. Total employment costs for administrative functions would be lowered from €80,000 to a budget of €45,000 (a cost reduction of 44%).

After the retirement of Frances Holmes, there are obvious practical and financial advantages to change the current location (Caterham) of the EGGA office. The current location is convenient for Frances Holmes but is a considerable commuting distance for Murray Cook.

It is there proposed to give notice to vacate the EGGA Caterham office during 1H 2015 and to relocate the office to an area that is closer to Murray Cook’s home location and Birmingham International Airport. The new office costs would benefit from a slightly lower rental cost and the opportunity would be taken to reduce the overall floor area of the office. Total office accommodation costs would be reduced from €26,000 to a budget of €19,000 (a cost reduction of 27%). There would also be other core operating cost reductions associated with the change of office location of approx. €2000.