

Newsletter December 2016

Nr 4 2016

Exhibition at "Stålbyggnadsdagen" October 27

"The Steel Construction Day" is a yearly event including a conference and an exhibition, which this year was located in Kista, close to Stockholm. "Stålbyggnadsdagen" is organized by the Institute for Steel Construction (Stålbyggnadsinstitutet) who works to increase the use of steel as a building material and compete against other construction materials such as concrete or wood. This time it was more than 300 visitors, mainly engineers and other construction people. Nordic Galvanizers took part in the exhibition.

Danish "BREF-day" in Copenhagen November 7

A BREF is a technical document from the European Commission, which aim is to determine the best available techniques for various industrial sectors, and so also for galvanizing. (For more information regarding this see Newsletter 1, 2016.)

The Danish authorities are very active in the work with the new, updated BREF and arranged a "BREF-day" on 7 November to inform the industry about the work. It was quite interesting and really gave the impression that the Danish authorities want to cooperate with the industry and listen to them, and work for that "Danish conditions" will be recognized and met. It seems like the authorities want to make it easier for the Danish companies to fulfil the requirements and also see this as an opportunity to increase the Danish competitiveness on an international market. Henrik Steen-Jørgensen from DOT was invited as an industry speaker and said among other things that it is important that the authorities understand the industry, and that the business owner must be willing to dedicate resources to collect the data that the new directive will be based on.

Exhibition at Elmia Subcontractor November 8-11

For the first time in many years Nordic Galvanizers participated in the exhibition "Elmia Subcontractor" in Jönköping in Sweden. We did this in cooperation with the magazine Ytforum and SPF, "Svensk Pulverlackteknisk Förening". The fair is considered as Sweden's biggest industry event with a lot of visitors and exhibitors and a leading market place featuring new business deals and important discussions.



At the fair "Elmia subcontractor" (Photo: Johan Askengren, Ytforum)

Presentation at the BASTA-day November 16

Nordic Galvanizers was invited together with Scandinavian Copper Development Association to inform about how our branches work with environmental issues and sustainability, how we handle the challenges that come with the environmental assessment systems and how we meet the requirements from users. BASTA is a system for environmental assessment of construction products, where the producers themselves put in their products and presents a number of characteristics for them. Within the system audits are made to ensure that the information is correct. From the manufacturing side, we think that it is an advantage that the producer, who best know their own products, does the registration (like in BASTA) instead of consultants working for the assessment company.

Presentation at "Overflatedagarna" in Bergen November 17

The 17 of November Nordic Galvanizers had a speech with the title "Zinc for corrosion protection" and informed about the difference between "zinc rich coating" (Zinga), "pregalvanized coating with Zn-Al-Mg" (Magnelis) and general hot dip galvanizing. Zinga is a zinc rich paint with high zinc content. In Norway it is marketed as "better than galvanizing". It is a product that has been on the market in Europe for many years without penetrating the market in a large scale, but each time a new agent or reseller starts to work with it, the marketing of it raise for a period. At EGGA they are quite relaxed about the threat from Zinga, but it has angered a number of galvanizers in Norway, so it was the right place to inform about all benefits with galvanizing in comparance with other types of zinc coatings.

Also Magnelis is aggressively marketed both in Nordic countries and in the rest of Europe, and this is something EGGA is much more worried about, since it targets many of the traditional galvanizing market segments as lighting poles, road barriers, agricultural products, etc. EGGA have already done some studies that have shown that Magnelis not fulfil all what is promised, and more "full scale" exposure tests will be performed. The "amazing results" for Magnelis is from accelerated salt spray tests, something that all people with knowledge about corrosion knows do not reflect the reality.

EGGA committee meetings in Cracow November 22-24

The committee meeting this fall was located to Cracow in Poland. This time it started with a works visit to a large Polish galvanizing plant, owned by the Seppeler Group, who has 16 operational business units in Germany and Poland, with more than 1,100 members of staff. The plant Ocykownia Slask with the kettle dimensions 16,3x1,9x2,85 m was very large with a high produktiviti. When the goods arrive at the facility the truck directly runs into the factory and up on a scale where the weight

was recorded before and after unloading of the steel. The yearly production is around 45 000 tonnes of steel galvanized, with a daily production of about 180 tonnes! The facility was fully stocked and many constructions were both large and heavy. It was a very interesting plant!

The committee meetings November 23 starts with the **Environmental and Safety Committee** which had the following main issues:

Revision of the BREF for galvanizing

The work is led by the European IPPC Bureau, which has its offices in Seville in Spain, in cooperation with a technical working group (TWG). The TWG consists of representatives from EU member states, and are people from environmental authorities, branch associations etc. EGGA is represented and also some of the national associations within EGGA, so the work is followed very closely. Previously the BREF has been a guideline, now it will become mandatory, and because of that it is very important to influence on what will be our rules for the future.

Galvanizing plants that galvanize two tons or more per hour or have pickling baths larger than 30 m³ will be obligated to follow the directive, i.e. almost all galvanizers will be covered, so that is something that is of highest priority for EGGA the coming period of time.

Water Framework Directive

This directive is under revision and new substances to put on the "priority list" are discussed. For the moment zinc is not one of the suggestions, so EGGA has decided not to be active and discuss this question with politicians, or perform lobbying, in this area as long as zinc is "off the list".

Technical and Research Committee

The following main topics were discussed:

Revision of EN 1090-1 EGGA will be active and take part in standardization work meetings to guard the interests of the galvanizing industry.

Revision of EN ISO 14713-2 For this standard there will be several changes in the new version and it will be adapted to better match EN 1090. EGGA and national associations will participate in the work.

prEN 10348-2 The Standard for galvanized rebar will finally be ready for voting in Q1 2017!

Marketing Committee

The most important questions for this committee were:

The new EPD for galvanized steel are now completed and can be downloaded from the International EPD System web site; <http://environdec.com/en/Detail/epd915>.

Common symbol for batch galvanizing Finally the marketing committee has agreed on a common symbol for batch galvanizing. This is a question that have been discussed for a long time.

Competition from Zn-Al-Mg coatings Actions regarding specific applications under threat were discussed.

Galvanized Rebar – A workshop will be held in first part of 2017.

Preparations for Assembly 2017 (Prague)

Murray Cook reported that preparations were progressing very well for the event to be held from 12-15 June at the

Corinthia Hotel, Prague. The venue would provide good quality hotel accommodation at an affordable price for delegates.

Will Brexit influence on EGGA?

The consequences of Brexit on EGGA's work was discussed and it was asked if it would be useful to consider a Brussels address as the 'public face' of EGGA even if the administrative office was in the UK. Jeremy Woolridge, chairman of EGGA, reminded the Board that the formal Brexit process had not yet started and it was important to consider the implications carefully as and when this did proceed. Murray Cook said that EGGA already made efforts to present a 'decentralised' and Europe-wide image. Informal arrangements were in place with both IZA-Europe and ECCS to use their Brussels offices when needed. A slightly more formal arrangement may be possible if the need arose. In his view, this was not yet an issue with an impact on EGGA's work but if this became the case he would be ready to bring proposals to the Board.

Galvanizing in Poland

The last presentation in the marketing committee was from J Zasada, plant manager at the galvanizing company we visited on Tuesday, Seppeler Ocynkownia Slask. He told us that there are 61 members, including suppliers, in the Polish galvanizing association. The total amount of galvanized steel is around 670 000 tonnes and there are plans of building five new galvanizing plants in the near future. As we all know Polish galvanizers also compete with Nordic countries, something that came clear when J Zasada, a little jokingly, told me that "Swedish customers are demanding, you have some special requirements regarding coating thicknesses" probably referring to the national appendix to EN ISO 1461 that we have in Sweden.

Greetings from NG office!

From the NG Information office we want to thank you all for good cooperation during 2016 and look forward to continue to work together next year! All indications say that 2017 will be a good year for the industry and so also for the galvanizing business. NG spring conference and annual meeting 2017 will be held in Kokkola in Finland, where Boliden have one of their zinc producing plants, and is planned to April 20-21. We hope to see you there!



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