

# Newsletter April 2017

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## Board meeting

Nordic Galvanizer's Board started 2017 with a full day board meeting, to draw up the lines for the work in the association for the coming year. Even though it was early in the year, the Board agreed that the availability of goods was unusually good for the season and it seems to be a good year for the industry.

## Revision of the BREF

A BREF (*Best available technique reference document*) 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. As we have mentioned earlier, a revision of the old galvanizing BREF from 2007 is ongoing, and the new one will be mandatory for the EU member states to follow. Because of that it is a very important work to take part in, and both NG and EGGA are very active in this area. Batch galvanizing is included in the Ferrus Metals Processing (FMP) BREF.



*Dust from the galvanizing kettle is one of the things that will be measured / analyzed in the work with the directive.*

The term "best available techniques" means the latest stage of development (state of the art) of processes, of facilities or of methods of operation.

The BAT conclusions of the BAT reference documents (BREFs) serve as a reference for the competent authorities when setting permit conditions for installations. BREFs are also used by the industry concerned in preparing applications for operating permits. Additionally, BREFs are a source of information for other interested parties on ways to minimize the environmental impacts of industry. The EU-directive that included the Ferrus Metals Processing BREF is called the *Industrial Emissions Directive (IED, 2010/75/EU)*.

BAT is a dynamic concept because new techniques may emerge; science and technologies are continuously developing, and new environmental processes are being successfully introduced in industry. Since the elements of BAT change over time, BREFs have to be reviewed and updated as appropriate.

There are two conditions that are taken into account when it shall be decided if a galvanizing plant have to operate according to the BREF:

- \* Capacity to galvanize two tons or more per hour (p. 2.3c in the directive) and/or
- \* Has pickling baths with a total volume larger than 30 m<sup>3</sup> (p 2.6 in the directive)

That means that almost all plants will be covered, and the content is then very important. In EGGA it was agreed to try to get the widest participation possible in the data collection by member plants – because the BAT-AELs (BAT Associated Emission Levels) will be set on the basis of the data collected.

For inclusion in the data collection, plants should be 'well-performing' but this did not require those plants to be 'reference plants', i.e a plant that is selected to be a reference for a specific BAT technique. EGGA has been active in the work with the questionnaire that shall be used to collect more data from the plants. From the galvanizing industry we think that applying the '30 m<sup>3</sup> tank volume' threshold to batch galvanizing is wrong. It is quite clear that this was meant for electrolytical surface treatment and was included as a threshold for classifying hot dip galvanizing plants by mistake. Murray Cook will clarify to the competent authorities (European IPPC Bureau) that EGGA does not agree with applying this threshold to batch galvanizing plants. But it is important that also small plants take part in the data collection for the moment – since we don't know what will happen to the '30 m<sup>3</sup> tank volume' threshold. From Sweden we have 6, from Denmark 2 and from Finland 1 company that will take part in the data collection.

## Standardization

Many standards important for the galvanizing industry are under revision for the moment. ISO 14713-2 is one of them, which will be subject to major changes. One reason for this is that it should better conform with the information given in the 1090 standards, to which it is a reference. For that work it was a meeting in Düsseldorf, in the beginning of January. It was mostly EGGA people present, and Murray Cook is the chairman of the working group, which guarantee that the galvanizers interest will be taken into account in the new revision.

Also the CE-marking standard EN 1090-1 and the execution standard EN 1090-2 are under revision, and the changes in EN 1090-1 will probably be extensive.

## Course for operators

Already three courses for operators at galvanizing plants have been performed this year. The first one was at Safe Roads plant in Ørsta in Norway and had about 40 participants. The two others were in Häfla and in Södertälje in Sweden.

## Annual meeting and conference in Kokkola

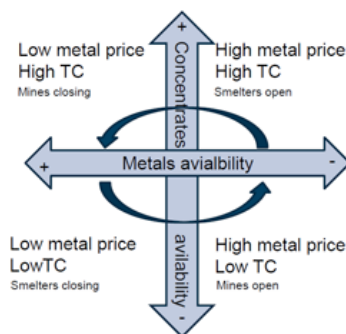


Silver-colored gold .... in Kokkola's warehouse there is zinc for a lot of money! Everything is made on customer order and labeled according to customer requirements.

This year NG annual meeting and conference was located at Bolidens zinc producing plant in Kokkola, located on the west-coast of Finland. The meeting was organized in cooperation with Boliden, which was very generous and offered both lunch and dinner. After lunch we got information about the zinc producing plant and then it was time for the plant visit. Boliden's smelter in Kokkola is the second largest zinc smelter in Europe. The main part of the zinc concentrate comes from Boliden's own mines, but concentrates are also purchased from other mining companies.

During the production process zinc is extracted to meet the most demanding customer needs. The total amount of zinc products in the portfolio is about 40, containing both pure zinc and tailored products for certain customers and customer segments. The production in Kokkola is 290 000 ton/year. About 60 % of all zinc produced in the world is used for galvanizing.

After the plant visit we vent back to the meeting room for presentations. It started with "Zinc market overview" by Daniel Asplund, Manager Sales, Zinc Metal at Boliden. "Many consider that the zinc price is high for the moment but it depends on what perspective you have. It has not been high enough for new mines to be opened" Daniel expect that the zinc prize will raise also during 2018-2019, and after that decrease again. "The price depends on where we are in the metals market cycle. It is complicated to estimate the price trend for zinc, also for the experts from large analyse companies", Daniel finished his presentation.



The metals market cycle. TC stands for Treatment Charge and is a charge which miners pay to smelters to process the concentrate.

Roger Pankert, Technical Manager at Boliden, has very long experience from research and development and has made a very interesting survey of how different phenomena are affected by each other in terms of hot dip galvanizing. He informed us about that in his presentation "Zinc and Zinc-Alloys for General Galvanizing – Boliden answers!"

Vasile Rus, new employee at EGGA, told us about ongoing activities within EGGA and the role he will take. EGGA is a federation of 15 national associations covering 22 countries in Europe.

An important new member to EGGA has been Poland – an important country in galvanizing industry and also political importance within the EU. EGGA is proud of its very wide and stable membership across Europe.

"We often speak about technical and environmental topics, but it is important to note that most of EGGA's work is focused on the market. Environmental issues for zinc threaten our products and markets. Changes in technical standards and specifications can either benefit or threaten the use of our coating." said Vasile.

The research projects that EGGA are involved in are aimed at making galvanizing better placed in applications and markets. EGGA believes that the most important marketing and promotion is done at national level – by the national associations. But EGGA can support that work – with exchange of ideas and actions. At the moment, EGGA has active discussions about bridges, galvanized rebars, facades and other opportunities.

EGGA can also identify and react to common threats. Today, we have a lot of work to analyse and react to the misleading information and performance claims of ZM steels (for example Magnelis) that try to replace batch galvanizing in certain applications. EGGA also have common projects – for example collecting and communicating environmental information. We have also recently agreed a common graphic symbol for batch galvanizing to EN ISO 1461. This is to help to distinguish between our product and inferior coatings.

Vasile Rus joined EGGA in February this year. He has previously been at Betak – a manufacturer of steel products and with a galvanizing plant. Before that he was manager of the Romanian Galvanizers Association (ANAZ) and did his PhD on galvanized reinforcement for concrete, so he is well experienced in this area and will be a useful resource for EGGA.

Annikki Hirn had a presentation about the important BREF-work, see information above, with the title "What environmental requirements will be mandatory for galvanizing plants in the future?"

After that the annual meeting was held, and we went back to the hotel and a dinner in a close located restaurant hosted by Boliden. It was a very nice evening with plenty of time for discussion and socializing, and we would like to express a lot of thanks to our host Boliden for very nice and generous arrangements.

**Annikki Hirn**  
**Annette Hjelmare**