

Newsletter October 2015

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Approved Galvanizer

We now have seven galvanizing companies that is certified against Approved Galvanizer. Eight more are ongoing which means that we will hopefully have 15 approved companies in the end of this year. A list of the approved companies is given on Nordcert's web page, www.nordcert.se. Also MVR market Approved Galvanizer to their members which is of large advantage, <http://www.mvr.se/sida17.html>.

New research project together with Swerea KIMAB

Swerea KIMAB is a research institute that we have had a lot of cooperation with. They will now perform a large project for the Swedish Transport Administration where different materials will be compared. It is well known that the environment in road tunnels can be highly corrosive, mainly due to chloride containing pollutants, as well as to dripping of aggressive water from the walls.

The goals for the project is to develop economically motivated recommendations and classifications for materials in corrosive tunnel environments. Examples of products that are used in tunnels are: cable trays, ventilation systems, suspension systems, stairs, doors etc.

The project results will be the basis for future updating of the Transport Administration's technical regulations in tunnels. NG participate with 147 steel plates, galvanized by Södertälje Varmförzinkning.



Steel samples placed close to the roadway in the Øresund tunnel. From an earlier research project with KIMAB.

NG Strategic group

At the NG board meeting in Stockholm that was held in connection to our conference and annual meeting it was decided to form a group to discuss the future work for NG Information Office. A so called Strategic Group was created with one participant from each country. The result from the work within the group was presented to NG board during the board meeting at the study trip to Paris. The participants in the group have been Henrik Steen-Jørgensen from Denmark, Jorma Panula from Finland, Bjarne Kihle from Norway and Lars-Göran Tylebrink from Sweden. Annikki Hirn has been the chairman of the group. The work in the group started with an analyse of the current situation. Normally NG Information Office work with four areas:

Technology: Trouble shooting (claims / discussions regarding quality etc.), info desk – questions from users, customers and members, standardisation work. In total about 40 % of the work load.

Environmental issues: Monitoring of directives (EU level, national level), cooperation / information transformation with EGGA, IZA, contact with authorities (Also 40 %)

Marketing: Exhibitions, seminars, articles, advertisement (In magazines and on the web) (About 15 %)

Education: For plant staff (to raise the quality of the galvanized steel) at universities, for customers, for steel suppliers (About 15 %)

One main question for the group was to decide what is the most important tasks for NG to work with – What will give the highest value back to the members?

It was concluded that environmental issues – among others "the Stockholm situation" (restrictions about usage of zinc in roofs and facades in Stockholm city) are very important, since it is a negative message about zinc to the market and may spread also to other cities/countries. This is one important question to work with, where help from lobbyists probably are needed.

It was also suggested that more technical questions from NG members should be guided to NG web page, to release time for NG Information Office to work more on environmental issues. To make this possible some improvements of the web is needed:

- * The information should be easier to find
- * Make a list of commonly asked questions with answers
- * Create chats and discussion groups on NG: s member part of the web - for discussions and charing of information between members.
- * Suggest all members to place a link on their web page to NG web page - so customers can look for answers and information on the NG web page

Other suggestions from the Strategic Group are increased cooperation with steel/blacksmith associations and with EGGA.

Strategic analyse within EGGA

Murray Cook from EGGA was invited to one of the meetings in the Strategic Group, to discuss in which areas more cooperation may be possible. Also EGGA have worked with a strategic analyse of the future; and among others reached the following conclusions:

- * Threats and opportunities from technical standardisation, in particular steel standards, will place increasing demands on EGGA.

* Environmental issues – mainly zinc-related – will maintain their current (high) level of intensity whilst BREF revision will place additional resource requirements that cannot be met with existing resources.

Murray Cook gave the following message to NG Strategic Group:

* EGGA will have the leading role in influencing and working on European level, but to be successful the support from National Associations is of high importance.

* Success in lobbying in Brussels on environmental issues requires National Associations in EGGA to affect their MEP (Member of the Parliament) as much as possible.

* Local networking with steel associations etc. on national level is very important to give EGGA the possibility to influence on standardization work at EU-level.

* The restrictions for usage of zinc in Stockholm and Copenhagen worries the galvanizing industry in Europe and is a high prioritized question to solve for NG / EGGA / IZA.

Conclusions for NG

It is clear that lobbying, or influencing on organizations and society, is an important activity to guarantee a continued stable position for the galvanizing industry.

Nordic Galvanizers has to strengthen some of the activities in that area. For example, more activities to create relations with relevant MEPs are needed.

The contacts with the steel construction associations are good in Sweden and Norway. NG is a member of Dansk Stålinstitut, but the contact with them is not very active. NG is not member of Finnish Constructional Steelwork Association (FCSA), which may be a suggestion for the future. It was decided that NG should join MVR (Mekaniska Verkstädernas Riksförbund).

EGGA arrange a MEP lunch 10 October

Since lobbying and good contacts with so called MEPs (Member of the Parliament) are of major importance, EGGA will arrange a lunch at the Parliament 10 October, where galvanizers have the possibility to meet with MEPs and inform about the galvanizing industry. The aim of this lunch is to debate the opportunities to strengthen research, capacity and employment in the industry. It is planned that some of the members in NG board will join this event, but also other NG members that are interested to visit the parliament and meet with the MEPs are welcome to contact NG for more information. The idea is that the visitors shall meet with "their own" MEPs and inform them about the galvanizing industry in their country in their own language.

NG study trip to France

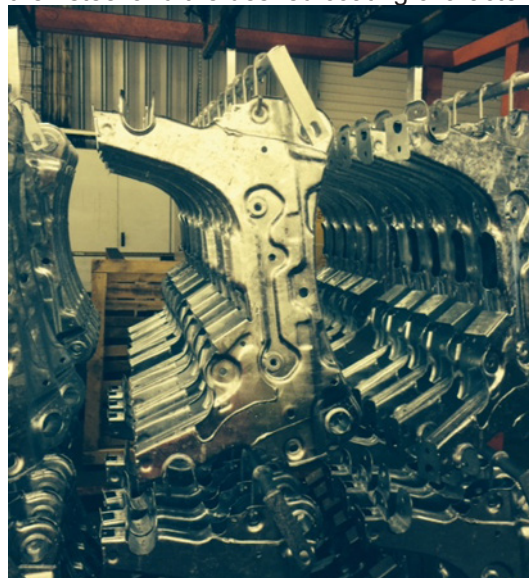
During 30 September to 2 October NG arranged a study trip to France in cooperation with the French company Metal Trading, which is an affiliate member to NG. During the trip, which had around 40 participants, two galvanizing plants and two castles, of which one was the very famous Versailles, were visited.

The first galvanizing plant was Aximum, with a 10 m kett-

le and a line for powder coating of galvanized steel. The other plant was GALVA 45, with a high level of automatization, originally built for galvanizing of car parts. The productivity was high, and there is a lot of steel galvanized in each dip.

GALVA 45 is located 80 km south of Paris, near Orléans, and is owned of the company Galva Union since 2012. The GALVA 45 facilities can treat a wide variety of manufactured parts. Components of small or medium-length, with complex geometry and in large or small series are galvanized on automated production lines designed specifically for them.

GALVA 45 has four automated galvanizing lines, with 5 baths of different lengths using two kinds of special zinc alloys. The parts to be protected are treated in the different baths according to their type, length, the reactivity of their steel and the desired coating characteristics.



Galvanized parts for car industry. It is a lot of products in each dip at GALVA 45.

The car industry is a declining market today, and GALVA 45 are now switching into other types of products for the automated lines.

The galvanizing market in the Nordic countries and Europe

During the board meeting held in connection with the study trip the board members reported that the market for galvanizing in Nordic countries, at least in Denmark, Norway and Sweden, now is better than last year and that the future looks more positive again, even if the price level still is low. The statistics from EGGA also show a slight increase for 2014, see below. As usual Germany dominate the market with 31 % of the European production, followed by Italy with 14 % and UK/Ireland with 11 %.

General Galvanizing in Europe (2003 – 2014)

