

# Newsletter December 2013

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This autumn has gone incredibly fast and has been full of activities with a peak now in December.

## Meeting regarding metals in water

Together with our metal industry group, MITF, we had a national liaison meeting 6 December with the water authorities, the environmental preparation from Swedish Government, The Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, and a number of industry representatives. An important issue was to ascertain which authority is responsible for what, when there are a variety of authorities involved in this matter. EPA monitors the water issue in the European Commission and is responsible for issues relating to environmental toxins. The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (Havs och vattenmyndigheten), HaV, is a Swedish national authority in the environmental field for issues of conservation, restoration and sustainable use of lakes, rivers and the ocean. The authority became operational on 1 July 2011 and is working under the Ministry of Environment. Officially HaV is responsible for matters relating to water in Sweden, but it is clear that the authority still has not been able to take the full responsibility. Instead, many issues have been handled by the water authorities, with their five districts, which we mentioned in our last newsletter. Issues related to groundwater are managed by SGU, Geological Survey of Sweden, which is the expert authority on issues regarding rock, soil and groundwater.

An important point of discussion was of course why the authorities do not want to take the bioavailability (part of substance that can be absorbed by plant, animal or human) into account when establishing limit values for example zinc in water; this issue was skillfully avoided by the authorities. Instead they informed about their activities in various areas. This meeting could best be described as a starting point for further cooperation, and we have actually already been invited to a new liaison meeting at the beginning of 2014, in which we will discuss limits and background concentrations among other things.

## Research work regarding zinc in water

Studies in Stockholm made by corrosion scientists at the Royal Institute of Technology, KTH, have shown that runoff from galvanized products is about 2,2 grams per square meter galvanized surface and year. When translated to amount of zinc per liter of rainwater that washes over the surface the content is 5,2 mg per liter. This is the concentration when the rain water leaves the galvanized surface.

The results of the research have shown that solid surfaces near a building or a structure, such as sidewalks, concrete and soil, have a natural ability to bind drained zinc and therefore significantly reduce the part that may be assimilated by living organisms. Studies of interactions between rainwater containing zinc and soil have demonstrated that the largest proportion of drained zinc

(96-99,8%) is bound by the soil.



*Rainwater which has run over zinc coated surfaces includes at first a certain amount of zinc. Most of the zinc is rapidly bound up when the water comes into contact with e.g. concrete or soil. Rain water is mixed with water from other sources, which results in a further decreased zinc level.*

The zinc transported by runoff water is diluted by contact with water from other sources, such as storm water, watercourses and sewer, and the content per liter is thus considerably lower than 5,2 mg/l.

Besides the liaison meeting with the authorities, we have had two operators training and participated in a customer seminar in December. Another important issue that has taken some amount of time has been to determine what applies to galvanizing and certification rules under 1090-1.

## Galvanizing and 1090

The lawyer of The Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning (Boverket) writes as follows: A galvanizing company who only performs job galvanizing cannot be "certified" according to 1090-1. The Construction Products Regulation (CPR) regulates who is obliged to hire a notified body, i.e. the manufacturer. Likewise, it is the CPR that controls what tasks a notified body should (must) carry out for the manufacturer. Manufacturer is a legal concept in CPR as well as in other harmonized product legislation. The CPR defines manufacturers in Article 2.19 as follows: any natural or legal person who manufactures, or contracts the design or manufacturing of, a construction product and markets that product under his name or brand.

A galvanizing company with job galvanizing only performs a service to the company that sells the finished construction product under their own name or brand (i.e. manufacturer). The galvanizing company sells/provides (=markets) not the product on the market under his own company name or brand and are therefore not considered as a manufacturer, according to CPR.

As stated in EN 1090-1 the assessment system 2+ is applied and then the manufacturer must perform some tasks while others must be performed by a notified body. System 2+ is described in Annex V of the CPR and the notified bodies task are the following: it will carry out the initial inspection of the manufacturing plant and factory production control, and conduct continuous surveillance,

assessment and evaluation of the manufacturer's production control. Provided that the notified body approves of the actions taken according to the CPR, a certificate of conformity is issued by the agency of the manufacturing control to the manufacturer. Only the manufacturer may have its production control assessed by a notified body.

If a manufacturer allows others to perform some (or all) services in the manufacturing process, then the manufacturer is also responsible for ensuring that the subcontractor has the necessary control of his manufacturing process (production control). The manufacturer must commit to this and the notified body must on behalf of the manufacturer also assess any subcontractors to control the manufacturing process (manufacturing control) of this subcontractor. It is the manufacturer who is responsible for that the requirements of CPR are met in relation to ongoing assessment and monitoring of performance.

### **Nordic Galvanizers' services**

Since we have received a lot of new contacts among our member companies, we thought it might be a good idea to give some information on the benefits you have as a member in Nordic Galvanizers.

### **Help if complaints arise / customer issues**

Surely everyone has had the experience of a customer/end user that dispute the results after galvanizing. Then it may be helpful to have a neutral party to consult. We can inspect the goods on site if it's not possible to make an assessment by using photos. It is not necessary that the goods have to be in the vicinity of Stockholm – we have conducted inspections from Narvik to Dubai!

### **Course for your operators**

A couple of times per year we organize training courses at our members facilities. The course language is English or Swedish. When we arrange a public course you are welcome to register participants. We can also arrange an exclusive course for your personnel at your facility, and focus on the specific issues of concern to your production.

### **Information/seminar for your customers**

We can also give a lecture at customer events and similar activities. Our purpose is to increase and facilitate the use of galvanized steel, and then first of all the steel which is galvanized in the Nordic countries. The purpose of this type of activities is to demonstrate to the users that they, by selecting a Nordic galvanizers, can receive technical support in an entirely different way compared to when they import goods from a low-cost country. Appropriate audiences for such activities are constructors and buyers.

### **Order literature about galvanizing!**

Take a look under the link "Literature" on our website. We have literature for sale at cost price.

### **2013 in retrospect**

The year started off quite tough for most companies, but later on it seems that many of our members have had more work to do during the fall. Now we hope that 2014 prove to be the year that will bring us up to a level of increased profitability. A few changes in personnel among some of our members have taken place; persons with

many years in the industry have left the galvanizing business for other areas of activity. One Swedish company has closed down, Albinssons Verkstads AB in Uppsala.

Gallac AB, with operations in Skellefteå and Åsele, has a new owner and CEO. Jörgen Nyström, Gallacs Site Manager for many years, has taken the step to give the company a chance to survive. We wish Jörgen good luck in his new role as CEO and business leader!

### **Challenges for 2014**

There's two important issues to deal with for the coming year. To work against the restrictions on the use of zinc in Stockholm since this threatens to spread to the rest of Europe. We will also defend our Nordic market against cheap imported goods!

### **Member meeting in Copenhagen**

The 2014 Nordic Galvanizers conference and Annual Meeting will be held 8-9 May at Admiral Hotel in central Copenhagen. Please reserve this the date now! Due to high load at hotels in Copenhagen during this part of the year we will need your registration by the end of February. More information will follow early next year.

### **Study trip during fall 2014!**

Instead of an autumn meeting in 2014 the plan is to organize a field trip to a country with interesting galvanizing facilities. Italy or England has been proposed. Last time the members of Nordic Galvanizers were out travelling together was to Estonia in 2011, which was very interesting and nice!

### **Movie about hot-dip galvanizing on NG's website**

Both Nordvestjysk Galvanizing and JIWE Varmförzinking has been kind enough to put their movies about galvanizing at NG's disposal, free of charge. We will now cut these films together, add a voice narration and publish the film on NG's website. The two films complement each other very well; Nordvestjysk's film shows the process live, while JIWE's film shows educational pictures of where the drainage holes should be placed.



*Our colleagues in the Spanish branch organization for galvanized steel, ATEG, had this poetical expression when they sent their Christmas greetings, and we thought it was so good so we stole the picture! And even if we have not seen so much of the snow yet, at least the last sentence is very accurate about galvanizing!*

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