

# Newsletter April 2014

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It has been a busy spring, and in the association we have had a number of important issues to deal with. One of these is the upcoming CE marking of fabricated structural steelwork, which comes into force on 1 July 2014. This means that the steel fabricator has to be certified against the standard 1090-1.



*Fabricated structural steelwork must be CE -marked from 1 July 2014.*

## Certification to 1090-1 and CE marking

There are still many uncertainties about this, although there are currently only approximately 2 months left until it enters into force. For various reasons, a number of galvanizing companies, rust painter and welding companies in Sweden, without own production, has become certified to 1090-1. Boverket in Sweden (National Housing Board - the administrative authority for matters concerning the built environment) has turned to Nordic Galvanizers and stated that this is wrong, and that we should affect our members so that no more companies certify themselves. At Swedac, the authority responsible for accreditation in Sweden, there are several "cases" against the certification company that has implemented these certifications ongoing. However, both from Nordic Galvanizers and from EGGA we want to emphasize that we are not against certification as such, but that subcontractors can not be certified to 1090-1, since this is a standard for steel fabricators. No other country than Sweden has galvanizers without own products certified against 1090-1. In contrast, there have been discussions about developing a specific certification for galvanizers who are suppliers to steel fabricators that CE mark their product. This "subcontractor certification" would focus on those parts in the performing standard EN 1090-2, where galvanizing is mentioned. EGGA has produced a document that can serve as basis for such a certification. This document will be distributed to our members in the coming weeks.

Unfortunately, the issue around 1090-1 certification is badly handled by Swedac and the certification company and we therefore now have a major problem within Nordic Galvanizers, which takes time and focus from other important issues that affecting the industry's future development.

## Chemical Plan for Stockholm

One of these issues is the "Chemical Plan for Stockholm", a document that we recently submitted a consultation response on. Stockholm city already has their "Environmental Programme 2012-2015", which states that copper and zinc as roof and facade materials should be avoided. The consequences of the "Chemical plan" will probably be much more extensive. In the plan it is written "In the chemicals work of Stockholm a clear basis is needed, that points out what substances and groups of substances that represents risks and should be avoided." The Chemical Plan lists a number of subjects in different groups, and zinc and copper belongs to what is called "Local focus species". These are described as "substances or groups of substances which locally is of particular concern, where occurrence, sources and routes of exposure should be studied". Further, it states that "zinc is spread from tyres, roofs, facades and other galvanized surfaces as light poles etc". So, from having had limitations for zinc in roof and facade materials there will also be focus on other hot-dip galvanized products, which of course will have a impact on the use of hot dip galvanizing for corrosion protection in the future.

Mistrust of copper and zinc has a long tradition in Stockholm. It is based on that some people in Stockholm's Environmental Agency believes that the levels of copper and zinc in the sediments in Stockholm and adjacent areas are too high. It is a pure sediment issue, and it is on that level we have to manage it. From the zinc industry we must show that the levels are within acceptable limits, which among other things can be done using calculation models where bioavailability and background levels are considered. But of course then the authorities must be interested in listening to our arguments. For the moment the Swedish Water Authority's approach to bioavailability is that the model is less useful in Swedish waters and will not be considered in Sweden. This is a different authority, but it is likely that an exchange of information occurs, and we find it harder to argue that these models should be considered at local level if they are not used at national level. We have had good help from specialists working for IZA, the zinc producers' branch association, when it comes to our responses to Stockholm Environmental Agency. At a meeting with IZA, EGGA and other stakeholders like Reinzink and Umicore, both producers of zinc sheet for roofing and facades, in Brussels during April, we discussed that now may be the time to follow the copper industry's footsteps and engage a lobbyist to influence policy makers and politicians in this important issue. Within the industry, we have experts in science, but this issue is handled at political level, so other skills are needed. Although the question applies in Stockholm, there is a urgent concern from zinc stakeholders that the ideas will spread to other parts of Europe. Some trends for this have already been seen, for example, in Copenhagen.

## Course for users and operators

In late January Nordic Galvanizers arranged an education for a user of galvanized steel located in Mora. The company has for some years imported galvanized steel from China among others, but problems with both quality and delivery times made them move the production back home again. The day after there was an operator course for about 20 workers from different NG member companies. It's always nice to meet operators and other personnel working for our members. The course ended with a visit to Schneider Electric, probably better known as "Wibe in Mora". Wibe makes cable ladders and other cable ties and their products are classified as load bearing components, which means that they must be CE marked.



Schneider Electric, or Wibe in Mora, which they probably are better known as in Nordic Galvanizers, manufactures load bearing components, which they CE mark.

## EGGA:s committee meetings

EGGA Committee meetings was held in Brussels in mid-March. One of the priorities this time was the ongoing revision of EN 1090-2 "Execution Requirements for steel structures and structural components of steel" (to distinguish from EN 1090-1, "Assessment of load bearing constructions") where the German standardization group of the CEN committee tabled a proposal to introduce more stringent requirements for galvanizing. For example to measure and record various process parameters, eg immersion and uptake rates in the bath etc. They want to get the galvanizing parts of EN 1090-2 to resemble the approach of the German standard DASt Guideline. As this would mean an increased workload and administration for the galvanizing companies EGGA has resisted these demands and urges the Member States to influence their local representatives in standardization committees to vote against the proposal. For more information about what was discussed during the EGGA committee meetings see separate mailing, which can also be read on NG's member page, [www.nordicgalvanizers.com](http://www.nordicgalvanizers.com), link "For members", User Name: "varmzink", Password: "3583zink" link "Abstracts from EGGA meetings".

## Information about galvanizing for students

On 28 March, NG had a presentation about galvanizing for engineer students at the University of Southern Denmark in Odense on Funen. The interest in the lecture, that was held in English, was large and it is a bit surprising to notice how good today's students actually are in the English language. The international exchange in study locations also seem to be widespread today, since there were students from many different nationalities present.

## The fair Nordbygg 2014

Nordic Galvanizers exhibited at the large Northern Building Fair held at the Stockholm Fair, 1-4 April. The fair had, as in previous years, a lot of visitors and we got some interesting inquiries from architects and designers. Many visitors stopped and looked at all the pictures of hot dip galvanized steel in various applications that were shown

in the stand. The specific outcome of a fair participation is of course difficult to assess. And because the costs to attend are quite high, we have to evaluate this year's fair, before booking up for Nordbygg 2016.



During the fair we had help of Ann Linder, to the left, former administrative manager at Nordic Galvanizers. To the right is Annette Hjelmare, our new administrator.

## SundaHus notified to the Competition Authority

Together with the bransch association "Byggmaterialindustrierna", Building Industries Federation where NG are members, we filed a complaint to the Competition Authority regarding the environmental consulting company SundaHus. Competition Authority should, in our opinion investigate both the competition law and procurement law aspects, since many local authorities routinely refers to the private company SundaHus in Linköping AB's environmental database in its public procurement, instead of referring to clear environmental requirements. The requirement from several public tenders had been that a construction product must be registered in SundaHus database to be able to use in various construction projects. We already know that SundaHus assessments are subjective and questionable. An example related to a galvanized product is given here:

If a user of SundaHus database wants to order a particular type of galvanized screw set, it is shown by the database information that there are products from Schneider (Wibe) and another manufacturer to choose from. The user, without own qualified knowledge in the field, is given the impression that the other manufacturer's product is the most environmentally friendly, and thus it should be selected. However, in reviewing the underlying documents for the two products it is clear, that for Schneider's product, there is much more information available than for the other manufacturer's product, which detriment Schneider. Schneider state that their product contains lead and cadmium, but at levels lower than 0.003%.

However, the information on lead and cadmium, leads to that their product gets provided with a series of negative symbols in SundaHus database; "Phasing Thread" - "Hazardous substances" - "Dangerous for health". When looking at the underlying documents for the other manufacturer's product there is no information about the content except zinc, and thus, the product has no negative symbols in the database. Whoever, anybody that shall assess galvanized steel should know that the zinc with less than 0.003% of lead and cadmium is the cleanest on the market, so called Special High Grade Zinc. So that means that also the other manufacturer uses either that zinc or a zinc quality with higher content of lead and cadmium. The other manufacturer's product is thus either as good as Schneider's product from an environmental perspective, or less good, but definitely not better.