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#### 1. Chrome-free Pretreatments – Adhesion of Powder Lacquers

The Quality Committee has put together the following information as a reminder of the impending compulsory move to chrome free pretreatment systems in the coating process of Aluminium. The mandate (EU) No. 348/2013 dated April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013, stipulates that in future chromium containing substances are to be classified as potentially causing cancer as well as damage to genetic and reproductive material. Therefore, in line with (EG) No. 1907/2006 (table appendix XIV) the use of Cr-VI containing substances will no longer be permitted as of September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017. Any applications for any exceptions or extensions need to be submitted by March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016.

These legal requirements will apply to all current Cr-VI processes for the pretreatment of Aluminium, which in most cases will need to be replaced completely by alternative systems.

For some years now, the GSB has been licensing a variety of alternative chrome-free pretreatment systems, which have proven to be highly effective substitutes, and further systems are currently in the approval process with a view to extending the scope of available alternatives.

Thus far, positive coating results with powder lacquers are primarily based on the use of Standard and Master qualities, which are high in number and in the process of being expanded even further. As far as Premium qualities are concerned, positive application results are limited, which is mainly due to the fact that licensed Premium quality systems are less common and there are fewer projects demanding their use.

There is currently no framework to guarantee the efficiency between chromium free pretreatment systems and coating materials. As such, even a licensed chrome-free pretreatment does not automatically safeguard the quality of the end result - this would require the establishment of definitive optimising process parameters agreed and approved by the relevant pretreatment and coating material suppliers. It is a well-known fact that at this moment in time the adhesion issues created by the use of liquid lacquers and powder lacquers containing Fluor polymer in conjunction with alternative chromium free pre-treatment systems is considered as critical with no imminent solution in sight as yet.

Consequently, the onus of quality assurance in terms of new systems as a whole in compliance with GSB Quality regulations is firmly placed on the self-regulating quality control processes applied by the individual coater.

Therefore and in order to facilitate the collation of meaningful data, all chrome-free systems currently used with a variety of powder lacquers are now automatically included in the annual extension tests carried out by GSB approved testing institutes.

From 2014, all GSB coating material license tests will be based solely on substrates that have been pretreated using chrome-free systems. NABUTAN 310 will be used as the benchmark, as this is the most commonly used system in the market to date.

This will put into practice the first and most important step towards the transition of licensing coating materials in line with new EU legislation.

By contrast extension tests will continue to be carried out on chromium pretreated substrates for the foreseeable future. This is to ensure consistency and "like for like" comparison of previously licensed systems, although the GSB will offer the option of a parallel extension test on chrome-free pretreated substrates for previously licensed systems upon request.

As far as first licence testing of new alternative / chrome-free systems is concerned, the GSB Quality Committee has defined a Standard system (RAL 9010) of the company IGP, Switzerland, and a Master system (RAL 9010) of the company Tigger, Austria.

Please contact the GSB Head Office for further information.

## 2. Hans Gassler AG, Switzerland - Dual Quality Label Holders

A long standing approved Master Quality Label Holder for Aluminium, Hans Gassler AG, Switzerland, has now been awarded the Quality Label for „Approved Coated Zinc and Steel“.



Award ceremony: In September, Hans Gassler AG, Switzerland, has successfully acquired the GSB Quality Label for „Approved Coated Zinc and Steel“, further consolidating their position as an assured quality coater.

From left to right: Mrs. Miriam Ragaz-Gassler, Mr. Pedro Vega (both Hans Gassler AG, Switzerland) and Mr. Werner Mader, Mr. Marcel Menet (both GSB International, Germany).

## 3. 20 years of NABU Surface Technology in Stulln, Germany

Founded in 1993, NABU Surface Technology GmbH has successfully developed, produced and marketed a range of high quality chemical metal surface treatments. Prominent clients all over Europe value their technical knowledge and bespoke environmentally conscious solutions.

Honorary GSB Chairman Mr. Hans-Jürgen Alfort represented the GSB at the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, also the Messrs. Dr. Blecher, Kassing and Kratz took part on behalf of the GSB. NABU would like to take this opportunity of expressing their sincere gratitude for all messages and gifts received, and are looking forward to continuing our successful partnership.



The NABU-team.

#### 4. Florida- and Accelerated Weathering of Extreme Weatherproof Powder Lacquers: A Comparative Study

On the occasion of the General Assembly in Vienna, Austria, Mrs. Dreyer (ILF Magdeburg, Germany) presented a comparative study of Florida vs. accelerated weathering established in collaboration with Mr. Witter (also ILF Magdeburg, Germany). This study exclusively examines initial test results collated and evaluated since September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2009, in conjunction with a prominent TiO<sub>2</sub>-supplier. Upon request, the interim report can be obtained from our Head Office at Düsseldorf.



#### 5. Activity Report of the Quality Executive

- **New QR AL 631 and ST 663**

All revisions of the Quality Regulations were duly approved at the Members' General Meeting. The revised versions were circulated at the beginning of August and have become effective from 3.09.2013.

Therefore only the revised Quality Regulations AL631 ST663 must be used in client correspondence, as any previous versions are no longer valid.

- **Interim regulation for the additional label "Sea Proof Plus" - Change of surface pre-treatment**

In the year 2011, the limit for the filiformcorrosion test for the additional label "Sea Proof Plus" was lowered from 0.15 to 0.1 and added to the Quality Regulations, that only the pre-anodizing surface pretreatment for the additional label "Sea Proof Plus" can be used for the additional label "Sea Proof Plus".

For the previous owners of the additional label "Sea Proof Plus" which use a chemical surface treatment, transitional arrangements have been agreed that the additional label can be made as long as the tests for the additional label are negative.

This interim regulation is cancelled if the existing surface chemical pretreatments are replaced by another method.

- **Pre-anodised sampling for the additional Quality Label „Sea Proof Plus“**

Every 6 months, all "Sea Proof Plus" Quality Label holders will be required to submit to the FEM a coated sample sheet (2 x 1 m) taken from a production run using the pre-anodising process to facilitate SSP extension testing as well as report their internal test results to the GSB Head Office

#### 6. Inver / Valspar Merger

The Valspar Corporation (NYSE: VAL), a leading manufacturer of paints and lacquers, have announced their definitive acquisition of Inver Holding S.r.l. (Inver Group), one of the leading European coaters. The transaction is expected to be completed during Q4 subject to approval by the relevant authorities and standard transfer requirements. Details of financial agreements were not disclosed.

#### 7. GSB Training Courses 2013

The final training course of 2013 took place at the ILF in Magdeburg at the beginning of November, focusing on surface pre-treatment as well as coating processes and materials and their practical application in line with the latest GSB Quality Regulations.

All 18 delegates completed theory and practical sessions tailored specifically to impart practical knowledge of:

- Testing of coating materials
- Coating application processes and techniques
- Technical application processes
- Technical measuring processes
- Chrome- free pretreatments
- Sensor based technologies for the consistent qualitative recording of data relating to pickling and etching



We would like to thank the ILF, GEMA, NABU and Sensotech for supporting this course.

A further training course is planned for Q1 / 2014. Dates, content and venue will be circulated in due course.

#### 8. Aluminium 2014, Düsseldorf October 07<sup>th</sup> – 09<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Once again the VOA and GSB are planning a joint exhibition stand at Aluminium 2014 under the banner of „Competence Centre Surface Treatment (CCST)“ with the following key objectives:

- Consolidation and development of CCST.
- Resolution of space restriction issues by splitting the information area from the booth.
- Increasing participation of association members in general and smaller companies in particular with a new bespoke stand concept exclusive to GSB and VOA members.
- Improved organisation, execution, design and communication of the presentation and exhibition areas.



The theory session made particular reference to individual Chromium free pre-treatment systems and the transition to adapt an existing plant and control process by discussing practical examples.



#### 9. ESTAL Congress in Krakow, Poland

The ESTAL Congress took place in Krakow, Poland, from September 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>, 2013. The Messrs. Alfort and Mader actively represented the GSB at this event. Mr. Alfort made a presentation entitled „Why GSB“, which was very well received, and Mr. Mader presented on the topic of „International Standardisation“.

The GSB took this opportunity to further develop its existing contacts within the European market and introduce the Quality Label to a wider audience.





## 10. Changes in Ownership

All members are obliged to immediately notify the GSB Head office of any changes in ownership.

## 11. 2015 General Assembly in Wiesbaden, Germany

The 20<sup>th</sup> General Assembly is scheduled in Wiesbaden, Germany, for the beginning of May 2015.

Invitations and agenda programs will be circulated in due course.

## 12. Membership Development

**We are delighted to confirm that the following companies have submitted applications:**

MÜRITZ-ZINK GmbH / D  
Technolak s.r.o. / CZ  
Enviral Oberflächentechnik GmbH / A

## 13. Banner Advertising and Pictorial References on the GSB-Website

Depending on availability, members have the opportunity of promoting their company on the GSB homepage. Logos need to be provided in JPEG-format.

The costs for a 3 month run are 150.00 €

## 14. GSB Dates

### November 04<sup>th</sup> – 05<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Training course at ILF in Magdeburg, Germany.

### December 02<sup>nd</sup> – 03<sup>rd</sup>, 2013

Aluminium Quality Committee meeting in Bedburg, Germany.

### February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Board Meeting – venue to be confirmed.

## 15. Events

### November 13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Aluminium surface pretreatment; (GDA seminar) in Düsseldorf, Germany.  
[www.aluinfo.de](http://www.aluinfo.de)

### November 25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013

European Aluminium Congress; (Congress under the patronage of the GDA) in Düsseldorf, Germany.  
[www.aluminium-congress.com](http://www.aluminium-congress.com) / [www.aluinfo.de](http://www.aluinfo.de)

### January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014

GSB Congress Switzerland 2014; New requirements and development of coated materials.  
[menet@gsb-international.de](mailto:menet@gsb-international.de)

### January 30<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014

Powder Symposium Dresden, Germany.  
[www.pulversymposium-dresden.de](http://www.pulversymposium-dresden.de)

### February 18<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Info event IQC „Industrial Quality Coating; Iserlohn, Germany.  
[info@gsb-international.de](mailto:info@gsb-international.de)

### October 07<sup>th</sup> – 09<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Aluminium 2014, Düsseldorf, Germany; 10<sup>th</sup> Exhibition and World Congress.  
[www.aluminium-messe.com](http://www.aluminium-messe.com)

### May 2015

General Assembly in Wiesbaden, Germany.  
[www.gsb-international.de](http://www.gsb-international.de)

## 16. Material and Member Lists

The new GSB homepage has been active since beginning of June. Material and member lists which were thus far attached to this publication can now be accessed and downloaded via the GSB homepage. All lists are updated on a regular basis at the end of each month.

