



Information circular for members of GSB International

Issue 07 / 2017

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1 How reliable are standardized test methods in practice?

This question is discussed by Mr. Hans-Jürgen Alfort and Mr. Dr. Axel Blecher in the current issue of JOT (09/2017). They explain the requirements for coatings in the course of time and show new test methods for the determination of practical results. The two authors point out that the goal of successful quality monitoring can only be achieved by reducing production costs and increasing quality, since only such test methods can find wide acceptance in the industry.

2 Changes to GSB AL 631 and GSB ST 663

The changes to the quality guidelines adopted at the General Meeting on 25 April of this year will be summarised, and the GSB offices will re-send it to members separately as an update sheet. The changes to the quality guidelines enter into force on 1 January 2018.

3 Chromium-VI-free pre-treatment

In collaboration with the German Research Institute for Precious Metals and Metal Chemistry (FEM) in Schwäbisch Gmünd, GSB has produced comprehensive reports for the chromium-free systems that are already approved, based on ISO 8565:1995 and EN 12206-1:2004.

This report contains the results of the external exposure of pretreatment products after three, five and 10 years, where available and with a detailed documentation of the climate data for the external exposure in Hoek van Holland since 1998. The time period for natural weathering stipulated in EN 12206-1 has therefore very clearly been satisfied.

We have made these reports available to the chemical suppliers for further use. They can be obtained from these manufacturers, where available.

At present GSB is the only quality organization that has these results and data for chromium-free pretreatments.

4 Chromium-VI-ban - Update

21 September 2017, i.e. the sunset date for the ban on Cr-VI, is fast approaching. Admittedly, a decision about the request of the CTAC Consortium on the continued usage of Cr-VI is still pending. For this reason, the following applies concerning the continued usage of pre-treatment containing Cr-VI:

If a delay occurs, Article 58(1)(c)(ii) of REACH stipulates that downstream users who are directly or indirectly supplied by the seven claimants can continue their usage beyond the expiration date and until the committee takes a decision.

(Press release from the CTAC Submission Consortium, 18 January 2017)

If the European Commission decides, this may apply immediately with possible restrictions on the application.

5 Fraud warning

Mr Wellner, Managing Director of the Gesamtverband der Aluminiumindustrie e.V. (Aluminium Industry Association) sent a letter to the members of his association warning about a type of fraud which is common at the moment. As this form of fraud can also affect our members, we consider it a matter of urgency to inform you about it. Following consultation with Mr Wellner, we are therefore publishing the full letter in this issue of GSB News.

Dear Sir / Madam,

We have now received a second report from a member company about an incident of fraud in connection with business conducted via the internet. The incidents unfolded as follows:

An alleged customer, in these cases from the UK, establishes contact via e-mail. The e-mail address suggests that this is an enquiry from a serious customer (Maers and Babcock respectively in these cases). However, these companies have nothing to do with the enquiry. The alleged customer constructs a convincing cover story by supplying details such as the name of a contact person, a business address, company documents, a correct tax number or a Chamber of Commerce number, etc. Even the prospect of a face-to-face meeting at a later date is mentioned. Correct information about companies is being misused. What is not correct, however, is the e-mail address and telephone number given. These are not from the serious (misused) company.

The transaction is agreed via the e-mail address. The goods are sent and unloaded at an unloading point which is obviously only serving as temporary storage. After this, the goods disappear. There is no payment. Questions asked to the misused serious firm reveal that they know nothing about this.

One of the first indications of fraud is the e-mail address. The web address that is used has nothing to do with the serious (misused) company. This can be quickly checked.

Furthermore, we advise setting up a dedicated communication channel with the company that does not involve this e-mail address and the telephone number that is given. This can thwart the fraud.

If a similar incident occurs at your company, please contact the Ludwigsburg police directly:

Polizeipräsidium Ludwigsburg

Kriminalkommissariat

Arbeitsbereich Vermögen

Kriminalhauptkommissar Roland Reif, tel. +49(0)7141 18 5760, Roland.reif@polizei.bwl.de

Please inform us about the incident as well.

Best wishes,

Christian Wellner

6 GSB specialist symposiums and training courses

- **Surface pre-treatment**
 Date: To be confirmed
 Location: Düsseldorf
 Participants: 20

- **Steel**
 Date: 18 October 2017
 Location: Schwäbisch Gmünd
 Participants: 30

- **Aluminium**
 Date: 22/23 November 2017
 Location: Schwäbisch Gmünd
 Participants: 30

7 GSB dates

- **Board – 4th meeting**
 Date: 29 November 2017
 Location: Düsseldorf

- **Aluminium Quality Committee – 3rd meeting**
 Date: 10/11 October 2017
 Location: Bielefeld

- **Steel Quality Committee – 2nd meeting**
 Date: 19 October 2017
 Location: Schwäbisch Gmünd

8 Exhibitions and conventions

- **Paint Expo 2018**
 Date: 17 – 20 April 2018
 Location: Karlsruhe

- **ALUMINIUM 2018 – World Trade Fair and Congress**
 Date: 9 – 11 October 2018
 Location: Düsseldorf

Seminars

GDA seminars (www.aluinfo.de)

- **Technology of extruded aluminium profiles**
 Date: 12 September 2017
 Location: Lindner Hotel Airport, Düsseldorf

- **Aluminium and its alloys – an introduction for technicians and traders**
 Date: 26/27 October 2017
 Location: Fachschule für Wirtschaft und Technik, Clausthal-Zellerfeld

- **Surface treatment of aluminium**

Date: 7/8 November 2017
Location: Lindner Hotel Airport, Düsseldorf

- **GDA in-house seminars**

Date: By arrangement
Location: On location at customer site

9 List of experts

The GSB office has a list of experts complete with all contact details, which you are welcome to request via info@gsb-international.de if interested.

10 Material and member lists

The new GSB International website has been online since the beginning of June 2013. The lists that used to be enclosed can be downloaded from the website. If there are changes, the lists are updated at the end of the month.

