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GSB News
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Dear members of the GSB,

In the recent past, we have received a number of inquiries in our headquarters on the subject of gloss.

These related mainly to the designation of the gloss ranges and the delivery tolerance.

We have summarized all the important points on the gloss subject for you below.

Your GSB Team



Gloss Ranges and Definitions

We are often asked why GSB does not use terms to describe gloss ranges, such as matte or ultramatte.

In the GSB Quality Regulations, these ranges are only specified as numerical values in GU (= Gloss Units). The reason for this is that there is **no standard** for the designations in the form of adjectives and therefore various material manufacturers use different designations for the same and/or similar gloss range. In this respect, comparability is only ensured by specifying a numerical value in GU.

In DIN EN ISO 2813:2015-02, ISO 4618:2014, 2.132 is cited under item 3.1. In both cases, only examples are given for gloss ranges.

The topic was discussed during the 2019 general assembly. Gloss ranges were redefined and designations were limited to GU only. The following is an excerpt from the minutes of the general assembly:

Furthermore, the gloss level designation (matt, glossy etc.)[...]causes confusion, as many material manufacturers define gloss level ranges differently and sometimes use their own designations for this. It was agreed that these designations should no longer be used in the quality regulations [sic!] [...]. (MINUTES General Meeting 2019, p.16).

Furthermore, we would like to point out that in the GSB Quality Regulations (QR), a distinction is made between the **approval ranges** (QR material approval GSB AL 631-4 or GSB ST 663-4, section 1, item 2.1.1) and the **delivery tolerance** (QR coater GSB AL 631-5 or GSB ST 663-6, section 2, point 10) with regard to the gloss level. The gloss ranges approved in the General Assembly are the **approval ranges** for the material manufacturers:

± 5 GU at 2 – 15 GU
± 10 GU at 16 – 60 GU

± 15 GU from 61 GU

For the coaters, on the other hand, only the **delivery tolerance** is relevant. This is independent of the approval range and is ± 5 GU.

As usual, you can find the current edition of the Quality Regulations on our homepage:
[LINK Quality Regulations](#)

Sources:

Deutsche Institut für Normung e.V. (DIN). (2015). *Paints and varnishes - Determination of gloss value at 20°, 60° and 85° (ISO 2813:2014); German version EN ISO 2813:2014.*
DOI: <https://dx.doi.org/10.31030/2146718>

Deutsche Institut für Normung e.V. (DIN). (2015). *Paints and varnishes - Terms and definitions (ISO 4618:2014); Trilingual version EN ISO 4618:2014.*
DOI: <https://dx.doi.org/10.31030/2098369>

GSB International e.V. (2019). *MINUTES of the 22nd General Meeting of GSB International e.V. on 9 April 2019 in Hamburg.* GSB International e.V.: Düsseldorf [for internal use only].

Editorial Office

We are looking forward to your topic suggestions, questions and comments regarding the GSB-NEWS!

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