



**Minutes of the QUALANOD Technical Committee meeting
held on 19 June 2003 in Zurich (Hotel Sofitel)**

TC members :

ESTAL

EAA

E. Arnoux
C. Baroni (partly)
J. Bettencourt (Chairman)
R. Boi
W. Buchholz
P. LLoret
S. Meirsschaut
J. van den Heuvel
R. Wunderlin

R. Furneaux
W. Mader

Secretariat:

J. Schoppig
P. Bellot (Minutes)

Apologies:

Å. Andersson

A G E N D A

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 20 November 2002
2. Statistical report (weight loss test)
3. Meetings of the "Specifications" working group
4. Meeting of the "QUALANOD/QUALISURFAL" working group
5. QUALITAL's remarks regarding section 6.8. of the Specifications
6. Report on CEN TC 132/WG 15
7. Any other business
8. Next meeting



The Chairman of the Technical Committee, Mr. Bettencourt, welcomed those present, especially Mr. R. Furneaux of ALCAN (UK), who was attending his first Technical Committee meeting.

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 20 November 2002

Mr. Sheasby, who had chaired the previous meeting, had sent some formal corrections to the Secretariat.

With these corrections, the minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved. The revised issue of these minutes would be sent to the national associations and committee members and be published on the "Members only" area of the QUALANOD website.

2. Statistical report

Mr. Schoppig commented on the list of unsatisfactory inspections based on the reports received between 1 November 2002 and 31 May 2003. Five inspections out of 200 (2.5%) had been negative, two due to the weight loss test. In the previous period (01.06.02.–31.10.02), six reports out of 114 (5.3%) had been negative, with five negative results due to the weight loss test.

Qualanod's Secretariat had compiled a list of all the weight loss values reported by the testing laboratories between 1 November 2002 and 31 May 2002 (white statistics). This list had been distributed to those present at the beginning of the session together with the yellow statistics (average); an illustrative chart was shown to those present.

Out of 200 measurements, two values exceeded the limit of 30 mg/dm² (versus five out of 114 in the previous period). During this period, there had been only one extremely poor result (over 45 mg/dm²). The national association's report and the track record of the company concerned confirmed that the bad result could be considered an accident.

Mr. Lloret pointed out that the weight loss test results had improved considerably over the last few years. Mr. Meirsschaut suggested that the use of new medium temperature sealing systems could well explain this improvement.

Those present entered into a technical discussion about the influence of new sealing additives on the test results. Mr. Meirsschaut's own experience showed that these sealing additives drastically improved the results of the weight loss test. However, it seemed that they could give rise to some problems with the anodising. Mr. Boi also felt that this issue ought to be looked into. He would inform the Technical Committee about the results of his investigations at a later meeting.

Mr. Arnoux wondered whether the statistics showing the average and the pertinent rule stated in § 8.3.2 of the Specifications were relevant. He argued that, in practice, there was no case of an average value over 26.0 mg/dm² because every negative weight loss test result was replaced by the measurement taken during the repeat visit. The Chairman, Mr. Bettencourt, pointed out that this average rule had been introduced to increase quality by pushing the anodisers to work better and more regularly.

During the period considered, only one average calculated by the Secretariat had exceeded 26.1 mg/dm². However, in this particular case, the inspector and national association had not carried out the repeat visit prescribed in § 8.3.2 of the Specifications.

The Technical Committee decided to maintain the average statistics and to remind the national associations of the rules on checking the average.

3. Meetings of the "Specifications" working group

Mr. Arnoux reported on two meetings held by the working group in Paris on 27 January and 31 March 2003.

He reminded the participants of the resolutions that had been incorporated in the Specifications:

- Abrasion resistance test (Update No. 1)
- Reinforcement of in-house control (Update No. 2)
- Use of the logo by third parties (Update No. 3)

These update sheets had been sent to all the national associations and committee members and were now published on the INTERNET.

At its first meeting, in January, the working group had also amended the Specifications to incorporate the very latest decisions taken by the Committees at their November meetings:

- to change the title of the Specifications in order to extend QUALANOD's scope of application
- to include a reference to EN 12373-7
- to revise section 5.3
- to delete the reference to EURAS codification in the green supplement

Furthermore the working group, assisted by Peter Sheasby, had prepared a proposal for a revised issue of update sheet No. 1 (new paragraphs concerning sampling and reference test).

The Technical Committee approved this revised issue of update sheet No. 1 which would be distributed to the national associations and be published on the Internet.

The Technical Committee also agreed with the working group's suggestion to replace the wording "EURAS/EWAA Quality Sign" by "QUALANOD Quality Label".

Mr. Arnoux commented on the working group's proposal for the new edition of the Specifications. The aim was to completely restructure the Specifications to make them clearer (chapters, titles and subtitles, verifying references, eliminating repetitions, etc.).

No changes would be made to the contents of the Specifications, but the chapters would be organised as follows:

1. General information
 2. Test methods and requirements
 3. Work specifications
 4. Specifications for in-house control
 5. Licensing of anodising plants
- Appendices

The red supplement, for instance, would be integrated in the relevant section "Thickness measurement" and the green supplement in the section "Measurement of admittance value".

Chapter 5 (Licensing of anodising plants) would correspond to former chapter 8 (Specifications for inspectors) and include some parts of former chapter 6 (Minimum requirements for the equipment of anodising plants) as well as former appendices IVa and IVb (as diagrams A and B).

The Technical Committee members fully endorsed the idea of restructuring the QUALANOD Specifications and asked the working group to proceed with this task.

The working group members, who had been working on the French version of the Specifications to date, would endeavour to submit a draft of the new English Specifications prior to the next Technical Committee meeting.

However, as some national associations had to prepare their own language versions and a lot of remarks and corrections always arose during this period of preparation, it would probably be impossible to issue the new QUALANOD Specifications before summer 2004.

4. Meeting of the "QUALANOD/QUALISURFAL" working group

At its latest meeting held in Zurich on 11 March 2003, the "QUALANOD/QUALISURFAL" working group had finalised the new inspection report for checking the plant and process. This report had been distributed to the national associations, committee members and testing laboratories in May, with instructions that the form was valid with immediate effect.

The Technical Committee decided not to review in detail the proposal for a single inspection form integrating plant, process and product inspections.

Most of the delegates were in favour of having just one form. However, it was decided to clearly indicate the contents of the reports. The following list would therefore be added at the top of the first page, and inspectors would be requested to specify the type of inspection:

INSPECTION REPORT on

- plant (§1 and §2: pages 1-8)
- products (§ 3 to § 6: pages 9-16)
- plant and products

The draft of the new single inspection form would be circulated among the national associations and testing laboratories. It would then be discussed by the inspectors and be submitted for final approval at the next QUALISURFAL meeting scheduled to be held in Nice on 15-16 September 2003.

5. QUALITAL's remarks regarding section 6.8. of the Specifications

In a letter dated 14 April 2003, QUALITAL had raised the problem of § 6.8 of the Specifications and especially of the following sentence : *"Other electrolytes and/or other conditions may be used provided that the anodising quality is at least as good as the quality produced by anodising according to the Specifications below."*

Such a sentence implied that it was not necessary to follow Appendix VII (Assessment of new products and processes), which QUALITAL considered unacceptable. Mr. Boi therefore proposed that the last part of the first paragraph "according to the Specifications below" be replaced by "according to the Specifications given in Appendix VII", dropping the second paragraph of section 6.8: *"If there are any deviations from the typical anodising conditions (composition, concentration, temperature, current density, etc.), records stating these deviations must be available in the plant and be submitted to the inspector to verify."*

Mr. Van den Heuvel pointed out that it could be very dangerous to simply remove this paragraph which had been in force for about 25 years. QUALANOD's aim was to guarantee the quality of the coating while the method of producing a good coating was the anodiser's responsibility. It was not possible for QUALANOD to monitor every product and every deviation.

Mr. Boi insisted that, before using new products, we had to be sure that such products complied with the Specifications. We should test them beforehand in a laboratory and not leave this up to the anodisers.

The Technical Committee agreed with Mr. Boi's proposal to drop the last paragraph of section 6.8 and refer only to Appendix VII. The national associations would nevertheless be requested to express their opinions on this matter.

6. Report on CEN TC 132/WG 15

Mr. Bettencourt felt that, if there was something to be changed, CEN TC 132 should reactivate WG 15.

7. Any other business

None

8. Next meeting

Technical and Executive Committees:

Wednesday, 19 November 2003
in Zurich (Hotel SOFITEL)