

**Minutes of the QUALANOD Technical Committee meeting
held on 22 June 2005 (8h30 – 12h00)
in Zurich (Sofitel Hotel)**

TC members:

ESTAL

J. Bettencourt (Chairman)
R. Boi
M. Koot
P. Lloret
S. Meirsschaut
J. van den Heuvel
R. Wunderlin

EAA

Å. Andersson
E. Arnoux
R. Furneaux
W. Mader

Secretariat:

J. Schoppig
P. Bellot (Minutes)



A G E N D A

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 24 November 2004
2. Statistical report
3. Revision of Appendix VI – Assessment of New Products and Processes
4. Coil anodizing
5. Reply to ESTAL Belgium's questions
6. Abrasion test (ÖVA's request)
7. Modification of anodizing parameters
8. Any other business
9. Next meeting

The Chairman of the Technical Committee, Mr. Bettencourt, welcomed the delegates and especially Mr. Michiel Koot, who was attending a TC meeting for the first time.

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 24 November 2004

The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved.

2. Statistical report

Mr. Schoppig commented on the list of unsatisfactory inspections based on the reports received between 1 November 2004 and 31 May 2005. Four inspections out of 162 (2.5%) had been negative, but only one had been unsatisfactory due to the weight loss test. In the previous period (01.06 – 31.10.04), four inspections out of 116 (3.4%) had been negative, three 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 2004 and 31 May 2005. Following the Technical Committee's instructions, the summary had now been split into two parts: results by type of colouring (natural/coloured) and results by type of sealing (hot sealing/medium temperature sealing/cold sealing). During this period, there had not been any extremely poor results, and the tendency remained positive. Mr. Meirsschaut pointed out that medium temperature sealing had been used in only 2 cases out of 162.

As the average rule had been abolished, the average statistics had been discontinued. However, those attending thought that the summary of the last 3 weight loss test values should be retained in the inspection reports in order to maintain better records.

3. Revision of Appendix VI – Assessment of New Products and Processes

The "Specifications" working group, consisting of Mr. Arnoux, Mr. Bettencourt, Mr. Boi and Mr. Furneaux, had met on 9 March 2005 in order to revise Appendix VI. The resulting draft had then been submitted to the national associations and committee members in April.

Mr. Bettencourt said that, as the Secretariat had not received any objections from the national associations, this proposal could be considered approved. He explained that the working group had however slightly altered the last sentence in the meantime in order to better define the meaning of the words "provisional approval".

Mr. Arnoux wondered whether laboratory tests were enough to grant a provisional approval. Mr. Boi replied that laboratory tests could be sufficient provided that the variance from the Specifications was not too large. The Technical Committee would decide in each case whether to wait for the results of the exposure test or not.

Mr. van den Heuvel felt that QUALANOD should not grant any approval for a product or process without asking the supplier to deliver an environmental impact declaration for the new product or process. Mr. Mader said that a product would never be put on the market if it did not satisfy safety and environmental requirements. The attendees confirmed that it was not QUALANOD's responsibility to decide on environmental matters.

Mr. Arnoux thought that new products and processes should not be subjected to the abrasion test because this test was not compulsory and was only used in in-house control. The other working group members explained that this test could provide more information about totally new systems. Mr. Boi suggested asking the inspectors to report on their experience with the abrasion test at the next QUALISURFAL meeting, and the Secretariat was requested to prepare statistics on abrasion test results for the next TC meeting.

The Technical Committee reviewed and amended the working group's new proposal. The wording of the final paragraph of the revised Appendix VI would be as follows:

QUALANOD may approve the use of the process or product by licensed anodizers on a provisional basis after one year of exposure or after laboratory tests. A final decision whether to grant an approval will be taken after completion of 3 years of exposure.

The Executive Committee would decide on the matter of certificates and fees for new products and processes.

4. Coil anodizing

The addendum, which had been prepared by the "Coil anodizing" working group and submitted to the Technical Committee at the previous meeting, had been revised in accordance with the applicant company's remarks. The Technical Committee now reviewed the revised paper carefully.

Mr. van den Heuvel felt it was not sufficient to check 3 coils on stock. In his opinion, there could be differences from one coil to the next and a coil should be regarded as a part. He therefore thought that the inspector should check 30 or, at the least, 15 coils on stock.

Mr. Boi explained that it was very important to make exhaustive checks on the running coil in order to verify uniform thickness.

After a short discussion, the TC members finally agreed to increase the total number of coils to be tested to 10 (1 running coil and 9 coils on stock).

The Belgian inspector and applicant company would be informed of this decision. The amended addendum and check list would be presented to the inspectors at the QUALISURFAL meeting to be held in Rome on 5 September 2005.

5. Reply to ESTAL Belgium's questions

A few days before the previous meeting held on 24 November 2004, the Secretariat had received some comments and questions from ESTAL Belgium regarding the new edition of the Specifications. As these had arrived very late, it had been decided to answer the Belgian association's questions at this meeting.

Mr. Bettencourt explained that, in the meantime, the "Specifications" working group had reviewed the Belgian association's remarks in detail and been able to answer most of the questions. However, one question asked by ESTAL Belgium concerning the need to check the chloride content still had to be discussed by the Technical Committee.

After a short discussion, the Technical Committee came to the conclusion that it was not necessary to check the chloride content as long as there had not been any change in the plant's water supply. However, as there was a discrepancy between reality and the Specifications, which require to check regularly (§ 4.1 and 3.2.8), QUALANOD should specify this position better.

The "Specifications" working group would submit a proposal for incorporating this statement into the Specifications.

6. Abrasion test (ÖVA's request)

In a letter sent to the Secretariat, the Austrian association, ÖVA, had asked QUALANOD to clarify the matter of the application of the abrasion resistance test to all (coloured and natural anodized) surfaces. ÖVA maintained that BS 6161:18:1991, on which the abrasion resistance test was based, made a clear distinction between coloured and uncoloured material and, consequently, specified two different types of abrasive paper.

This letter from the Austrian association had been sent to all committee members, and Mr. van den Heuvel had answered by e-mail that the standard only distinguished between integral colouring (colouring during anodizing in a special electrolyte and with special parameters mostly based on aromatic weak organic acid) and natural anodizing. Integral colour anodizing (like duranodic) was more or less a type of hard anodizing and for that reason garnet paper was used.

The other TC members agreed with this answer, which would be passed on to the Austrian association.

7. Modification of anodizing parameters

A few days before the meeting, Mr. Brodalla had sent out an e-mail informing the Technical Committee that a CRAFT project entitled "Modification of anodizing parameters" had been submitted for funding by the EU in Brussels and that a modified project would be presented for the next Brussels decision date in October 2005. Select plants in 6 ESTAL member countries were involved in this research project.

In the meantime, there had only been a few more isolated laboratory results confirming the possibility to increase productivity while saving energy and assuring and even improving the existing quality standards. It was planned to involve other firms in EU and ESTAL member countries in the project if necessary. Furthermore it was scheduled for the intermediate results to be presented at the next ESTAL Congress.

The Technical Committee took a note of this information.

8. Any other business

CEN TC 132 / WG 15

As already mentioned at the previous meeting, CEN TC 132 had asked Mr. Boi to reactivate TC 132/WG 15 in order to prepare a new standard for architectural applications. A meeting had been organized in Zurich the day before, and the following gentlemen had started work: J. Bettencourt (Portugal), R. Boi (Italy), R. Furneaux (United Kingdom) and W. Mader (Germany). The working group's aim was to make at least a recommendation to CEN.

The attendees once again discussed the advantages and disadvantages of establishing a good European standard.

Mr. Arnoux, who had not been able to attend the first meeting of CEN TC 132/WG 15, put on record that, although he had accepted the nomination, he was not in favour of starting work on a European standard. Mr. Mader was also sceptical about this work which ultimately could be prejudicial to QUALANOD's interests since customers did not really distinguish between standards and quality labels. He strongly advised QUALANOD to develop public relations and promotional work.

Farewell to Mr. van den Heuvel

Mr. van den Heuvel announced that the time had come for him to say goodbye to the Technical Committee. From now on, Mr. Koot, the Dutch association's new representative in ESTAL, would also attend the QUALANOD meetings in Zurich.

Those present thanked Mr. van den Heuvel warmly for his very active cooperation and wished him all the best for the future.

9. Next meeting

Mr. Schoppig explained that ESTAL had decided to accept the Greek association's invitation to organize the November Executive Committee meeting in Thessaloniki.

Considering that some delegates had to attend both ESTAL and QUALANOD meetings, the Technical Committee members agreed to hold its next meeting in Greece.

The next meeting would therefore be held on:

Friday, 18 November 2005
at the Porto Carras Grand Resort, Halkidiki
Thessaloniki