

**Minutes of the QUALANOD Technical Committee meeting
held on 22 November 2007 (8h30 – 11h20)
in Zurich (Hotel Sofitel)**

TC members:

ESTAL

J. Bettencourt
R. Boi
R. Furneaux
M. Koot
I. Vermeeren
R. Wunderlin

EAA

T. Bardh
F. Dijkstra
W. Mader (**Chairman**)

Guests:

G. Barbarossa
Å. Broli (EC)
P. Leclainche
P. Lloret (EC)
J. Luthiger (*for part of the meeting*)
A. Mafezzoni (EC)

Secretariat:

J. Schoppig
P. Bellot (minutes)

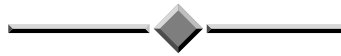
Apologies:

J. Arenas (EAA)
T. Poulet (EAA)
T. Ulucak (ESTAL)



A G E N D A

- 1. Antitrust reminder**
- 2. Minutes of the meeting held on 20 June 2007**
- 3. Statistical report**
- 4. Specification of etching practices**
- 5. QUALISURFAL – meeting of the Anodizing Section (Lisbon, 15.10.07)**
- 6. Abrasion test**
- 7. Assessment of new medium temperature processes**
- 8. Weight loss test: substitution of the phosphoric acid / chromic acid solution**
- 9. Composition of the Technical Committee in 2008/2009**
- 10. Any other business**
- 11. Next meeting**



The Chairman of the Technical Committee, Mr. Mader, welcomed the delegates and guests, especially Messrs. Barbarossa, Mafezzoni and Vermeeren, who were attending a QUALANOD meeting for the first time. As these new people were present, every participant was invited to introduce himself briefly.

1. Antitrust reminder

Those present took note of the antitrust reminder circulated at the meeting.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 20 June 2007

Mr. Boi pointed out that the correct spelling of the guidelines mentioned on page 5 (item 7) was "CIDA".

With this correction, the minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved.

Mr. Mader explained that he had not yet been able to find the English version of the above-mentioned guidelines that he had proposed to send to the other Technical Committee members at the previous meeting. Mr. Boi, who had a scanned English version of the CIDA guidelines, offered to circulate it through the Secretariat.

3. Statistical report

Mr. Schoppig commented on the list of unsatisfactory inspections based on the reports received between 1 June and 15 November 2007. Eight inspections out of 127 (6.3%) had been negative. The main reasons for negative results were weight loss (4) and insufficient thickness (3). In the previous period (01.11.06 – 31.05.07), only three inspections out of 201 (1.5 %) had been negative.

Mr. Lloret was worried about the high percentage of negative results. Although the reported period was short and the number of reports particularly low - which could explain the high percentage - he thought that the absolute number of negative inspections was definitely too large and that QUALANOD should take care of this matter.

In order to get a better picture of the inspection results, a statistical report covering the last two years would be prepared for the next meeting.

It was noted that the Secretariat had not yet received the report on a repeat inspection following a negative inspection carried out at the beginning of June 2007. Everyone present felt that this could not be tolerated. The national associations should be reminded that the results of inspections absolutely had to be sent to the Secretariat within a reasonable time.

The Secretariat was also asked to verify one of the reasons given for a negative inspection as it seemed most improbable.

4. Specification of etching practices (Update Sheet No. 7)

Following a request from ESTAL Belgium, those present confirmed that no extra measurements were required for in-house control as long as the plant was equipped with an automatic system for measuring the parameters.

Update Sheet No. 7, effective from 1 January 2008, would be sent to the national associations and published on the website.

5. QUALISURFAL – meeting of the Anodizing Section (Lisbon, 15.10.07)

Mr. Bettencourt, who had attended the meeting of the Anodizing Section on 15 October 2007, commented on the main issues discussed in Lisbon.

A revised edition of the inspection form had been submitted to the inspectors and distributed to the national associations and testing laboratories after the QUALISURFAL meeting. It took into account the fact that a negative abrasion test would now lead to a negative evaluation of the whole inspection.

Mr. Mader pointed out that the “average” column mentioned in section 4.3.4 needed to be removed.

The inspectors would be informed of this correction.

At the QUALISURFAL meeting, Mr. Schoppig had reported that, during an audit for re-accreditation of AC Treuhand, the auditor and expert had observed that the inspector did not strictly follow the rule in section 2.2.1 of the QUALANOD Specifications stipulating that 3 to 5 single readings were required at each measuring point for the thickness measurement. The inspector had answered that one single reading was generally suf-

ficient to measure the thickness at one point. The auditor argued that, as a certification body, AC Treuhand had to insist on a review of this procedure. Mr. Schoppig himself felt that only QUALANOD could decide whether any change was necessary.

The Technical Committee shared the opinion expressed by Mr. Bettencourt at the QUALISURFAL meeting and confirmed that the rule of taking several readings was stipulated in the standard and therefore had to be respected by all inspectors.

Mr. Bettencourt went on to inform the Technical Committee that the Portuguese testing laboratory had agreed to organize a repetition of the round robin test carried out last year. The testing programme would comprise the thickness measurement, weight loss, admittance, dye spot and abrasion tests.

6. Abrasion test

6.1 Purchase of abrasive paper

Mr. Schoppig reported that a survey had been carried out among the national associations with a view to placing a collective order. The few national associations which had sent an order to the Secretariat would soon be informed of the price. They would receive the paper directly from the supplier.

6.2 Mr. Boi's proposal

Mr. Boi explained once again why he thought that QUALANOD should drop the reference to the BS 6161:18 standard for the abrasion test. He strongly advised QUALANOD to buy, check and sell the abrasion paper in order to avoid depending on a single source. An approval procedure should therefore be introduced.

Mr. Schoppig said that, now that a collective order had been placed, QUALANOD had time to think about such a procedure. Mr. Furneaux thought that some elements of the Specifications could still be used but that the paper - a glass paper – needed to be clearly defined.

Mr. Mader thanked Mr. Boi for his good recommendations and asked him to submit an approval procedure for the next Technical Committee meeting.

7. Assessment of new medium temperature processes

7.1 Assessment of a new medium temperature process (Stage B)

At the previous meeting, the Technical Committee members had reviewed a test report and come to the conclusion that an approval could not be granted because the reference samples had not been produced in accordance with the Specifications, i.e. using the conventional methods described in the Specifications (hot steam versus hot water), and because the reference samples did not satisfy the quality requirements.

In the meantime, a new report had been submitted by the testing laboratory. However, this report was not fully satisfactory either as the sealing time was not indicated for the reference system.

Mr. Boi was particularly worried about the discoloration of the samples, which was mentioned in table 4. He felt that the Technical Committee should be given the opportunity to make a visual assessment of the samples.

Mr. Broli observed that a company which tried to develop environmental processes should be strongly encouraged rather than restrained. Some other delegates pointed out that, in this particular case, the formulation of the sealing additives was not known and that nickel was also likely to be banned in the future. They felt that the company should be asked to deliver a Material Safety Data Sheet.

Mr. Furneaux said that outdoor exposure was most important for this kind of process and he recommended starting stage C.

Mr. Schoppig explained that the product had been tested on behalf of a company which used it for its own production but not for commercial purposes. The plant had applied for a QUALANOD licence and two inspections for granting a licence had already been carried out successfully. Considering that all the results were positive, he wondered whether the process could be regarded as an internal process and the licence be granted to the anodizing plant.

The Technical Committee disagreed with this suggestion and decided that a licence would not be granted until the results of one year's outdoor exposure were known. In the meantime, the company would be asked to provide a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) according to European law, and the testing laboratory would send samples to QUALANOD for an assessment of the discoloration problem.

7.2 Assessment of a medium temperature process after outdoor exposure (Stage C)

It had transpired that the test samples produced with the new medium temperature process, which had been assessed positively in June 2004 (stage B), had never reached either QUALITAL or Genoa because the laboratory responsible had used the wrong address.

Due to these circumstances, only the samples that had come back from the Hook of Holland were available at the meeting for assessment by the Technical Committee. Those present made a visual assessment of the samples and fully agreed that the report and panels were both satisfactory. However, a solution still had to be found to the problem of the lack of exposure in Genoa.

Mr. Dijkstra wanted to know whether there was a correlation between both exposure sites. Mr. Boi answered that the conditions had proved to be more severe in Genoa than at the Hook of Holland, at least for coated samples.

Mr. Bettencourt suggested sending a letter to the supplier, confirming the provisional approval and inviting him to immediately send some panels for outdoor exposure in Genoa.

Those present agreed with this procedure.

It was also decided to ask the Executive Committee to take action in response to the unsatisfactory work done in both cases (6.1 and 6.2) by the testing laboratory concerned.

8. Weight loss test: substitution of the phosphoric acid / chromic acid solution

Mr. Boi was convinced that a great deal of valuable information could be found in old articles or reports as a lot of laboratories had worked on various tests many years ago. He proposed that a working group be set up to collect and compare old information.

Messrs. Bardh, Boi, Furneaux and Mader agreed to join this new working group.

Mr. Mader said that he was in close contact with Alcan R. & D. Neuhausen where research was currently being conducted on an alternative approach to the so-called "bubble test". Although it was intended for the semi-conductor industry, such an alternative test should perhaps be compared with QUALANOD's weight loss test.

The presentation shown by Mr. Mader would be attached to these minutes provided that Alcan agreed.

9. Composition of the Technical Committee in 2008/2009

At the General Meeting held the evening before, EAA and ESTAL had confirmed the following nominations:

EAA

Messrs.	José ARENAS	SAPA	France
	Torbjörn BARDH	SAPA	Sweden
	Fokko DIJKSTRA	SAPA	Netherlands
	Philippe LECLAINCHE	GLAF - AFA	France
	Andrea MAFEZZONI	METRA	Italy
	Werner MADER	GDA e.V.	Germany
	Thierry POULET	ALCAN	France

ESTAL

Messrs.	Riccardo BOI	QUALITAL	Italy
	José BETTENCOURT	APAL	Portugal
	Robin FURNEAUX	TSC Ltd	United Kingdom
	Michiel KOOT	STANOD	Netherlands
	Ivo VERMEEREN	ESTAL Belgium	Belgium
	Timur ULUCAK	AYID	Turkey
	Ruedi WUNDERLIN	VSA	Switzerland

In accordance with the Articles of Association, the Technical Committee appointed Mr. Robin FURNEAUX as its Chairman.

10. Any other business**Anodizing temperature**

On behalf of the Dutch association, Mr. Koot asked the Technical Committee to start considering a possible change in anodizing temperature with a view to saving electricity consumption. He also suggested inviting Dr. Brodalla to give a presentation on this subject at the next committee meeting.

Coil

In order to avoid any misunderstandings, Mr. Schoppig would contact the Belgian company again to explain QUALANOD's position.

11. Next meeting

It was confirmed that the next meeting would take place at the end of June 2008 outside Switzerland.

The exact date and venue of the meeting would be announced later.