



40 Years of Excellence in Anodising – QUALANOD celebrates its jubilee

In 1974 several national associations encompassing anodisers of architectural parts organised in EURAS and the EWAA formed the QUALANOD organisation. Later on, their successor organisations ESTAL and EAA remained founders members of QUALANOD. Their goal was to raise and standardise the quality level of anodised aluminium throughout Europe, laying down rules applying to their industry. QUALANOD should be both a signal and an indicator for the market: licensed anodisers producing, and their customers applying high quality anodised aluminium. End-customer's advantage is an easy way of identifying good anodising when his orders are performed by a QUALANOD licensee.

With an upward trend, currently nearly 200 anodisers in many European countries and some on other continents have obtained a QUALANOD licence. They are organised in national associations who act as General Licensees. The reason for this success is the increasing quality appreciation of architects and specifiers and quality requirements of the customers.

QUALANOD is a quality label organisation committed to maintaining and promoting the quality of anodised aluminium. Originally it was oriented to the use of anodised aluminium for architectural applications. A few years ago the objective was extended to many other aluminium products anodised with sulfuric acid.

To determine whether or not anodising meets a customer's requirements, the results need to be measurable against technical specifications. On behalf of customers who have products anodised, QUALANOD defines comprehensive quality requirements and monitors compliance by licensed plants world-wide. As a result, purchasers of anodised aluminium receive a premium-grade product delivering long-term value with good quality.

Core to the monitoring process and a distinguished attribute of QUALANOD is the performance of unannounced compliance tests of all licensees carried out by selected testing institutes. The general licensees or national associations work together with testing laboratories accredited according to ISO 17025. In countries without a national association, QUALANOD engages experienced inspectors to review the licensees' performance. Licensees who fail to meet the requirements lose their licences. So the customer understands: QUALANOD anodisers are the better anodisers.

Of course, maintaining a high quality level has to be considered in a dynamic environment. QUALANOD has always been monitoring new technical developments and environmental requirements which can affect the anodising business. Experts from all the countries study new practical solutions. These lead to future planning and changes wherever appropriate. Cooperation with other quality and professional organisations in the surface treatment of aluminium (ESTAL, QUALICOAT) in the Joint Technical Committee is a major concern. QUALANOD is also in liaison with the ISO subcommittee responsible for international standards on anodising.

Participation in the organisation and co-operation with licensed plants benefits everyone concerned:

- customers receive anodised products that meet a clearly defined quality standard with a lasting performance
- licensed plants have a distinct advantage in competitive tendering
- building owners are sure they get long-term value from their architecture.

In a word: for 40 years the whole market has profited from associations and plants being members of QUALANOD – and they will do so in the future. Congratulations to all benefactors.

Characters with blanks: 3734

For queries contact: Qualanod, P.O. Box 1507, CH-8038 Zurich, www.qualanod.net

info@qualanod.ch