Qualicoat UK & Ireland - Newsletter

December 2009

Guidance Note 4

Welcome to our second newsletter which covers the activities of Qualicoat UK & Ireland, we hope you find the contents informative.

Despite the dramatic downturn in constructions starts this year powder coating continues to be one of the most widely specified finish for architectural metalwork. With continued advancement in pre-treatment technology and formulation of powders we are now seeing extended warranties on finishes of over 30 years.

Qualicoat UK & Ireland continues to attract membership as more specifications request the 'Qualicoat' standard in the UK.

2010 will be a challenge for the construction industry and Qualicoat UK & Ireland continue to work closely with specifiers in order to ensure high quality and sustainable finishes

Should you have any questions regarding powder coating, please do not hesitate to contact us, or contact any of our members which can be found on our website at www.qualicoatuki.org

Powder Coating Repairs

Qualicoat UK & Ireland have added a further guidance note for specifiers and building professionals which is now available as a download from the associations website.

Guidance Note No. 4 advises on the Repair of Powder Coated Architectural Products and offers the reader an insight into the necessary procedure to take in order to obtain a high quality and warrantied repair. The guidance note joins three further notes which offer guidance on this widely used finish in the construction industry.

The guidance note explains the various problems that can occur from neglect, impact damage and failure of powder coated systems. Failure of a powder coated finish rarely occurs in use, but when it does the reasons are often down to poor application of pre-treatment and powder coating. Qualicoat UK & Ireland's very existence revolves about 'consistent best practice'. Members meet on a regular basis and are updated through site quality visits from Qualicoat's independent testing house, 'Exova', formerly known as 'Bodycote'.

Powder Coating continues to increase its longevity in the built environment and guarantees on finished aluminium profiles can now be warrantied for up to 40 years. Few other applied finishes can boast such a long life expectancy.

Qualicoat Meet at ESTAL

Qualicoat UK & Ireland recently held their members meeting during the 'European Surface Treatment on Aluminium' (ESTAL) conference which this year was held at St Catherine's College, Oxford. The choice of venue for the

St Catherine's College

meeting was obvious as most of the members were present at the conference as were many of the European powder coaters.

It was reported back to the Qualicoat UK & Ireland meeting that several new companies had expressed an interest in joining the association, some of who had already been given a preliminary inspection of their plant by Exova, the independent testing authority for Qualicoat UK and Ireland.

The latest issue of the Qualicoat standard was also mentioned and this version, the 12th issue, is now available as a free download from the European website at www.qualicoat.net.

Mo Panam of Barley Chalu, Chairman of Qualicoat UK & Ireland and representing the UK on the European Technical Committee gave a short presentation of where we were on some technical issues.

It is a reflection on the UK & Ireland's standing in Europe that Mo had been asked at the last European meeting if he would like to stand as the Chair of the European Technical Committee.

There was a short overview of where Qualicoat UK & Ireland are with the further development of the 'Seaside Class' testing and research. It is hoped that the outcome of the project form part of the future standard.

Members confirmed that there continues to be an increase in the use of the 'Qualicoat' standard by specifiers. The new 'Ask for the Qualicoat Standard' was being adopted by users of Qualicoat powder coated profiles, panels and hardware.

It's a Corker for Qualicoat

Qualicoat UK & Ireland members recently held their second meeting in Cork at Doyle's Jurys Inn. Situated on Anderson's Quay, the hotel is in the heart of the city and the meeting offered members time to network and discuss pending standards and challenges within the sector.

Topics discussed during the meeting included the progress towards commencement of Qualicoat UK & Ireland's test programme of supporting work to assure the quality of coatings in a coastal environment. The results will be reported back to Qualicoat Zurich and it is hoped that the proposed revision will be made to the standards in due course.

Doyle's Jurys Inn

Bodycote, the independent testing house who monitor all members output, explained that they had just renamed the group to Exova and offered a short presentation about how the new group is to operate. There was confirmation from the members that for Qualicoat, UK & Ireland, Exova would remain the testing house for members through to 2010.

This was the last meeting for the current Chair, Paul McCarthy of APA Systems, who steps down after two years in office. Member's offered their thanks to him. Mo Panam of Barley-Chalu, previously Vice-Chair, steps up to take the Chair for the next two years. Alan Maginnis of Sprint Coatings, Dublin, was appointed as Vice-Chair.

The next meeting for members will take place during the ESTAL Congress (European Surface Treatment on Aluminium) which at St. Catherine's College, Oxford during the 20th to 22nd September. The ESTAL Congress meets at various locations every other year across Europe, this year Oxford hosts the meeting, the first time in the UK for over 25 years.

Current news and information on architectural powder coating is frequently updated on the UK website at www.qualicoatuki.org. The European website offers the complete specification which can be found at www.qualicoat.net. Printed literature and telephone support is available from Qualicoat UK and Ireland Head Office in Birmingham on 0121 601 6746.

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