

Overview of GalvInfo Center

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Abstract.

The GalvInfo Center is a resource for technical information on the use and performance of metallic-coated steel sheet products. The Center was established in 1999 to serve both current and potential users of these coated sheet products. The core activity of the Center is to provide technical information and support to direct inquiries received from all sources. The Center has both a toll-free number, and a website on which is published GalvInfoNotes, a series of technical bulletins currently numbering 19, covering the most frequently asked questions. Topics include: understanding coating weight designations, prepainted sheet, Galvalume[®], the salt spray test, and storage stain. Plans for 2004 include issuing additional Notes, including the zinc grades used for galvanizing, the welding of galvanize, recycling of galvanize, and the repair painting of prepainted sheets. The service is free to all users, with the support for the Center's activities being provided by 14 companies and organizations that see the need for this kind of activity.

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Introduction

The GalvInfo Center, a resource for technical information on coated steel sheet products, began operation in 1999. It was established by the International Lead/Zinc Research Organization, Inc. (ILZRO) with the funding support of a number of steel sheet manufacturers, the zinc industry, and several surface treatment and paint companies who saw the value of having this resource available to the users of their products. The current sponsors, a total of fourteen, are listed in the GalvInfo Center's website www.galvinfo.com. The service is free to all users.

Specifically, the Center was organized to answer technical inquiries about the use and performance of coated steel sheet products in which zinc is a major component of the coating. This includes galvanized and galvanized products, Galvalume[®] steel sheet, and Galfan[®] steel sheet. Also, the Center answers inquiries concerning the performance of surface treatments and paints when applied to these products.

Objectives

The Center was established in response to the needs of many current and potential new users of coated steel sheet products. Often, current and new users of these steel sheet products are not familiar with their unique product information, terminology, and performance. New users need to have information readily available, and it is important that the products they select be used properly, to insure the performance during application meets their expectations. Prior to the establishment of the GalvInfo Center, there was no one source for getting answers to technical questions about coated steel sheet.

The objectives of the Center include the following:

- ◆ Provide technical assistance to users and potential users of zinc and zinc-alloy coated steel sheet
- ◆ Broaden the understanding of the user community about the behavior and performance of zinc and zinc-alloy coated steel sheet
- ◆ Assist with growing the markets for zinc and zinc-alloy coated steel sheet

Not only has the use of coated steel sheet products been increasing, but there has been a wealth of information on zinc-based coatings developed over the past 20 years. This information ranges from straightforward issues such as how to specify and order, to more complex issues such as how to form, join, and paint. The knowledge is useful only when it is placed in the hands of the

customer, specifier, or user. The GalvInfo Center was established to address this issue – making information on zinc-based coated steel sheet products available to those needing it.

Activities

A website, www.galvinfo.com, was established in 2000. Currently the website contains twenty-one short technical articles, called GalvInfoNotes, on topics that include: understanding coating weight designations, prepainted sheet, Galvalume[®], the salt spray test, and storage stain. More GalvInfoNotes are planned, with topics that include: zinc grades used for galvanizing, welding of galvanized, and recycling of galvanized. The choice of new topics has, and will, continue to reflect the nature of the most frequently asked questions, and input from the sponsors. The GalvInfoNotes are available for downloading in PDF format. Users have even asked for permission to use them as training materials.

While the GalvInfoNote series is important to the Center, it is not meant to be its prime activity. The main objective is to have someone available to answer, in a timely manner, specific questions from the user community. These inquiries can be directed to the Center through its e-mail address, info@galvinfo.com; its toll-free telephone number, 888-880-8802; or its fax number, 905-315-7442. Sponsors can request technical support from the Center, and they also receive monthly reports summarizing non-sponsor calls and e-mails. The website has links not only to the sponsors, but to other organizations such as AISI and SAE. The GalvInfo Center actively supports AISI on zinc environmental issues such as roof run-off.

Gary W. Dallin, formerly associated with Stelco Inc., is the Director of the GalvInfo Center. He has 38 years experience with many aspects of coated sheet steel products, including quality control, product marketing, research, and production. Also, the technical support of experts at ILZRO and their library are available to assist with answering questions.

Over the last six years, the number of inquiries to the Center has increased to about 40 per month. The questions are broad-based, with the most frequent questions related to corrosion performance, viz., in salt spray, in soil, in water, in concrete, and in contact with treated wood. Other popular topics are: product specific terminology, relative performance of different coatings, and white rust/surface treatment issues. There have been questions about many more topics, too diverse to list here.

Summary

The GalvInfo Center has been actively supporting users and potential users of coated steel sheet products since late 1999. Most questions come from North America, although a growing number are from overseas. If you have a question, or a topic you would like to see covered in our GalvInfoNote series, please contact the Center.

Contact Information

Website: www.galvinfo.com

Telephone: 888-880-8802

E-mail address: info@galvinfo.com

Fax Number: 905-315-7442