

# QUALISTEELCOAT Technical Specification Version 4.1 – January 2019

## Update sheet No. 4

**Subject:** Approvals of chromate-free pre-treatment systems

**Proposal/Request:** TC/EC Meeting 10-11 of May 2021

**QUALISTEELCOAT resolution:** Resolution No. 32/33 / 03.10.2019

**Approved on:** 11<sup>th</sup> of May by EC

**Effective from:** 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2021

**No. of pages:** 2

**Amendments to the Specifications  
(Version 4.1 – Jan. 2019):**

- Amendments in § 1.4., § 4 and § 4.1.

### 1.4. Terminology and definitions

**Chromate-free pre-treatment system:** Chromate-free pre-treatment systems are, as defined by this technical specification, all pre-treatment systems which do not contain Chrome-VI. Phosphating systems are included by this definition, but does not apply for this the application process, as they represent the current state of the art.

## **4. Approval of chromate-free pre-treatment systems.**

To maintain... on the homepage of QUALISTEELCOAT<sup>10</sup>.

The APPROVAL is defined by:

- A specific BASE material (ST – SZ – HD)
- Corrosivity class in combination with the number of organic coatings
- The approval is ALWAYS valid for mono- and multilayer coating systems.
- Brand
- Commercial codification of the conversion layer independent of the cleaning and pickling conditions.

Footnote 10: This is mandatory from the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2022 but all existing pre-treatment lines will be tolerated until the 1<sup>st</sup> January of 2024 or until major changes take place in the process of the pre-treatment.

### **4.1. Application for approval of a chromate-free pre-treatment system.**

Any company may apply for the approval of a chromate-free pre-treatment system. An approval of QUALISTEELCOAT will be granted to a manufacturer or a company, which partly or completely defines the recipe of a chromate-free pre-treatment system but delegates its production to a third party. The applicant is called provider.

This company may apply for the approval of a chromate-free pre-treatment system in two ways, the so called “two track policy”.

#### **Track 1: POSITIVE EXPERIENCE**

##### **REQUIREMENTS**

- $\geq 1$  granted license holders
- COATING SYSTEM (ST1, ST2, SZ1, SZ2, SZ3, HD1, HD2, HD3, ...)
- Registered follow-up and traceability of pre-treatment line (BOOKLET) proofing the instructions of the suppliers are followed. This BOOKLET contains
  - the general process instructions of the supplier
  - the specific user’s manual of the supplier for the specific licenced coater
  - the register of values and limits.
  - The results of the control of the conversion layer done by the supplier according to § 3.5.3.

The inspector controls the presence of the booklet and up-to-date information of the booklet during the annual inspections at coater.

##### **APPROVAL**

- Producer of conversion layer can apply for APPROVAL
- No additional test to be done
- Automatic renewal if number of granted licenses holders stays  $\geq 1$

#### **Track 2: TESTING PROCEDURE according to § 4.2 and § 4.6.**

A letter of intent expressing the company’s engagement to obtain a QUALISTEELCOAT license must be addressed to the general licensee that is responsible in the country where the company is situated. If there is no general licensee the letter can be sent to QUALISTEELCOAT - c/o ARCO Association Management AG, P.O. Box 1507, CH-8027 Zürich, Switzerland.