

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



QUALICOAT
Inspired by architecture, trusted by professionals

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MISSION

To provide the global construction industry with the best possible specification and methodology for performance coatings on architectural aluminium.

By constant development in finish formulations, equipment selection and application to enable QUALICOAT to lead the development of quality architectural finishes worldwide.

To grant approvals to manufacturers of powder and liquid formulations and pretreatment systems that meet the requirements of QUALICOAT members.

To review and licence coating plants which exceed the QUALICOAT Specification and to monitor the same to ensure consistent quality in supply.

To ensure the development and communication of the QUALICOAT standard is driven by the membership which continues to exceed both country standards and regulations.

Ivo Vermeeren, President



ORGANISATIONAL REVIEW

In preparation for the changes ahead, we took decisive steps to begin to address long-standing challenges, streamlining outdated processes, harmonising procedures, and strengthening our technical, operational, and digital infrastructure to better support our members. While such transformation may bring moments of adjustment, we are confident it is in the best long-term interest of the organisation, and we sincerely appreciate the continued patience and support of the QUALICOAT community throughout this period of progress.

Our Secretariat, now under the leadership of Coby Armar and supported by Pascale Bellot, Louise Egretreau, Nasir Fahmeed, Monica Gerber, and Jacinta Thurairajah, has managed the demands of the year with commendable professionalism and dedication. We also wish to extend our sincere appreciation to Adriana Aeschbacher and Tiffany Maechler, whose valuable contributions were instrumental in delivering key initiatives. Both concluded their tenure with QUALICOAT later in the year, and we are grateful for their service. In parallel, we were pleased to welcome Anamaria Mircea in December 2024, a highly capable, vibrant professional with a strong background in engineering.

To ensure greater efficiency and strengthen organisational focus, the Secretariat underwent a strategic internal reorganisation during the year. This allowed us to address areas requiring additional support and to align responsibilities more effectively with the team's individual competencies. In her capacity as Deputy Secretary General, Pascale Bellot dedicated her efforts to overseeing the development of the Specifications and managing further organisational matters.

During the second half of the year, Nasir Fahmeed assumed responsibility for the powder coatings segment, the coordination of laboratories, and QUALIDECO, working in close collaboration with Louise Egretreau. The coaters and pre-treatment department continued to be overseen by Tiffany Maechler and Jacinta Thurairajah until November, with Anamaria Mircea joining these segments upon her arrival. These changes reflect QUALICOAT's ongoing commitment to professional excellence and continuous improvement in its administrative and technical operations.

REBRANDING FOR THE FUTURE

2024 marked the delivery of the QUALICOAT rebrand, a strategic shift in how the organisation presents itself worldwide. The groundwork was laid this year, with the official launch to take place in early 2025. The rebrand represents more than just a new logo; it is a visual and structural reflection of our mission and global relevance.

SPECIFICATION & TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT

The long-awaited digital transformation of our new IT and Certification Management System experienced slight delays in deployment but continued to progress positively. Feedback from early demonstrations has been excellent, and we expect implementation in 2025.

MEMBERSHIP

At the Meeting of Association Members on 22nd November 2024, Mr. Tomonari Ito formally announced the withdrawal of QUALICOAT Japan, following internal restructuring within the Japan Aluminium Products Association. While this marks the conclusion of their current participation, members expressed sincere appreciation for the longstanding collaboration and shared their optimism for renewed cooperation in the future.

EVENTS & COMMUNICATION

Although external communications and marketing were minimal in 2024, this was by design. We used this time to focus on foundational elements in anticipation of the rebrand and marketing efforts in 2025. We did, however, continue our collaboration with ATLAS, conducting training related to Florida exposure – reinforcing our dedication to performance validation in real-world conditions.

LOOKING AHEAD

2025 will be a pivotal year for QUALICOAT. Our top priorities include:

- The global launch of the new QUALICOAT brand
- Deployment of our new CRM and certification database
- A strong marketing campaign to boost global awareness
- Targeted expansion into underserved and transitional markets
- General elections within QUALICOAT and preparations for the 2026 Congress

As we turn the page to a new chapter, we remain grounded in our mission and grateful to our members, partners, and the wider architectural aluminium community.



QCT GL Managers meeting in Zurich (30 Oct 2024)

REPORT 2024

MEETINGS OF THE QUALICOAT COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS



In 2024, the Executive Committee met alone on 22nd March in Barcelona and together with the Technical Committee on 16th and 17th May in Athens and on 21st and 22nd November in Istanbul.

Two Meetings of Association Members were held on 17th May 2024 in Athens and on 22nd November 2024 in Istanbul.

All the meetings of the various Working Groups (WGs), the QUALIDECO Committee and QUALISURFAL are shown in the table below:

MEETING	PLACE	DATE
Board of Governors	Conference call	20.02.24
	Conference call	12.04.24
	Conference call	29.04.24
	Conference call	13.05.24
	Reims (FR)	27.09.24
	Conference call	18.11.24
Aluminium and Label Ext. WG	Amsterdam (NL) Conference call	16.01.24 24.09.24
Coaters WG	Conference call	30.04.24
Florida WG	Alcalá (ES)	17/18.07.24
Laboratories WG and Sub-WGs	Conference call	07.02.24
	Conf. call (Sub-WG)	27.02.24
	Conf. call (Sub-WG)	04.03.24
	Conference call	08.04.24
	Schwäbisch Gmünd (DE)	11/12.09.24
Powders WG and Sub-WGs	Porto (PT)	14/15.02.24
	Conf. call (Sub-WG)	19.06.24
	Conf. call (Sub-WG)	20.08.24
	Conference call	05.09.24
Preanodising WG	Amsterdam (NL)	17.01.24
Marketing WG	Conference call	08.02.24
	Conference call	15.03.24
	Conference call	02.05.24
	Conference call	13.06.24
	Conference call	19.12.24
Pretreatment WG	Amsterdam (NL)	17.01.24
QUALIDECO Committee	Barcelona (ES)	23.03.24
QUALIDECO Suppliers WG	Porto (PT)	15.02.24
QUALISURFAL Coating Section	Schwäbisch Gmünd (DE)	10/11.09.24
Specifications WG	Conference call	monthly
Ad-hoc WG 'QCT 3.0'	Conference call	16.01.24
	Conference call	26.02.24
	Conference call	18.03.24
	Conference call	18.09.24
Ad-hoc WG 'Extrusion'	Conference call	13.03.24
Ad-hoc WG 'Round Robin Test'	Conference call	07.05.24
Ad-hoc WG 'Accelerated Weathering Test'	Conference call	13.05.24
GL Managers and Secretaries	Zurich (CH)	29/30.10.24

The proceedings of the WG meetings were recorded in minutes, which were sent to the General Licensees.

UPDATE ON THE QUALICOAT & QUALIDECO SPECIFICATIONS

The following update sheets were ratified on 17th May 2024 to become effective on 1st July 2024:

- **QCT-SPEC 2024-US01** Appendix A6 - Genoa (Outdoor Exposure)
- **QCT-SPEC 2024-US02** Reference Temperature
- **QCT-SPEC 2024-US03** Various adjustments

The following update sheet was ratified on 22nd November 2024 to become effective on 1st January 2025:

- **QCT-SPEC 2024-US04** Various adjustments:
Enhanced AASS and FFC test requirements for PRE-OX
Alignment with EN 12206-1
Outsourcing of AASS test
QCT 3.0 tests
Reference scale for panels coated in an aluminium-based metallic colour
Harmonisation of FFC test
Evaluation of Water Spot Test
Blistering requirement for AASS test and Constant Climate condensation water test
Curing temperatures and times
Curing index
In-house control of powder manufacturers
Distribution of Powder Test Reports to Manufacturers

These update sheets were included in the relevant volumes of the 25th Edition of the QUALICOAT Specifications published on 1st January 2025.

The following update sheets submitted by the QUALIDECO Committee were ratified by the Executive Committee on 17th May 2024:

- **QDC-SPEC 2024 US01** Class 2 Approved Decorations
- **QDC-SPEC 2024 US02** Flow Charts for the renewal of FS and PS licenses
- **QDC-SPEC 2024 US03** Self-tested Decorations within a Decoration System
- **QDC-SPEC 2024 US04** ΔE limits for DP-Approvals (beige & brown colours)

The following update sheets submitted by the QUALIDECO Committee were ratified by the Executive Committee on 22nd November 2023

- **QDC-SPEC 2024 US05** Approval of new Class 2 decorations by Decorators
- **QDC-SPEC 2024 US06** Banning colours for DP-Approvals
- **QDC-SPEC 2024 US07** Unforeseen problems during renewal inspections
- **QDC-SPEC 2024 US08** Powder-on-Powder Approvals

All these update sheets were included in the Master version of the Specifications for Decoration of coated Aluminium used for architectural Applications (QUALIDECO) – Appendix to the 25th edition of the QUALICOAT Specifications 2025 published on 1st January 2025.

QUALITY MATTERS AND INVESTIGATIONS

(WORKING GROUPS AND QUALISURFAL)

An overview of quality matters and investigations that were discussed and prepared in the various working groups (WGs) during 2024.

ALUMINIUM & LABEL EXTENSION

Coated aluminium products can suffer atmospheric corrosion when their surfaces are wetted in architectural applications, especially in locations with increased corrosivity, e.g. marine or industrial environments. With the first edition of the Technical Information Sheet No.5 (TIS), QUALICOAT defines the requirements for test sites for the natural corrosion testing in accordance with the European Standard EN 12206-1 (Paints and varnishes – Coating of aluminium and aluminium alloys for architectural purposes – Part 1: Coatings prepared from thermosetting coating powder; Ed. July 2021). The test site used by QUALICOAT is located in Genoa (Italy). This location is in a coastal area at the sea level within a few meters to the sea front.

A current project of the Aluminium & Extension WG is the revision of the requirements for the coating of cast material. Aluminium cast parts appear as accessories for architectural applications. This revised document will refer to the relevant material parameters, as well as the pretreatment, coating and testing of these cast parts.

Ralf Heitzelmann, Convenor, Aluminium & Label Extension WG

LABORATORIES

The evolving requirements for testing coating systems and pretreatment systems emphasise the need for continued collaboration between testing laboratories, particularly through interlaboratory comparisons. The Laboratories WG remains committed to the global harmonisation of test methods to ensure consistency, reliability, and comparability of results across the industry.

Since 2024, we have further strengthened our approach by integrating practical workshops on individual test methods into our physical meetings. These workshops provide a platform for in-depth discussion and hands-on training, enabling laboratories to align methodologies and improve procedural accuracy.

A key focus remains the precise and unambiguous wording of these test procedures to ensure clear understanding by all users of the QUALICOAT Specifications. In addition, existing QUALICOAT test methods are subject to ongoing critical review, with data-driven assessments guiding necessary improvements. These efforts enhance the overall robustness of the QUALICOAT certification framework, ensuring that coating systems consistently meet the highest quality standards.

Christof Langer, Convenor, Laboratories WG

PRE-OX

The Pre-anodising WG continued to focus on developing its specifications in 2024.

After an analysis of the differentiation between SEASIDE pre-anodising and SEASIDE chemical pre-treatment results derived from the statistical survey from 2018 to 2020, it was also proposed to tighten the requirements for pre-anodising of acetic acid salt spray and filiform corrosion tests. The Laboratories WG was then asked to determine the enhanced test requirements for pre-anodising, which were subsequently ratified by the Executive Committee.

Also in 2024, the Executive Committee formally ratified the designation for anodic pre-treatment as 'PRE-OX', as well as the possible new designations for chemical pretreatment classes.

Mo Panam, Convenor, Pre-Anodising WG

PRETREATMENT

The Pretreatment WG has continued its work to maximise quality standards in the preparation of aluminium alloy surfaces before coating. The importance of collaboration between chemical manufacturers and coating companies is emphasised through the compulsory specific and adapted line manual supplied for each plant.

The pretreatment line manual details the working conditions to maximise pretreatment performance to ensure the highest quality of the final coating, thus contributing to added sustainability by reducing water, waste, and energy consumption.

In 2024, a sub-WG was formed to discuss the specific characteristics of pretreatment, particularly the etching rate in coil coating lines and on different rolling alloys used in architecture. This work is still in progress.

And, as always, the Pretreatment WG has provided the support required by other working groups to ensure the final quality of the application of our Specifications.

Joan Serret, Convenor, Pretreatment WG

POWDER COATINGS

The Powders WG plays a pivotal role in QUALICOAT's mission to uphold and enhance powder coating standards. In 2024, the group's efficiency was reflected in several concrete achievements:

- Developing the framework of the Specifications: Introduction of Volume 3, a dedicated specification document tailored to powder manufacturers.
- Reinforcement of quality commitment for powder manufacturers:
 - > Implementation of mandatory in-house control procedures for powder manufacturers.
 - > Stricter requirements, mandating a new approval process in cases where the minimum curing temperature and/or curing time are changed.
- Establishment of an annual investigative process to analyse failures of coating systems occurring after the first outdoor exposure. This initiative focuses on:
 - > Building statistical data to track trends and deviations.
 - > Understanding macro and micro trends affecting performance.
 - > Evaluating key assumptions to identify root causes.
 - > Providing data-driven recommendations to the Technical Committee (TC) and powder suppliers to ensure continuous quality improvements.
- Harmonisation with EN 12206: Alignment of QUALICOAT powder approval specifications with EN 12206, including an adjustment of the blistering requirement from 2(S2) to 0(S0) for the acetic acid salt spray test and the constant climate condensation water test.

A key success of the Powders WG in 2024 was the strong commitment from powder manufacturers. The active participation of members in meetings significantly contributed to maintaining and further enhancing the quality standards of the QUALICOAT label.

Anne Banuls, Convenor, Powders WG

QUALICOAT 3.0

2024 brought further progress with our work on QUALICOAT 3.0, addressing the problems of corrosion and longevity of coating finishes and to support the use of recycled aluminium.

A QCT 3.0 WG was held in Amsterdam in January 2024. Further discussions were had during the Technical Committee meeting in Athens in May.

In 2024 results from samples collected from approved projects in Spain were reviewed and found to be within requirements. Furthermore, QCT 3.0 tests were carried on failed acetic acid salt spray and filiform corrosion tests of 2023 inspections, with the results to be reviewed in the New Year.

A sub-WG was also formed and tasked with establishing a clear definition for quantifying projects, determining frequency of inspections, and setting realistic time frames to complete QCT 3.0 laboratory tests for the issuing of approval certificates.

The QCT 3.0 WG reviewed and updated application forms and documents for inspection reports. We also discussed the way forward, which would include extrusion plants and the licensing of them in the future.

Mo Panam, Convenor, QCT 3.0 WG

QUALISURFAL

Coating Section

As inspectors, we play a crucial role in upholding quality standards while adapting to evolving challenges. In 2024, our focus was on fostering innovation in inspection processes and methodologies, ensuring they are both efficient and forward-thinking.

At the same time, sustainability remains at the core of our quality mission. To optimise resources and promote long-term solutions, inspectors also gathered in 2024 at the IFO premises in Germany. During this meeting, they shared best practices, participated in training sessions, and worked towards greater harmonization among inspectors worldwide, ensuring consistency and excellence in QUALICOAT inspections.

By embracing innovation and sustainability together, we can enhance the effectiveness of our inspections, contribute to continuous improvement, and set new benchmarks for excellence in our field.

Marc Holz, Convenor, QUALISURFAL (Coating Section)

Decoration Section

In 2024, we focused on refining inspection standards to enhance consistency and transparency in decorative applications. The update sheets, effective from 1st January 2025, were introduced alongside revisions to the Master Inspection forms for Decorators, Powder, and Film Suppliers, ensuring alignment with the latest updates in QUALICOAT specifications.

A key advancement was the refinement of the "Procedure for Evaluating Inspection Results," which now provides a clearer framework for reporting nonconformities in sublimation and powder-on-powder technology. These updates enhance the accuracy and consistency of our inspections.

The active participation of delegates fostered constructive discussions, particularly regarding Class 2 decorations. Their valuable insights and proposals reflect the expertise within our network and the shared commitment to maintaining the integrity of the QUALIDECO label.

Salvatore Valzano, Convenor, QUALISURFAL (Decoration Section)

COATERS WG

With the establishment of the Coaters WG an important step has been taken to give the QUALICOAT label more support among applicators.

As a leading quality label, we proactively ensure our standards remain relevant and meet market demands.

Without compromising quality, we always strive to fully understand the impact of our decisions on the coaters and their market.

By effectively including the coaters in key discussions, facilitating their presence, and attentively considering their input, we build a strong framework and awareness for our quality label.

This will, above all, ensure that the quality certified by QUALICOAT builds confidence and drives growth in the aluminium coating industry.

Philip Hilven, Convenor, Coaters WG

MARKETING WG

With the approval of the new QUALICOAT logo by the QUALICOAT Executive Committee, the Marketing WG has reached its first phase in the QUALICOAT rebranding strategy.

The global roll out will follow beginning of 2025 and will be the start of an international campaign to boost brand awareness and to further strengthen QUALICOAT's position as the leading quality label for powder coating of Aluminium for architectural applications globally.

In the past year we finalised the optimisation of the layout of the QUALICOAT Specifications by dividing the Specifications into different volumes, each focused on a specific target group, and by further professionalising the format and layout.

Ivo Vermeeren, Convenor, Marketing WG – QUALICOAT President



*QCT EC meeting
in Athens
(17 May 2024)*



*QCT TC meeting
in Istanbul
(21 Nov 2024)*



*QCT Pre-Anodising
WG meeting in
Amsterdam
(17 Jan 2024)*



*QCT Laboratories
WG meeting in
Schwäbisch Gmünd
(11-12 Sept 2024)*



NUMBER OF LICENSEES AND APPROVED SYSTEMS

OVERALL				
	31.12.2022	31.12.2023	31.12.2024	Difference
Coater licensees	531	545	568	+23
Approved powders	746	736	794	+58
Approved pretreatment systems	96	93		
QUALIDECO licensees (decorators and suppliers)	105	102	107	+5

Breakdown by geographic region (Coating licences)

YEAR	EUROPE	AFRICA	ASIA	AUSTRALIA	AMERICA
2024	362	40	137	1	28
2023	352	41	130	1	21
2022	353	38	125	1	14
2021	330	33	118	0	11
2020	373	28	73	9	14

Breakdown by GL

GL	Coater	Powder Manufacturers	Approved Powders	Pre-treatment	QUALIDECO		
					D	PS	FS
AAG NPC	28	2	8	4	9	1	0
AEA	45	6	35	8	14	3	0
AFMSZ	7	1	1	0	0	0	0
AMELAQ	9	6	11	0	0	0	0
APAL	20	3	13	0	3	1	0
AYID	61	15	102	5	0	2	0
QMEA	57	27	96	3	6	1	0
QUALION	15	0	0	4	0	0	0
QUALICOAT France	29	3	40	1	2	0	0
QUALICOAT Management	87	37	148	2	10	1	0
QUALICOAT SCHWEIZ	14	2	48	3	0	1	0

Breakdown by GL (continued)

GL	Coater	Powder Manufacturers	Approved Powders	Pre-treatment	QUALIDECO		
					D	PS	FS
QUALICOAT UK & Ireland	30	5	38	4	1	0	0
QUALIPOL	31	7	30	0	3	0	0
QUALISINO LTD	23	37	89	17	0	5	3
QUALITAL	58	14	112	9	21	11	6
QUALUBEL	21	0	0	0	1	0	0
VOA	33	5	23	31	2	0	0
Total	568	170	794	91	72	26	9

Legend: D = Decorator | PS = Powder Supplier | FS = Film Supplier

INSPECTIONS & AUDITS

COATING PLANT INSPECTIONS

For 2024 the QUALICOAT Certification Body evaluated and confirmed 1549 inspection reports. An improved version of the Master Inspection Report (V06) was implemented from 1st January 2024 for all granting and renewal inspections.

POWDER PLANT INSPECTIONS

The QUALICOAT Certification Body evaluated and confirmed 46 inspection reports for 2024. These inspections were conducted by the different approved QUALICOAT inspectors. To harmonise the reporting process, an updated

version of the Master Inspection Report (V05) was implemented from 1st January 2024.

WITNESS AUDITS FOR QUALICOAT AND QUALIDECO INSPECTORS

Three witness audits were performed during the year by the Certification Body for QUALICOAT in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Portugal, and Poland.

One witness audit was performed during the year by the Certification Body for QUALIDECO in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

PR ACTIVITIES



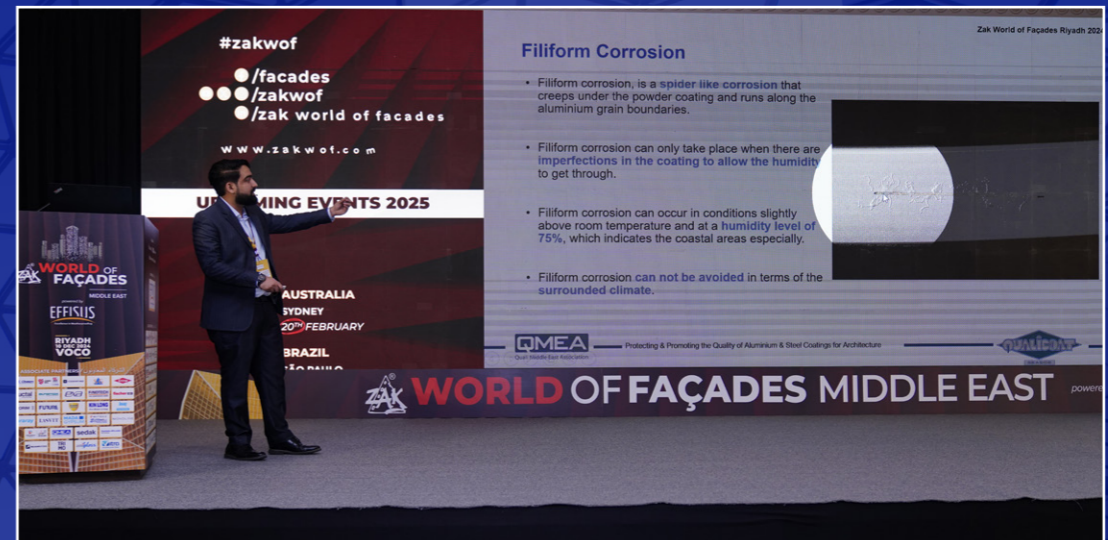
QCT France & QUALICOAT – Bâtimat 2024



QMEA – ZAK World of Façades Mumbai and Riyadh



QCT France & QUALICOAT – Bâtimat 2024



QMEA – ZAK World of Façades Mumbai and Riyadh



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QUALICOAT
Inspired by architecture, trusted by professionals