

INTERNATIONAL BIODETERIORATION RESEARCH GROUP

Paints Project Group: Annual Report 2000

Report No: IBRG/2001/P004

Date: MARCH 2000

The Paints Project Group met twice in the 2000 period. Thirty four participants attended a meeting in April hosted by Jotun A/S in Sandefjord Norway, and in October, 36 participants attended a meeting hosted by Acima AG in Bad Ragaz Switzerland.

At the 2000 Spring meeting it was decided that the Sub-group dealing with the preservation of polymer emulsions should become a new, independent Project Group within the IBRG. The Paints Project Group now has 3 active Sub-Groups developing test methods for algicidal coatings, the in-can preservation of paints and a Sub-Group for plant hygiene testing with the aim of producing a series of articles on this subject. The group is also discussing rating systems for surface growth in connection with an announced revision of the ASTM Standard.

The Algicidal Coatings Sub-Group has now ended a 36 months exposure of panels at test sites in Europe and Malaysia. Algal growth was in general reported after 16 to 24 months. It seems that most participants experienced an "explosion" of algal growth after a considerable period without any noticeable growth. This has been attributed to the use of alkaline fibre cement as test panels, allowing growth to occur only after the alkalinity has been washed out of the test substrate. Work on the laboratory test has been undertaken by a "task force". As with the field trial, one of the major challenges at this stage is to find a suitable test substrate which is available world-wide.

The In-can Preservation Sub-Group has started a test series investigating methods for examining growth of fungi in and / or on the paint in-can. A small "task force" is working to identify the critical factors involved. The first test series was "disturbed" by the presence of mould in the test material on arrival to the laboratories. A second test has been agreed, with the unpreserved tinting paste used in the test to be heat treated prior to dispatch in order to avoid contamination.

The Plant Hygiene Testing Sub-Group has also this year made little progress. 2 more papers need to be produced, covering the subjects of HACCP and test methods.

As part of the discussions on the rating systems for surface growth, a series of photographs of panels from an exposure trial were evaluated by a number of the IBRG participants, experienced as well as "inexperienced" in surface growth rating.. In general, persons who are inexperienced in this type of rating seems to "over-score" the panels.

During the Spring meeting the Paints Project Group hosted a presentation of the Application of ATP Bioluminescence Technology by Martin Reilly from Biotrace.