

NEWS FROM PUGH & Co International

ACTAN GS WATER BASED PRIMER WINS FOURTH ORDER AT FORTH BRIDGE

Actan GS® Primer from speciality chemicals company Pugh & Co International has won its fourth major order at the Forth Road Bridge in Scotland. Actan GS is an innovative water borne surface treatment/primer system for galvanised steel.

“Ever since the trial use, in 2002, we have been using Actan GS regularly for coating onto weathered galvanised steelwork for TV camera columns, sign supports, street furniture, and so on,” remarks George Hamilton, maintenance and paint inspector for the Forth Road Bridge.

“However this time it is a much larger operation as we are coating galvanised steel purlins for the new tollbooth canopy and spray applying the Actan GS.”

Cost Savings

George Hamilton and his maintenance team made significant savings by painting on site in a specially constructed paint shop rather than accepting the coating price from the steel work contractor. The low emissions from the water borne Actan GS are important for the health and safety of the operatives and the fast overcoating times of one to two hours speeds their work.

“We are simply degreasing the steelwork and directly spray applying the Actan GS followed by a two pack primer/two pack midcoat/two pack top coat. We were, of course, already familiar with Actan GS and knew that we would get good adhesion and a reliable, tough surface treatment/primer coat.

“Overall we have saved around one third of the coating cost quoted by the steel contractor. Which is good for the bridge operator and its users,” adds George Hamilton.

Proven Performance

After many years of development and trials in the UK and mainland Europe Actan GS is proven to perform well on new and weathered galvanised steel. It is 100 per cent water based with a VOC content of less than 0.1 per cent to ensure more than compliance with both EC Directives and US environmental legislation. This product is safe for users and kind to the environment.

Actan GS is part of the family of Actan environmentally friendly, water borne surface treatment/primer products designed for ferrous and non-ferrous metals. All have been developed by Pugh & Co International and tested independently to guarantee high protection performance. Actan GS works as an adhesion primer ensuring the adhesion of subsequent coatings on hot dip or electro galvanised steel, aluminium, copper, bronze and stainless steel.

Easy Application

Application can be by brush or spray without dilution. The surface simply needs to be degreased and loose material, or on older galvanised surfaces corrosion products such as 'white rust', brushed away. Because it is water based and does not give off harmful fumes the health and safety risk for operatives is minimal even when working in confined spaces.

Actan GS, even in the most arduous conditions, produces a hard, flexible, non porous, impact resistant film. It gives great adhesion and can be overcoated with a wide variety of solvent paint systems. "We have tested with chlorinated rubbers, vinyls, acrylics, epoxies and polyurethane and worked with all the major UK and European paint suppliers," remarks Roland Peemans Managing Director at Pugh & Co International.

Overall the cost of Actan GS is similar to that of the process of acid etching, one of the most common ways of surface treating galvanised steel. "However you get distinct advantages with Actan GS such as ease of application and, of course, an adhesion primer coat of around 30 microns for that same cost", adds Roland Peemans.