

MARKET UPDATE



July 2009

ZINCALUME® STEEL ROOFING AND STORMWATER CONSENT CONDITIONS.

There has been some activity in the zinc runoff area, which is positive for ZINCALUME® steel roofing, and this update is to keep you informed.

At an ARC seminar in July 2008 on "Assessment of Stormwater Effects and Management Options", it was claimed that the biological health of Auckland's harbours and estuaries appears to be influenced by the presence of stormwater contaminants. However, it was acknowledged that reducing the zinc discharges by source control, might not reverse the observed biological changes, because zinc is only one element in a broad mix of chemicals and contaminants found in harbour sediments. It was recognised that future management of stormwater quality would need to take a more encompassing approach, rather than target single contaminant sources. Accordingly, the ARC is now adopting a broader perspective towards the management of zinc, in which strategies are based on both sediment control and control of contaminants from all sources, rather than just from roofing.

It is now acknowledged by the ARC, that the use of COLORSTEEL® prepainted steel and ZINCALUME® steel roofing products have contributed to falling zinc levels noted in the harbours and that this trend will be likely to continue.

We have also had some recent communication with Environment Canterbury (ECAN) regarding restrictions on the use of unpainted ZINCALUME® steel roofing material, where ECAN discharge consent conditions were reportedly influenced by similar conditions previously imposed by the ARC. We sought clarification from the ARC on the current status of ZINCALUME® steel and the attached reply from Alastair Smaill (Group Manager Environmental Policy) clarifies the situation.

Roofing products of aluminium-zinc composite (ZINCALUME® steel) are regarded as inert, until the final policy position of the ARC regarding the management of zinc sources within the Auckland area is agreed"

This means that the use of unpainted ZINCALUME® steel roofing is acceptable to the ARC, and that there are no requirements for treatment of stormwater from a ZINCALUME® steel roof.

We have requested that ECAN review their current stormwater discharge consent conditions in light of the ARC's interpretation.

As in the past, we would appreciate being kept informed of any instances where Members have had difficulties with discharge consent applications relating to zinc runoff.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Fuller".

Scott Fuller
Vice President Marketing and Sales
New Zealand Steel Ltd