

The AFSA Technical Assistance Scheme.

The Aluminium Federation established a Panel of Experts – Brian Dennis, Brian Drew, Rob Lawrence and Tony Paterson – to provide technical advice to member companies and users of aluminium in general. The scheme has run successfully for four years and offers a short investigation and report to give recommendations and guidance to clients. Topics have come from a very broad spectrum as is illustrated by some further examples:-

Case 4.

Cleaning and Maintenance of surface finishes on aluminum is an important and often neglected issue. Several examples have been covered under the TA Scheme. General recommendations were supplied to clean liquid splashes on signage at a shopping mall. Another identified and discussed cement splashes on architectural cladding panels. Unfortunately, in one case, of powder-coated windows in a private house, the use of aggressive household cleaning chemicals had already caused permanent damage to the finish.

Regular cleaning and informed techniques are essential. On major projects, formal cleaning and maintenance programmes are recommended. AFSA can advise –either directly or through the Architectural Surface Finishing Guide on the AFSA website. The SANS Standard, SANS 10322, also includes detailed discussion on the subject.

Case 5. A number of enquirers sought information on aluminium to replace existing steel applications. Typically they were motivated by considerations to light weight existing or potential systems. On other occasions, under-estimated corrosion on steel has raised questions to replace with aluminium alternatives in coastal or industrial environments.

Enquiries under this scheme are welcomed in order to support the successful use of aluminium. They should be directed through Rentia Malan or Mark Krieg.

Brian Dennis