

Press Release

EN-10080 potentially mortgages future of non-integrated wire rod processors

Brussels, 20th of December 2016. –EUNIRPA, the European Association of Non-Integrated Wired Rod Processors, warns against the possible threats hidden in the adaptation of the EN-10080 norm.

For more than 20 years already, the ECISS TC104 WG1 committee is trying to renew this norm, with the ultimate goal to create a CE certification for reinforcement steel. This committee is composed of the National Standardization Bodies of each country, but the problem is that many of these bodies are largely dominated by the European integrated steel producers, who are now trying to adapt the norm to their own advantage.

“The biggest problem for non-integrated companies lies in the reformation of B500B quality” says Kris Van Ginderdeuren, President of EUNIRPA. “For non-integrated wire rod processors, B500B can be produced in two different ways: either you buy ribbed wire rod and you stretch it into B500B quality, or you start with smooth wire rod and obtain B500B quality through indentation. For non-integrated wire rod processors, the choice is simple: since European steel producers refuse to deliver us with sufficient ribbed wire rod, we have no other option than to produce B500B with an indented profile starting from smooth wire rod.”

According to the latest information, the ECISS TC104 WG1 is now questioning the validity of this indented wire and is aiming towards inferior classification of the profile, making it impossible for non-integrated processors to produce B500B quality, which is an absolute disaster given the fact that more and more countries prescribe B500B by law.

“Some of our members have already seen their sales shrivel because they cannot buy the correct wire rod. If the EN-10080 norm also deprives us from the indented profile, non-integrated processors will be sidetracked,” Van Ginderdeuren adds. “In order to prevent this, EUNIRPA as an association wants to claim its seat in the commission and defend the interests of our members in the different EU countries, since we have clearly experienced that requests of individual companies to join ECISS TC104 WG1 have been denied.”

About EUNIRPA:

EUNIRPA is the European Association of Non-Integrated Wire Rod Processors and represents and defends the interests of European non-integrated processors of wire rod including other long steel products in all EU trade, customs and anti-trust matters affecting their business activities, whether at national or European Community level and to assist them in any conflict against European producers of wire rod. EUNIRPA was established in 2016 and has members in 8 countries.