

# Metal Bulletin

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## MEIS 2016: Saudi Arabia's Unicoil Working to Establish Coil Standards

Saudi Arabian flat steel re-roller and coater Unicoil is focusing on standardisation of coils, mainly to avoid low-quality imports, according to ceo Rayed Abdullah Al-Ajaji.

Speaking on Tuesday, December 13, at the Metal Bulletin Iron & Steel (MEIS) conference in Dubai, Al-Ajaji told delegates that low-quality imports were a challenge to the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) region, and said that Unicoil is now working with the Saudi Standards & Metrology Organization (SASO) to establish standards for coated coil imports.

He added that companies in the Middle East, including GCC counties, usually adopt ASTM International standards in the absence of national standards.

According to ASTM A755-15, the zinc coating of coils is recommended to be minimum 180-275g/sq m, whereas it is mandatory to have 90g/sq m zinc coating under SASO standards.

SASO has a mandatory lead limit of 90mg/kg in paint for top coat, primer, and back coat, while ASTM A744-15 has no limit for lead.

SASO also requires mandatory product marking including sheet thickness, coating mass, paint thickness top and bottom, country of origin and the manufacturer's name every 1m, the Unicoil ceo said.

Many samples from imported coated coils do not have these standards, which led Unicoil to launch a campaign called "**know your steel**", the ceo said, adding that the company will **keep an eye on imports and the HS codes used**, test and compare the products, set national standards and seek advice from the World Trade Organization's GCC office.

GCC countries started a **safeguard investigation** into coated flat carbon steel in widths of 600mm and above, under import tariff codes 721070 and 721090 in June 2016, after an application filed by Unicoil.

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