

## **Saudi Galv Producer Introduces Eco-Friendly Passivating Agent**

By Adam Smith

Unicoil has successfully completed trials of producing hot-dip galvanized coil using trivalent chrome as passivating agent. The Saudi cold roller and coil coater says this agent is more environmentally friendly than hexavalent chrome, which continues to be used by most galv producers worldwide. It does, however, involve greater cost.

Unicoil is now ready for the launch of commercial production of galv passivated with trivalent chrome, a first for the Middle East, the firm tells Kallanish.

Last year Unicoil was accredited with the Kuwaiti Quality Mark (KSS) and Jordanian Quality Mark, which it said would help it increase exports. In December the firm also launched its ‘Colorite – AB (Anti-Bacterial)’ and ‘Colorite Energy Saver’ pre-painted galvanized (PPGI) coil products.

At an industry meeting in December Unicoil president Rayed Al-Ajaji said Saudi Arabia should “... activate” existing but unused mechanisms that provide for protection against imports.

Unicoil can produce up to 340,000 tonnes/year of cold rolled coil, 250,000 t/y of hot-dip galvanized coil and 210,000 t/y of pre-painted galvanized steel. The firm is the main supplier of these products locally, and also ships to regional and international markets. Hot rolled coil feedstock is sourced from Saudi steelmaker Sabic and various international mills.