CRAZING OF CONTINUOSLY ANODISED ALUMINIUM

Definition

Crazing is the micro-cracking of the anodic film

Origin

During the continuous anodizing process the aluminum strip moves through the anodising line across a number of different rolls.

The strip is wound around these rolls and the metal is put under stress/tension. The stress causes the micro-cracking of the anodic film on the external fibre of the metal.

This crazing, which is perfectly uniform, is a property of the continuous anodised aluminium; it does not affect or weaken it.

Characteristics

Crazing in the continuous anodising process:

- appears such as thin white lines
- has a direction against the mill direction
- is present on the whole metal width
- has a uniform aspect
- is always visible
- has no effect on corrosion resistance

Factors affecting the crazing

The intensity of crazing is directly proportional to:

- the anodic film thickness
- the metal gauge

The alloy (composition) and metal hardness, which can have a significant effect on the crazing The brighter the metal, the more the crazing will be visible

Oiling

The oiling of the surface is recommended for anodic films of 10 microns or above.