



Z275 COATING – YOUR CHOICE FOR TEMPORARY APPLICATIONS

The life span of projects, particularly in the forest applications, are continually becoming shorter. Projects are now designed for a three to five-year life span versus the previous 40 year design life. Although the project life is decreasing, the standard galvanized (610g/m²) corrugated steel pipe provides a life of 45 years or greater. The alternative to the standard galvanized coating is coating Z275.

Z275 is a commercial galvanized (275g/m²) zinc coating that provides short-term corrosion protection during the life of the project. In these temporary applications where culverts will be removed or abandoned, substantial savings can be achieved by reducing the galvanized coating. Environmental agencies are wary of galvanized corrugated steel pipe being abandoned upon decommissioning of logging roads. The potential of zinc leaching into the soil is a concern and must be addressed. Using Z275 reduces the zinc coating by more than half, ultimately reducing the risk to nearby water courses.

Where To Use Z275

- Forest Service Roads designed to be deactivated
- Temporary lease roads
- Temporary drainage applications on construction sites
- Temporary cribbing applications

The service lives of all corrugated steel pipe coatings (standard galvanized, double galvanized, Type II aluminized, Z275, and polymer coat) are dependent on their environmental surroundings. It is difficult to determine the service life of a structure without first knowing the pH and resistivity of the soil. For example, a clay soil with a resistivity of 500 ohm-cm is classed as very corrosive. In this environment, bare 1.6mm corrugated steel pipe may take only two years before perforation. The same pipe, coated with Z275, would have an additional year of life. For soil with a resistivity of 5000 ohm-cm, Z275 may last up to ten years. In both cases, once the galvanized coating is consumed, the corrosion will act directly on the steel. Z275 will provide a service life of three to ten years depending on its surroundings. To provide actual service life calculations, the environment must first be known.

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