

KN14 - Alumina Properties and Challenges Ahead

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Abstract

The author explores non-traditional approaches for dealing with the challenges that Smelter Grade Alumina may pose to end-users at primary aluminium reduction plants. These are not entirely aimed at identifying what Bayer process refineries may be able to do for Hall-Héroult process reduction plants. The author encourages primary aluminium smelters to adopt a stance of empowerment and self-determination before looking for solutions from others. A part of this approach includes establishment of regular customer-supplier dialogues in the manner of Customer Satisfaction Indexes. Additionally, the author encourages development and offers a first draft proposal of a set of minimum standards for Smelter Grade Alumina that will serve to better define the generic moniker of SGA.

Keywords: Smelter grade alumina (SGA), Customer satisfaction, Minimum standards, Product quality, Guaranteed limits.