

# AGA UPDATE 5/2010

## Question of the Month:

### Question:

What is the Zinc Coating Life Predictor?

### Answer:

Surprisingly, some galvanizers have never heard of the Zinc Coating Life Predictor. This article will explain what this tool is, and how it can help you and your customers.

The Zinc Coating Life Predictor is a free and easy- to-use software program available on the internet. The purpose of the software is to estimate a time to first maintenance for hot-dip galvanized steel subjected to various atmospheric environments. The Zinc Coating Life Predictor is the most accurate tool galvanizers have at their disposal for helping their customers predict a time to first maintenance for hot-dip galvanized steel.

You can access the Zinc Coating Life Predictor at <http://galvinfo.com:8080/zclp/index.html>. You will also find more information about the software at that site.

The prediction in the software is calculated using six parameters of the air where the structure will be located, including average annual rainfall, salinity (chlorides), sulfur dioxide, relative humidity, average temperature, and sheltering condition. These parameters are the only inputs necessary from the person using the Zinc Coating Life Predictor, and they can be obtained on sites such as [www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com).

After inputting the above parameters, the software will predict the time to first maintenance using statistical methods based on actual corrosion test sites around the world. Approximately 3,000 sets of data were used, which increases the accuracy of the Zinc Coating Life Predictor. Like any model, the Zinc Coating Life Predictor is not 100% accurate, and no warranties are implied based on the figures provided by the software. It is also important to note the software should only be used to estimate the performance of hot-dip galvanized steel when subjected to atmospheric exposure; it does not apply for exposure to water, soil, or chemicals.

If you don't want to access the Internet to get a time to first maintenance prediction, you and your customers can always use the AGA Time to First Maintenance chart, which is based on some of the same data sets used in the Zinc Coating Life Predictor. The AGA Time to First Maintenance Chart uses fewer data points to simplify the chart, so it is not as accurate as the Zinc Coating Life Predictor. This chart offers a quick ballpark time to first maintenance prediction, and if you need a more accurate prediction you or your customers can use the Zinc Coating Life Predictor.