

(I.E. STATE RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR PROTECTION OF MATERIALS)

The below given information defines conditions for appropriate using steel radiators which are protected with final surface finish in accordance with DIN 55 900 standard. It also specifies critical locations, spaces and environment limiting their applications. KORADO, a.s. (joint-stock co.) recommends the below given advice to be strictly respected at all practical applications because this will be taken into consideration in case of judgement and evaluation of any future claims and/or complaints.

POSSIBILITIES AND LIMITATIONS FOR USING STEEL RADIATORS WITH SURFACE FINISH ACCORDING TO DIN 55 900 STANDARD:

(Explicit comment from the Prague State Research Institute for Protection of Materials)

1. REQUIREMENTS FOR SURFACE FINISH OF RADIATORS

1.1 General

The requirements concerning the surface finish of radiators are defined in German standard DIN 55 900 which bears the following title: "Surface finish of radiators. Terminology, requirements, tests. Surface finish made industrially." The said standard relates to materials which are used for surface finish of radiators and it is binding for industrially made surface finish of radiators for hot water heating and low pressure steam heating (temperature of the heat-carrying medium up to 120 °C). The object of the said standard is not surface finish of radiators operating with temperatures exceeding 120 °C or which are to be used in spaces with aggressive and/or humid environment air. Kitchens, bathrooms etc. and places outside the reach of water shower spraying and toilets are not considered to be spaces with aggressive and/or humid environment air.

The DIN 55 900 standard is divided into 2 parts: DIN 55 900-1 defines the base paint layer for radiators, DIN 55 900-2 defines the final surface finish of radiators. The said standard specifies requirements on paint coating materials applicable for surface finish, i.e. both their physical-mechanical properties (adhesion, impact resistance) and corrosion resistance (resistance against condensating water).

In general terms, the said standard also requires that radiators with final paint coating must be protected appropriately for and during: transportation, storage, and mounting, and it must be possible to clean the radiators surface with common detergents (non abrasive).

The said standard is the basis for definition and assessment of the surface finish quality and for compliance with all principles therein stipulated, all of which is binding both for manufacturers and users of radiators. Beyond the scope of the standard DIN 55 900 by the user may be the cause of extinction of the producer's guarantees.

2. QUALITATIVE DESCRIPTION OF TYPICAL ENVIRONMENTS

The qualitative description of typical environments with relevant grades of corrosivity is given in the table under the following title: Qualitative description of typical environments for judgement of corrosivity grades:

Corrosivity grade	Corrosivity	Examples of typical interior environments
C-1	Very low	Heated spaces with relative low humidity (30 – 65 %) and with negligible uncleanliness, e.g. office premises, schools, museums, flats, hotels, shops, etc.
C-2	Low	Unsufficiently heated spaces with changeable temperature and with relative humidity exceeding 70%. Rare occurrence of condensation and minor uncleanliness, e.g. warehouses, corridors, gym halls, etc.
C-3	Average	Spaces with average occurrence of condensation and with average uncleanliness caused by technological or other processes, e.g. food production premises, laundry plants, breweries, dairy houses, meat packing factories, etc.
C-4	High	Spaces with high occurrence of condensation and with average uncleanliness caused by technological or other processes, e.g. industrial manufacturing premises, swimming pools, bath houses, car-washing facilities, public WCs, stables, etc..
C-5	Very High	Spaces with nearly constant occurrence of condensation and/or with high uncleanliness caused by technological processes, e.g. mining premises, underground technological spaces/rooms/halls, unaired shelters in tropical humid areas.

The radiators with surface finish complying with the DIN 55 900 standard are applicable in spaces/premises with C 1 interior air environment without limitation for a long period of service.

However, pursuant to the DIN 55 900-2 standard, the radiators must not be placed in spaces with aggressive or humid environment air (C2 – C5). Any placement of such radiators in the lower defined spaces must be considered as critical.

3. POSSIBILITIES AND LIMITATIONS FOR USING STEEL RADIATORS WITH SURFACE FINISH COMPLYING WITH DIN 55 900 STANDARD:

3.1 Spaces with possible water spray or water solutions spray

In spaces/premises with the C1 interior environment air, e.g. in flats, offices, schools and other public buildings, there are also some rooms (kitchens, bathrooms, toilets) wherein some places with corrosion activity of C2 – C5 can be found.

These are places within a direct reach of water spray or water solutions spray (e.g. places under kitchen sinks, under wash-basins, under showers, and some other places which are regularly sprayed with water). Such places are considered as spaces with humid or aggressive environment air and they are not suitable for placing radiators there even though the whole rooms in question (i.e. kitchens, bathrooms, toilets) are not considered to have aggressive or humid environment air.



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That is why the guaranty claims resulting from the title of corrosion or from a change of the surface appearance cannot be applied on those radiators which are placed within reach of water spray or within reach of aggressive solutions (C2 – C5 spaces). In case it is necessary to place radiators within such a reach or in the middle of such an area, special protective measures must be applied (e.g. using zinc-coated or corrosion more resistant sheets, appropriate encasing etc.) which prevent corrosion damage of the surface finish of the radiators in question.

Radiators with surface finish complying with the DIN 55 900 standard can thus be installed in kitchens, bathrooms and toilets, provided they are located in the suitable place of the room.

3.2 Spaces which are insufficiently air-ventilated

These are rooms (spaces with C2 interior environment air and higher) with windows which are never opened or rooms without windows where no sufficient air exchange can be achieved and maintained. In such spaces, humidity from air can often condensate on turned-off and therefore cold radiators. This condensated humidity can damage the protective coating due to corrosion or blistering.

Regular air-ventilation of the heated rooms/premises is the necessary protection of the surface finish of radiators against humidity and condensated water. It is not recommended, as a kind of protection against condensated humidity, to turn off radiators which are placed in insufficiently air-ventilated rooms.

Using radiators complying with the surface finish according to DIN 55 900 inside bathrooms, toilets and launderettes (without windows) is possible only if air-ventilation is maintained in accordance with DIN 18 017 standard, Part 1 and Part 3, wherein hour exchanges of air volumes are defined. Analogically, requirements re. temperature-humidity microclimate are given in ČSN EN ISO 7730 standard.

If no regular air-ventilation is possible, or if no permanent air exchange can be achieved, radiators must be in continuous operation so that cooling down of such surfaces is prevented where air humidity would condensate.

Users of such unaired and humid rooms (e.g. bathrooms, launderettes) must respect this fact. Closed rooms with installed radiators must be heated or air-ventilated regularly. Requirements defining air-ventilation of flats or houses are given in the following table:

Room	Air exchange rate
Kitchen	50 l/s – during operation
	12 l/s – with permanent air-ventilation or with opened windows
Bathroom, toilet	25 l/s – when being used
	10 l/s – with permanent air-ventilation or with opened windows
Garage a) separate b) shared	50 l/s – separate
	7,5 l/s car – shared

3.3 Spaces with permanent increased humidity or aggressivity of environment air

This relates to critical rooms and premises (C2 – C5), i.e. swimming pools, saunas, public toilets, car-washing facilities, laundry plants, battery recharging workshops, various premises in chemical and food processing industries, and rooms and spaces where wet cleaning is carried out by means of low or high pressure equipment etc. The radiators complying with DIN 55 900 are not suitable for application in such premises.

If the said radiators are still to be installed into such difficult conditions, it is necessary to consult the manufacturer for the best possible placement of the radiators and to set limitations for usage of these radiators with standard surface finish. Inside the above mentioned critical premises there are usually also places with the corrosion impact of grade C1, such as offices, changing rooms, workshops, dining halls etc. wherein the radiators complying with DIN 55 900 can be applied without limitations.

4. STORING OF RADIATORS AND MOUNTING OF RADIATORS

The DIN 55 900 standard requires that radiators provided with the final surface coating must be appropriately protected for and during transportation and for storage and mounting and that it must be possible to clean the radiators surface with common detergents.

The following advice is to be respected.

4.1 Transportation

During transportation but also during storage and final mounting of radiators, it is necessary to prevent any damage of the radiator coating and/or of all covering elements. No damage caused by rain or by any aggressive impurities may occur.

4.2 Storage

Radiators provided with final surface finish must be stored at the user's in dry and well air-ventilated spaces so that no corrosion damage of the radiators surface finish occurs.

4.3 Protection of the surface finish during mounting

Mounting of the radiators is to be carried out in such a manner that the protective wrapping is removed only after all building construction jobs (e.g. floor tiling, concrete works, wall painting/ decorating and cleaning) has been finished in order to prevent any damage of radiators, especially any damage of their surface finish. The radiators can be mounted and put into operation without removing the protective wrapping.

4.4 Cleaning

Radiators with final surface finish can be cleaned with such suitable water-borne detergents which are commonly used in households without any adverse impact on the painted surface. Such detergents must neither be abrasive (they would abrade the surface) nor strongly alkaline or acidic (i.e. chemically aggressive).