

CASE STUDY

CREATING A PERFECT STAGE FOR SWEDEN'S BIGGEST EQUESTRIAN EVENT.

Sibelco EQUESIL™ delivered a winning performance at Falsterbo, despite torrential rain.

Falsterbo Horse Show is a key event in the international equestrian calendar, each year drawing over 60,000 visitors to the seaside town on the south-western tip of Sweden to watch some of the world's top horses and riders compete.

As one of the sport's premiere events, Falsterbo's organisers want professional surfaces that enable competitors to showcase their skills at the highest level. Sibelco EQUESIL™ is a premium quality silica sand developed especially for equestrian. With subrounded shaped grains, an attractive beige colour, consistent particle size and a permeability rate in excess of 150mm per hour, EQUESIL™

provides adequate firmness, cushioning and grip to ensure a more responsive surface.

EQUESIL™ was first used to create the surface of a special warm-up area at Falsterbo in 2018, based on the recommendation of Lars Roepstorff at the Swedish University of Agricultural Science and supported by extensive testing at the Racing Surfaces Testing Laboratory in Kentucky, USA.

Impressed with the results, the Falsterbo team chose EQUESIL™ for a dressage arena at the following year's event. To create the surface of the 4,000 m² area, 900 tonnes of EQUESIL™ were mixed

with specialist fibres. Not only did the surface deliver perfect riding conditions, EQUESIL™'s permeability ensured that the arena drained quickly despite 30mm of rainfall within 24 hours. Whilst other arenas at the event sat under water, the EQUESIL™ surface remained ready for action.

We are proud of Sibelco's association with some of equestrian's greatest events. As well as Falsterbo, EQUESIL™ was used at the Olympic Games in London 2012 and Rio 2016, and at the 2017 FEI Dressage European Championships in Sweden.

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For me it was easy to recommend EQUESIL™ since I know the good quality of this sand from previous projects and also that they deliver consistent and quality controlled sand that are suitable for many types of equestrian arenas.

Lars Roepstorff
Professor of Equine Functional Anatomy

Our collaboration with Sibelco has worked very well indeed and we are more than satisfied with their products. The conditions at Falsterbo are excellent as it consists of a 15m deep seabed. This, together with Sibelco's sand and the collaboration with Professor Lars Roepstorff, means that we now have two world class arenas that can be used for both jumping and dressage.

Jan Olof Wannius
Falsterbo

As well as equestrian, our expertise in sports surfaces covers natural turf for football, golf and rugby, artificial turf, beach sports and athletics. Find out more at:

<https://www.sibelco.com/en/applications/sport-surfaces>

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