

Certification Requirements for Protective Coating Companies

Adopted by the Swedish Technical Council for Certification of Protective Coating Companies

The certification of a company to perform qualified anti-corrosion coating is preceded by an inspection of its operation, with regard to skills, equipment and financial stability. Technical and personnel requirements are based on SS-EN 1090-2 and SS-EN ISO 12944, while the administrative requirements are adapted to the industry.

1. Management Expertise

The company must have well-documented expertise within its management, and the corrosion protection activities must be continuous.

- The company management, i.e., the people responsible for calculation, tenders, placements and implementation of commissions must have a well-documented expertise of the area, as well as several years' experience. This expertise is primarily documented by an account of how long the company and the current management have been active within the field of corrosion protection. A person responsible for superintendence and supervision must have been appointed. This person must be well-acquainted with the applicable regulations for the workplace in question.
- The person responsible for quality-assurance must have completed at least one of the following courses:
 1. Coating Inspector Programme
 2. Certified Coating Specialist, with a documented and long professional experience.
 3. The certification may allow an exemption for other, equivalent education.
- The company must be known to implement its commissions in a technically proficient, timely and organised manner. This normally means that the company must be able to show that it has several years' experience of corrosion protection. The company must be able to show reference objects in corrosive environments classified as C3 or higher, for the last three years for each type of certification that the company has applied for.
- The company must have dealt with customer complaints, and documented them.

2. Technical equipment

The company must be in possession of all required technical equipment, and of suitable premises, etc. in accordance with appendix A "Minimum requirements for premises, equipment and routines".

- *Certification type F, field work*

For type F, the company must have the required equipment for qualified corrosion protection with regard to field work. Furthermore, it must also have fixed premises for administration and storage.

- *Certification type V, workshop premises*

For type V, the company must have heatable workshops, suitable for sand blasting and spray painting, along with the suitable equipment.

The certified company commits to conducting "certified" work only of the type (F or V), that the certification entails.

3. Expert coating specialists

The company must employ skilled coating specialists, i.e., staff that continuously work with preparation for corrosion protection and actual corrosion protection. The company must employ at least 50 % certified coating specialists at each active worksite at all times. The term "certified coating specialist" refers to coaters that have become certified coating specialists through a programme, or equivalent training, approved by the Technical Council. The "Requirements for Approved Certification of Coating Specialists" is available in a separate document. Out of the other coating specialists at an active worksite, at least 25 % must have experience corresponding to the entry requirements for the mentioned training programme.

Exceptions from the above can be made if a separate agreement has been reached with the client. If such an agreement exists, "Deviation Form 1" must be used.

4. Self-monitoring

The company must implement satisfactory self-monitoring, however, at least in accordance with SS-EN ISO 12 944. The company must name a person responsible for the internal monitoring routines. Basic monitoring of corrosion protection must entail:

- Monitoring of environmental provisions, ensuring that the temperature of the steel surface during preparation and coating is at least 3°C higher than the dew point of the surrounding air, or in accordance with the guidelines provided in SS-EN ISO 8502-4.
- Monitoring that the prepared steel surfaces that are to be coated are of the intended purity, assessed according to SS- EN ISO 8501-1, after sand-blasting, manual or mechanical cleaning or flame cleaning of uncoated steel or previously coated steel, where all of the coating has been removed,
 - SS-ISO 8501-2 when previously coated steel surfaces have only been cleaned locally
 - SS-EN ISO 8501-4 after water-blasting.

- Monitoring that pre-coated steel surfaces have the intended roughness, assessed according to SS-EN ISO 8503-2.
- Measurement of the layer thickness of the coating, in accordance with ISO 19840, with 5 measurements per test area, in accordance with appendix B of the standard, after the measuring device has been adjusted to the surface in question, in accordance with appendix A of the standard.
- Checking that the corrosion protection is otherwise in accordance with SS-EN ISO 12 944.
- The completion of the check, along with any errors and repairs must be documented.

5. Quality, environment and work environment

The company must implement an approved and documented quality and environment management system, as well as a work environment system. The company quality assurance system must fulfil the guidelines provided by the Technical Council in "Quality assurance systems for corrosion protection". The Technical Council assesses the quality assurance systems based on these guidelines, and the appendix "Assessment of quality assurance systems for corrosion protection".

6. Financial stability

The company must be satisfactorily financially stable. The Technical Council requirements regarding financial stability are stated in appendix D "Financial requirements". A financial consultant, appointed by the Technical Council, will look at the company finances to see whether the company fulfils the requirements specified in appendix D.

7. Guaranteed standards

The company must, unless otherwise agreed with the client, apply the guaranteed standards that have been adopted by the Technical Council.

8. Subcontractors

If a certified protective coating company hires another protective coating company as a subcontractor for a corrosion protection job, this company should also be certified, unless otherwise agreed with the client. If a subcontractor is hired, this must be reported to the client, and approved in writing. A report must also be made to the Technical Council.

If a non-certified subcontractor is chosen, the certified company must make sure, through checks of its own, that this company fulfils the applicable certification requirements for the object in question.

The certified company must also be involved in the management of the project, and must thereby be able to guarantee the quality of the subcontractor's work as its own. It must be able to account for the above-mentioned checks to the Technical Council afterwards.

If a subcontractor is hired, the requirement for the number of certified coating specialists per active

work site, according to point 3 above, Expert coating specialists, shall apply to the certified company and the subcontractor alike.

9. Inspection/revision visit

The certified company shall accept inspection/revision visit of an inspector elected by the Technical Council. Any remarks noted at the inspection/revision visit shall be submitted to the company no later than 14 days after the visit.

The company has 14 days to submit evidence to the inspector so prove that the remarks have been attended to or that a plan of action with a set deadline has been established. After this the inspector will submit their report from the visit to the Technical Council for a decision.

10. Application

An application for certification is done on forms produced by Authorisation of Protective Coating Companies. It is incumbent upon the certified company to, within three months, informing the secretariat of any changes that concern Authorisation of Protective Coating Companies.

11. The duration of the certificate

A certification of a corrosion protection company is normally valid for a three year period counting from the first revision. Before the end of the third year a inspection/revision visit will be conducted for the purpose of potentially extending the duration of the certificate.

A company can be deprived of its certificate of the company is found to no longer fulfilling the requirements of Authorisation of Protective Coating Companies.

12. Fees

The company pledges to pay the fees set by the Authorisation of Protective Coating Companies.

13. Other documents

The statutes for Authorisation of Protective Coating Companies has information on guidelines.

Appendices:

- A Minimum requirements for premises, equipment and routines.
- A:1 Infrared spectrophotometric method for determination of oil + grease in abrasives for reuse.
- B Minimum requirements for control equipment and aids.
- C Financial requirements.