

Shipbuilding growth ensures coating boom

The continued expansion of the shipbuilding industry has proved fruitful for coatings manufacturers.

The move to International Maritime Organization (IMO) ballast tank coatings regulation MSC.215(82) and MSC.215(84) - performance standard for protective coatings (PSPC) - draws ever nearer, and the rush is on to gain certification and approval.

Earlier this year, International Paint Ltd announced that the first Lloyd's Register IMO PSPC type approval certificate was awarded to its Intershield 300 - the abrasion-resistant, aluminium-pure epoxy coating.

The PSPC and Lloyd's Register type approval certification process places new responsibilities on coatings manufacturers to ensure that all coatings designed for use in dedicated seawater ballast tanks in all types of ships and double side skin spaces of bulk carriers, meet strict performance requirements. To comply, coatings must either pass stringent laboratory testing, or be subjected to inspection and confirmation that the coating has provided a minimum of five years 'good' in service performance, or that the coating has existing B1 Marintek approval.

In addition to this, the coatings manufacturer must meet the approved supplier criteria for each supply location as set out in IACS UR Z17 and PR34. This includes the provision that if the manufacturer makes coatings in different locations under the same product name then infrared identification shall be used to demonstrate that the coating is of the same high quality and specification. Only if these requirements are met will Lloyd's Register issue type approval certification.

Mike Hindmarsh, worldwide marine business development manager, International Paint said: 'We have always supported the introduction of a standard that would help increase the service life of coatings for seawater ballast tanks and directly contribute to improved safety of life at sea. We're particularly pleased that the first Lloyd's Register certificate has been awarded to our anticorrosive, Intershield 300.'

The International Paint technical service



Michael Hindmarsh (right), business development manager, International Paint, receives the Intershield 300 type approval certificate from David Howarth, global technology leader, Lloyd's Register.

training programme has also gained recognition from Lloyd's Register. Under the rules of the PSPC, all coating inspectors must either be qualified to NACE coating inspector level 2, FROSIO inspector level III, or an equivalent qualification.

Equivalence means the successful completion, as determined by a qualified tutor, of an approved course based on the requirements of the PSPC that also has an acceptable measurement of performance, for example, an examination. After a thorough review, Lloyd's Register has accredited International Paint's technical service training programme with equivalent status to the NACE and FROSIO programmes.

The qualification is valid for all current International Paint technical service representatives who have completed training to the required level and who have a minimum of five years experience. Representatives remain qualified provided they continue to be employed by International Paint.