
**Paints and varnishes — Corrosion
protection of steel structures by
protective paint systems —**

**Part 2:
Classification of environments**

*Peintures et vernis — Anticorrosion des structures en acier par
systèmes de peinture —*

Partie 2: Classification des environnements





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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

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For an explanation on the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 35, *Paints and varnishes*, Subcommittee SC 14, *Protective paint systems for steel structures*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 12944-2:1998), which has been technically revised.

The main changes compared to the previous edition are as follows:

- the normative references have been updated;
- [4.2.1](#) "General" has been added;
- the units in [Table 1](#) have been corrected;
- the bibliography has been updated;
- the text has been editorially revised.

A list of all parts in the ISO 12944 series can be found on the ISO website.

Introduction

Unprotected steel in the atmosphere, in water and in soil is subjected to corrosion that can lead to damage. Therefore, to avoid corrosion damage, steel structures are normally protected to withstand the corrosion stresses to which they will be subjected during the service life required of the structure.

There are different ways of protecting steel structures from corrosion. ISO 12944 (all parts) deals with protection by paint systems and covers, in the various parts, all features that are important in achieving adequate corrosion protection. Additional or other measures are possible but require particular agreement between the interested parties.

In order to ensure effective corrosion protection of steel structures, owners of such structures, planners, consultants, companies carrying out corrosion protection work, inspectors of protective coatings and manufacturers of coating materials need to have at their disposal state-of-the-art information in concise form on corrosion protection by paint systems. It is vital that such information is as complete as possible, unambiguous and easily understandable to avoid difficulties and misunderstandings between the parties concerned with the practical implementation of protection work.

ISO 12944 (all parts) is intended to give this information in the form of a series of instructions. It is written for those who have some technical knowledge. It is also assumed that the user of ISO 12944 (all parts) is familiar with other relevant International Standards, in particular those dealing with surface preparation.

Although ISO 12944 (all parts) does not deal with financial and contractual questions, attention is drawn to the fact that, because of the considerable implications of inadequate corrosion protection, non-compliance with requirements and recommendations given in ISO 12944 (all parts) can result in serious financial consequences.

ISO 12944-1 defines the overall scope of ISO 12944. It gives some basic terms and definitions and a general introduction to the other parts of ISO 12944. Furthermore, it includes a general statement on health, safety and environmental protection, and guidelines for using ISO 12944 (all parts) for a given project.

This document describes the environmental impact on steel structures. It covers structures exposed to the atmosphere as well as those immersed in water or buried in soil. For different atmospheric environments, a classification system based on corrosivity categories is also presented. Different environments for immersed and buried structures are also described. All these environments are relevant to the choice of protective paint systems.

Paints and varnishes — Corrosion protection of steel structures by protective paint systems —

Part 2: Classification of environments

1 Scope

This document deals with the classification of the principal environments to which steel structures are exposed, and the corrosivity of these environments. This document

- defines atmospheric-corrosivity categories, based on mass loss (or thickness loss) by standard specimens, and describes typical natural atmospheric environments to which steel structures are exposed, giving advice on the estimation of the corrosivity,
- describes different categories of environment for structures immersed in water or buried in soil, and
- gives information on some special corrosion stresses that can cause a significant increase in corrosion rate or place higher demands on the performance of the protective paint system.

The corrosion stresses associated with a particular environment or corrosivity category represent one essential parameter governing the selection of protective paint systems.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 12944-1, *Paints and varnishes — Corrosion protection of steel structures by protective paint systems — Part 1: General introduction*

ISO 12944-3, *Paints and varnishes — Corrosion protection of steel structures by protective paint systems — Part 3: Design considerations*

ISO 12944-4, *Paints and varnishes — Corrosion protection of steel structures by protective paint systems — Part 4: Types of surface and surface preparation*

ISO 12944-5, *Paints and varnishes — Corrosion protection of steel structures by protective paint systems — Part 5: Protective paint systems*

ISO 12944-6, *Paints and varnishes — Corrosion protection of steel structures by protective paint systems — Part 6: Laboratory performance test methods*

ISO 12944-7, *Paints and varnishes — Corrosion protection of steel structures by protective paint systems — Part 7: Execution and supervision of paint work*

ISO 12944-8, *Paints and varnishes — Corrosion protection of steel structures by protective paint systems — Part 8: Development of specifications for new work and maintenance*

ISO 12944-9, *Paints and varnishes — Corrosion protection of steel structures by protective paint systems — Part 9: Protective paint systems and laboratory performance test methods for offshore and related structures*