



BSI Standards Publication

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

---

Part 2: Classification of environments

## National foreword

This British Standard is the UK implementation of EN ISO 12944-2:2017. It is identical to ISO 12944-2:2017. It supersedes BS EN ISO 12944-2:1998, which is withdrawn.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee STI/21, Paint systems and surface preparation for metallic substrates.

A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

This publication does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.

© The British Standards Institution 2018  
Published by BSI Standards Limited 2018

ISBN 978 0 580 91030 2

ICS 91.080.10; 87.020

**Compliance with a British Standard cannot confer immunity from legal obligations.**

This British Standard was published under the authority of the Standards Policy and Strategy Committee on 31 January 2018.

### Amendments/corrigenda issued since publication

Date	Text affected
------	---------------

---

EUROPEAN STANDARD

**EN ISO 12944-2**

NORME EUROPÉENNE

EUROPÄISCHE NORM

December 2017

ICS 87.020; 91.080.13

Supersedes EN ISO 12944-2:1998

English Version

**Paints and varnishes - Corrosion protection of steel  
structures by protective paint systems - Part 2:  
Classification of environments (ISO 12944-2:2017)**

Peintures et vernis - Anticorrosion des structures en  
acier par systèmes de peinture - Partie 2: Classification  
des environnements (ISO 12944-2:2017)

Beschichtungsstoffe - Korrosionsschutz von  
Stahlbauten durch Beschichtungssysteme - Teil 2:  
Einteilung der Umgebungsbedingungen (ISO 12944-  
2:2017)

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 30 October 2017.

CEN members are bound to comply with the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations which stipulate the conditions for giving this European Standard the status of a national standard without any alteration. Up-to-date lists and bibliographical references concerning such national standards may be obtained on application to the CEN-CENELEC Management Centre or to any CEN member.

This European Standard exists in three official versions (English, French, German). A version in any other language made by translation under the responsibility of a CEN member into its own language and notified to the CEN-CENELEC Management Centre has the same status as the official versions.

CEN members are the national standards bodies of Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and United Kingdom.



EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR STANDARDIZATION  
COMITÉ EUROPÉEN DE NORMALISATION  
EUROPÄISCHES KOMITEE FÜR NORMUNG

**CEN-CENELEC Management Centre: Rue de la Science 23, B-1040 Brussels**

## European foreword

This document (EN ISO 12944-2:2017) has been prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 35 “Paints and varnishes” in collaboration with Technical Committee CEN/TC 139 “Paints and varnishes” the secretariat of which is held by DIN.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by June 2018, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by June 2018.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. CEN shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

This document supersedes EN ISO 12944-2:1998.

According to the CEN-CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organizations of the following countries are bound to implement this European Standard: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

### Endorsement notice

The text of ISO 12944-2:2017 has been approved by CEN as EN ISO 12944-2:2017 without any modification.

# Contents

Page

<b>Foreword</b> .....	<b>iv</b>
<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>v</b>
<b>1 Scope</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>2 Normative references</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>3 Terms and definitions</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>4 Corrosion stresses due to the atmosphere, water and soil</b> .....	<b>3</b>
4.1 Atmospheric corrosion.....	3
4.2 Corrosion in water and soil.....	3
4.2.1 General.....	3
4.2.2 Structures immersed in water.....	3
4.2.3 Structures buried in soil.....	4
4.3 Special cases.....	4
<b>5 Classification of environments</b> .....	<b>4</b>
5.1 Atmospheric-corrosivity categories.....	4
5.2 Categories for water and soil.....	5
<b>Annex A (informative) Climatic conditions</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>Annex B (informative) Special cases</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>Bibliography</b> .....	<b>11</b>

## 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](http://www.iso.org/directives)).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see [www.iso.org/patents](http://www.iso.org/patents)).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

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](http://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*