

# SSPC Applicator Training & Certification

Overview of SSPC Certified  
Applicator Specialist (CAS) Program

[www.sspc.org](http://www.sspc.org)

Michael Damiano-SSPC  
Feb 2012



# Topics

- SSPC ACS-1
- SSPC Transition Plan
- Levels of CAS Qualification and Certification
- CAS for SSPC-QP 1 Certified Contractors
- How to Get CAS Certified

# SSPC CAS Program

- 1st Professional Certification Program for the industrial painter in the USA
- Based on consensus standard SSPC ACS-1/ NACE 13 “Applicator Certification Standard No. 1, Industrial Coating and Lining Application Specialist Qualification and Certification”

# SSPC ACS-1

- Scope defines criteria for education, training, experience, knowledge and skills required for the professional industrial painter
- Long overdue standard to comprehensively assess & recognize the skills of the industrial painter

## Why ACS-1 and CAS?

- SSPC has long recognized the need for a comprehensive program that sets the standard for a trained and qualified workforce to meet the both the needs of the contractor and facility owners for quality work, done safely and at a reasonable cost

## Why CAS? (Cont' d)

- Skilled workforce needed to apply more sophisticated coatings required to meet strict environmental and performance (durability) requirements
- Skilled workforce needed to apply sophisticated materials safely
- Standard needed to define the industrial painter as a profession to attract young workers to the trade

## Why CAS (Cont' d)

- Organizations, such as the IUPAT and affiliated organizations and NCCER, have provided craft training over the years
- CAS, however, is the first across-the-board certification “standard” for industrial painters applicable to the entire industry



# SSPC Transition Plan 2010-2020

- 10-yr. ramp-up to full implementation of ACS-1
- Give industry adequate time to build training and certification infrastructure
- Interim (Level II) status certification (under CAS)

# SSPC Transition Plan 2010-2020 (Cont' d)

- Reduced training hours and experience requirements for CAS certification (Interim Level II)
- First CAS certified applicators – Nov. 2010
- 285 Level I qualified; 42 Level II (Interim) Certified – as of Jan 25 '12

# Four Levels of Recognition (CAS)


- Level I Qualification = Trainee
- Level II Certification = (Core area Body of Knowledge and grasp of fundamental blasting and painting skills)
- Level II + Specialty Supplemental Programs
- Level III = Level II + Supervisory Skills

# Level I Qualification

- A qualification program for the painter in training who has knowledge of good painting practices
- Achieved through completion of employability skills assessment (basic reading, writing, arithmetic needed to be employed)
- Pass written exam on elementary knowledge
- A Level I qualified trainee customarily works with or under the supervision of a Level II or III Application Specialist



## Level II-Interim Status

- 
- Designed for craftworkers in current workforce who have the skills but lack the 450 formal training hrs required by ACS-1
  - Provides the opportunity to achieve professional certification in the near term

## Interim Status (Cont' d)

- Provides owners who want to specify a ratio of certified craftworkers to trainees on a job a ready pool of qualified, “certified,” painters



## Level II Certification (Interim and Full Status)

- SSPC offers transition plan (interim) certification and full status certification
- It is SSPC's intent to focus initially on Interim Status
- Level II defines requirements for the experienced industrial painter able to work independently
- May need traditional supervision but can prepare, start, stop and clean up without direction (knows the fundamentals of the trade without second thought)

## Level II Interim-Requirements

- 150 hrs job-related classroom training & 2 yrs documented experience or;
- 3 yrs experience without classroom training
- Pass hands-on and written exams
- Must convert to full status after 2 terms

# Training & Preparation

- SSPC offers applicator training modules to contractors to teach own forces – company trainer must be qualified thru SSPC applicator train-the-trainer program to offer
- Other recognized training (e.g. IUPAT, NCCER, SSPC C-1/C-2, PCI, BCI, NBPI or NACE CIP training, SAIT)

## CAS Credit for C-7 & C-12

- SSPC will give credit for the CAS hands on exam for CAS Level II applicants who have already achieved C-7 (Abrasive Blaster) and/or C-12 (Airless Sprayer) Certifications
- Must still meet experience requirements and pass CAS Level II written exam

# Level III Certification

- Painters who have the skills to plan and oversee or supervise painters.
- Requirements: Level II + 1000 hrs of related experience after Level II or:
  - > 1,500 hrs work experience (inspection, supervision, project management)
  - > Pass Level III written exam
  - > Available after 2013 when 1<sup>st</sup> CAS Level II interim terms expire

# CAS for SSPC-QP 1 Certified Contractors 2013

- **Jan. 1, 2013:** one (1) CAS Certified (Level II-Interim min.) craftworker on each QP 1 contractor's painting crew having 5 or more members performing blast cleaning and/or spray application (Atmospheric and Immersion Service)



## Crew Definition (Draft)

- Crew – minimum of 5 workers performing blast cleaning or spray application on the same project at the same time
- CAS Level II certified person shall be on site during surface preparation and painting operations or be accessible to the work area within 10 minutes by foot or other form of transportation

# CAS for SSPC Certified Contractors 2014

- **Introduction of crew ratios**
- **Jan. 1, 2014:** one (1) CAS Certified (Level II-Interim min.) craftworker to three (3) non-CAS certified craft-workers (25%) on each painting crew during blast cleaning and/or spray application (Atmospheric and Immersion Service)



## **Eligible Coating Projects: CAS for SSPC Certified Contractors**

- Defined as those projects where dry or wet abrasive blast cleaning and/or spray application is being performed on a steel structure in the field for the purpose of corrosion control and the contract value for coatings and surface preparation exceeds \$50,000

# How to Get CAS Certified

- Complete applications for each applicant
- Have a test site that meets SSPC CAS Exam Facility requirements
- Request an SSPC approved proctor to give the certification exam

# Learn More About SSPC CAS

- To learn more:
  - > Visit: <http://www.sspc.org/Coating-Application-Specialist-CAS-Certification-Program/> or
  - > Call: (USA) 1-877-281-7772, ext. 2221; outside USA (412/281-2331, ext. 2221 or
  - > Email: [merck@sspc.org](mailto:merck@sspc.org) or [damiano@sspc.org](mailto:damiano@sspc.org)