

SSPC

PROTECTIVE COATINGS SPECIALIST CERTIFICATION

take your career to the next level





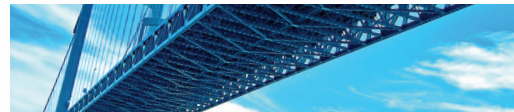
WHAT IS THE SSPC PROTECTIVE COATINGS SPECIALIST PROGRAM?

SSPC's PCS Program identifies and certifies individuals who have in-depth knowledge of the principles and practices of industrial coatings technology. Certification validates the professional credibility of the protective coatings practitioner and also raises the standards of the protective coatings industry as a whole.



WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF CERTIFICATION?

As an SSPC Certified Protective Coatings Specialist, you will take your career to the next level through association with the leading protective coatings organization in the industry. Your PCS certification enhances your individual professional standing and marketability, while raising the visibility of coatings professionals overall



AS A CERTIFIED PCS, YOU WILL ALSO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING BENEFITS:

- A news release announcing your certification distributed to news media, including the monthly SSPC magazine- The Journal of Protective Coatings and Linings
- Official notification of certification to your employer and local SSPC chapter
- Official listing in the SSPC PCS Directory
- A unique certification number and copies of the PCS logo, suitable for use on business cards, letterhead and advertisements
- Wallet card
- Certificate
- Embosser stamp (optional)

WHAT DOES PCS CERTIFICATION ENABLE COATINGS PROFESSIONALS TO DO?

- Assess coatings systems service performance
- Manage or oversee coating failure analysis
- Develop coating specifications for new construction and/or maintenance coatings
- Develop coating specifications that address relevant safety and environmental
- Regulations and facility constraints
- Evaluate field and shop coating work procedures
- Select appropriate coating systems
- Utilize results of coating failure analysis

FOR A DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS, PLEASE VISIT

www.sspc.org/certification/pcs

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR PCS CERTIFICATION?

To become certified, a candidate is required to meet general education and professional work experience requirements, successfully complete specific training criteria, and submit three professional references. Candidates are also required to pass a comprehensive examination covering a wide range of topics pertaining to the use of coatings for control of corrosion in the industrial environment. There is also a PCS Study Guide available, which outlines subjects that you will find helpful in studying for the exam. To request a copy, please contact Shawn Nedley at 877.281.7772, ext 2210 or nedley@sspc.org.



CERTIFICATION RENEWAL

In keeping with the high standards of SSPC and the PCS Program, PCS are required to renew their certification every 4 years. PCS renewal depends upon continuing involvement in the protective coatings industry. Such involvement is demonstrated through continuing education and professional work experience.

PREPARING WITH SSPC TRAINING COURSES

SSPC courses, *Fundamentals of Protective Coatings for Industrial Structures* and *Specifying and Managing Protective Coatings Projects*, meet specific training requirements for PCS Certification and are an excellent way to prepare for the comprehensive exam. For those who cannot attend in person, both courses are available as online eCourses, offered several times a year through the SSPC web site. *Fundamentals of Protective Coatings for Industrial Structures*, provides a practical and comprehensive overview for those who are new to the protective coatings industry. It is also an ideal refresher for reviewing the fundamentals of corrosion and deterioration of industrial structures. *Specifying and Managing Protective Coatings Projects*, is designed to sharpen your skills in managing the specific requirements of protective coatings projects.

Further Information

Complete training course descriptions and schedules, including upcoming PCS exam dates, can be found online at www.sspc.org/training.

For further information on the Protective Coatings Specialist Program, please visit www.sspc.org/certification/pcs.

Online information includes:

- Certification policies
- Downloadable applications and forms
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Directory of current Protective Coatings Specialists

Contact for Further Information

Shawn Nedley, PCS Program Marketing & Sales at 877.281.7772 ext. 2210, or nedley@sspc.org.

Program Fees

	Member	Non Member
Initial Application	\$300	\$400
Examination	\$200	\$300
Recertification (4 yrs)	\$250	\$350

Certification Term: 4 Years

PCS REQUIREMENTS

Requirements Include:

	Work Experience	Education	C1	C2
Option A –	5 years coatings experience	Bachelor's degree	Must Take C1 Exam Only	Must Take C2 Course and Exam
Option B –	7 years coatings experience	Associate's degree	Must Take C1 Exam Only	Must Take C2 Course and Exam
Option C –	10 years coatings experience	High school graduation or GED	Must Take C1 Exam Only	Must Take C2 Course and Exam
Option D –	15 years coatings experience	n/a	n/a	Must Take C2 Exam Only





PCS FAQ's

HOW DOES SSPC'S PCS CERTIFICATION COMPARE TO NACE INTERNATIONAL'S INSPECTOR'S CERTIFICATION? IS THERE "GRANDFATHERING" OR RECIPROCITY BETWEEN THE TWO?

NACE has two programs that occasionally are compared with the PCS program. The first is the NACE Coatings Inspector Program (CIP). This program is not equivalent to the SSPC Protective Coatings Specialist Program. It deals with one particular aspect of coatings work - inspection - in much more detail than the PCS certification. However, SSPC's PCS program deals with a broad range of topics with which the experienced coatings consultant, inspector, manager, specifier, project manager, etc. should be familiar.

The other NACE program that is compared to SSPC's PCS program is the NACE Protective Coatings Specialist Certification. This program is science intensive, since a prerequisite is an engineering degree, or passing the NACE Corrosion Specialist exam. SSPC's PCS program extends to the coatings practitioner (e.g., project manager, facility manager, technical consultant, etc.). SSPC's PCS program tests general knowledge that is gained on the job, not scientific acumen.

There is no grandfathering or reciprocity between NACE and SSPC certifications. SSPC does, however, exempt NACE certified inspectors from taking the C-1 course, Fundamentals of Protective Coatings for Industrial Structures, to meet part of the formal training requirement. SSPC also accepts NACE Session 1 training in lieu of C-1.

I CAN'T MAKE IT TO ANY OF THE EXAMS ON THE PUBLISHED SCHEDULE, WHAT ARE MY OPTIONS? OR, WILL THERE BE AN EXAM SCHEDULED IN MY AREA?

Candidates can schedule an appointment to take the exam at SSPC headquarters in Pittsburgh, PA., or arrange for SSPC to proctor the exam at the candidate's work site. Candidates should contact Silvia Palmieri to make these arrangements. 412.281.2331 ext. 2201, or palmieri@sspc.org.

WHAT DO I GET FOR THE CERTIFICATION?

First and foremost, the PCS individual gains professional credibility from the leading coatings industry organization, and professional recognition from industry peers. Also, many coatings organizations use PCS certification as either a prerequisite for employment or as a contract requirement.

