

SSPC

CERTIFICATION QUALITY PROGRAMS



Take the guess work out of selecting industrial coating contractors & inspection firms



SSPC
The Society For
Protective Coatings
www.sspc.org

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE YOU SPECIFY YOUR NEXT COATING PROJECT

As a facility owner, you recognize the importance of protective coatings when it comes to safeguarding valuable facilities and other corporate or government assets. Coatings do much more than just improve appearance. To preserve and maintain structures, nothing can match the long-term value and protection offered by coatings and linings.

But the selection of suitable materials is just one aspect of a successful coating project. It is critical that work is done according to competent specifications, with correct surface preparation and proper application and initial curing techniques. Facility owners need to find top quality people to provide these services—trained people who are aware of the current standards and practices and have a proven track record of success.

SSPC's certification quality programs offer a proven way to find those contractors.



SSPC CERTIFICATION QUALITY PROGRAMS FOR INDUSTRIAL COATING CONTRACTORS AND INSPECTION FIRMS.

SSPC's certification quality programs offer a proven way for facility owners to find the most qualified contractors for their coating and lining projects. An SSPC certified contractor will have the experience, knowledge, and equipment to produce high quality work in accordance with the local, state, and federal guidelines for safety, health, and environmental compliance.

SSPC has certification quality programs for contractors that perform coating and lining work and for companies that provide inspection services. These nationally recognized certification quality programs are based on consensus standards developed by a diverse committee of industry professionals. The certifications function as independent evaluations of contractors, and can be used as qualification tools for facility owners seeking contractors for projects.



WHY SHOULD YOU HIRE AN SSPC CERTIFIED CONTRACTOR?

Today's marketplace and advanced coating systems require owners to be more selective when awarding projects. Including SSPC certification in your selection process can provide you with a valuable tool for identifying contractors with industry-standard capabilities and a commitment to exceptional quality. There are numerous advantages to requiring certification for your projects:

Competent contractors –

There is often a big difference between the lowest bidder and the lowest responsible bidder for a project. SSPC certifications remove the guess work in evaluating bidders. You can know from the start that certified contractors have demonstrated abilities and knowledge in their areas of expertise.

Clear and concise project specifications –

Project specifications that include SSPC contractor certification as a requirement allow owners the comfort of knowing that the chosen contractor will have the necessary technical knowledge, equipment, and capabilities to perform the project to the specified standard. Facility owners get a longer coatings life cycle which adds to the bottomline, due to less downtime and project rework.

Confidence in specifying new technology –

When you hire an SSPC certified contractor, you can be confident that the contractor has the capabilities you need in emerging technologies, craftworkers that have been properly trained, and job site supervision by Coating Application Specialists.

Consistent inspection –

A good inspector is the link between what the owner wants and what the owner gets. Without high quality inspection the project suffers. An SSPC certified inspection company provides consistent coating and lining inspection by competent, well-trained inspectors. Owners, certified inspectors, and other certified contractors will all work to the same agreed-upon standards.

Safe and reliable project work –

SSPC certified contractors have demonstrated the ability to protect workers and the environment and adequately document project work.

ISO 9000 compliance –

SSPC QS1 certification is an asset to ISO 9000 facility owners. SSPC contractor certification quality programs provide an industry-specific adaptation of ISO Quality System Concepts and include many of the fundamental topics found in ISO 9001-2008

DID YOU KNOW?

Over 360 individual public and private facility owners require SSPC certification. Both the U.S. Navy and U.S. Coast Guard require SSPC certification for their coating projects. Many state and city Departments of Transportation use only certified contractors for bridge maintenance and other jobs. Numerous county governments require certification for the maintenance painting of bridges, water tanks, and waste and water treatment facilities. SSPC certification is also being specified by an increasing number of oil and natural gas, petro chemical, power generation and transmission, and private facility owners who want to maximize the service lifespans of their structures.

**SSPC CERTIFICATION IDENTIFIES CONTRACTORS
WITH INDUSTRY-STANDARD CAPABILITIES AND A
COMMITMENT TO EXCEPTIONAL QUALITY**

**SSPC'S
CERTIFICATION
QUALITY
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FACILITY OWNERS
FIND TECHNICALLY
CAPABLE
CONTRACTORS
FOR THEIR
COATING AND
LINING PROJECTS**



COMMON FACILITY OWNER QUESTIONS

Q: WHY SHOULD I SPEND MONEY ON A COATING PROJECT AT ALL?

A: Using protective coatings and linings is a proven way to cut losses from corrosion and deterioration while extending the service life of your assets. Money spent on well-timed coating operations should be viewed as a long-term investment, rather than as an immediate cost.

It hurts your business when you delay or eliminate a needed coating project in the interest of short-term savings. But it can be worse to hire an unqualified contractor for a project based solely on the lowest bid. To maximize the return on your coating investment dollars, it makes sense to choose only highly qualified, certified contractors with demonstrated abilities.

**PROTECTIVE COATINGS AND LININGS PREVENT
LOSSES TO YOUR BUSINESS FROM CORROSION.**

Q: WILL USING A CERTIFIED CONTRACTOR COST MORE?

A: Not necessarily. On some projects, you may notice that bids from SSPC-certified contractors are higher than non-certified contractors. This is more common on large, complex projects where the requirements of the job indicate the need for a contractor that is more experienced and one that has the necessary programs in place to ensure not only the quality of the work but the safety of the workers, the public and the environment.

In hiring an SSPC-certified contractor, the occasional higher bid is offset by the extended service life that is often achieved as a result of using a more qualified contractor. The simple fact is that SSPC-certified contractors have demonstrated the capability to deliver a quality product. Use of an unqualified contractor puts asset owners at a higher risk of experiencing coating failures and other project issues that not only can damage your reputation but can also endanger the public. These risks can lead to costly rework, asset downtime, and sometimes legal expenses that makes the project cost much higher in the long run.

**CERTIFICATION QUALITY PROGRAMS ARE FUNDED THROUGH FEES PAID BY
CONTRACTORS, NOT OWNERS.**



WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BECOME SSPC CERTIFIED?

SSPC certified contractors need to demonstrate that they strive to be the best in the industry. To become certified, the contractor or shop must:

- Complete a detailed application form describing the company and its work history
- Submit documentation on quality control, safety, and environmental compliance programs and procedures
- Obtain acceptance of the submittal
- Undergo an on-site audit by an SSPC auditor of both the contractor's primary place of business and an active job site to demonstrate the company's capabilities
- For coating contractor certifications, comply with a rigorously enforced Disciplinary Action Code

It usually takes one to two months from the time the contractor submits its application to the time that the SSPC certification process is complete. SSPC requires the observation of bona fide work in progress as part of each on-site audit, with no exceptions.

All industrial coating contractors and shops, regardless of size, volume of work, markets served, or affiliations, are eligible for SSPC certification, provided that they can demonstrate a six-month production history of compliance with certification requirements prior to their initial evaluation.

Certified coating contractors must maintain the program's guidelines on all of their projects. This applies even when the contract or project specifications do not name SSPC certification as a requirement.

The ranks of SSPC certified contractors include large, medium, and small businesses; those that paint bridges, storage tanks, structural steel, concrete, military facilities, Navy ships, or a variety of complex industrial structures; and those that may be minority or women owned.

SSPC CERTIFIED CONTRACTORS ARE AMONG THE BEST IN THE INDUSTRY.



TAKE THE NEXT STEP!

SSPC offers free consultations to facility owners to help them implement certification requirements into their coatings program. SSPC also provides contract and bid notice language that owners can use or modify to specify SSPC certification, and supplies lists of certified contractors for consideration.

In addition, SSPC can provide training on certification requirements and standards for contractors and agency officials at facilities where certification is being implemented.

Contact SSPC to learn how you can benefit from including SSPC's certification quality programs in your next coating or lining project.

Contact us for more information on SSPC certification quality programs:

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SSPC UPHOLDS HIGH STANDARDS FOR CONTRACTORS

SSPC continuously works to ensure that certified contractors adhere to program standards. They conduct thorough annual audits that focus on each contractor's knowledge, organization, personnel, procedures, qualifications, and overall capability to provide high-quality work and service on complex coating and lining projects.

In addition, SSPC maintains Disciplinary Action Criteria (DAC) that govern coating contractors and inspection companies. The DAC is a set of safety, health, environmental protection, quality, service, and ethical practice standards. These criteria are the basis for issuing warnings, placing firms on probation, conducting special unannounced audits, and suspending or revoking certification for severe program violations.

While certification can identify contractors with demonstrated primary technical capabilities, it is important to know that SSPC can not guarantee the capabilities or work of a certified contractor for any specific site or job.

The overall success of the certification quality programs depends on open communication between SSPC and facility owners, coating contractors, and inspection companies. SSPC works with all of these groups to maintain the highest quality and integrity for their certifications.

**SSPC ENSURES THAT CERTIFIED CONTRACTORS
ADHERE TO PROGRAM STANDARDS.**



SSPC is the only non-profit association concentrating on the protection and preservation of concrete, steel, and other industrial and marine structures and surfaces through the use of high-performance industrial coatings. SSPC was founded in 1950 as the Steel Structures Painting Council, a non-profit professional society focusing on the use of coatings to protect industrial steel structures. In 1997, the name of the association was changed to SSPC: The Society for Protective Coatings to better reflect the changing nature of coating technology and the expanding types of construction materials.

SSPC developed the standards by which nearly all industrial surface preparation and coating work is performed in North America today. These include the widely-used Surface Preparation (SP) and Paint Application (PA) specifications. The association is the leading source of information on surface preparation, coating selection, coating application, environmental regulations, and health and safety issues that affect the protective coatings industry.





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