

# **CERTIFICATION PROGRAM**

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# **PROTECTIVE COATINGS**

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## **SPECIALIST**



Protective Coatings Specialist

# PCS

**SSPC**   
The Society For  
Protective Coatings  
[www.sspc.org](http://www.sspc.org)

# PCS CERTIFICATION

## PCS CERTIFICATION 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 raises the standards of the industry as a whole.

**“I MANAGE MULTIPLE COATING INSPECTORS AS WELL AS PAINTERS AS PART OF MY JOB. NOW I HAVE THE ABILITY TO GO BEHIND THEM AND VERIFY THE RESULTS, ADDING AN EXTRA LEVEL OF QUALITY CONTROL TO OUR PROJECTS.**

— JASON M. PROJECT MANAGER

## PREPARE WITH ADDITIONAL SSPC COURSES

SSPC courses, Fundamentals of Protective Coatings for Industrial Structures (C1) and Planning and Specifying Industrial Projects (C2), meet specific training requirements for PCS certification and are an excellent way to prepare for the exam. For those who can not attend in person, both courses are available as online eCourses.

C1 provides a practical, comprehensive overview for those new to the protective coatings industry. It is also an ideal refresher for reviewing the fundamentals of corrosion and deterioration of industrial structures.

C2 is designed to sharpen your skills in managing the specific requirements of protective coatings projects.



## BENEFITS OF CERTIFICATION

Earning your PCS certification puts you in the upper echelon of all protective coatings experts. As the industry's most demanding certification, those who achieve this join the ranks of the most respected professionals over the past 25 years. Much more than just an acronym for a business card, PCS lets your clients and peers know that you're serious about coatings and your career. It gives them confidence that when you're on the job, the job will be done right.

### Additional Benefits

- A news release announcing your certification distributed to news media, including the monthly SSPC magazine— *The Journal of Protective Coatings and Linings*
- 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
- Customized embosser or stamp (optional)

### Professional Benefits

- 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 standards or regulations
- Regulations and facility constraints
- Evaluate field and shop coating work procedures
- Select appropriate coating systems
- Utilize results of coating failure analysis

FOR MORE INFORMATION:



[www.sspc.org/trn-crs-pcs](http://www.sspc.org/trn-crs-pcs)



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## CERTIFICATION RENEWAL

In keeping with the high standards of SSPC and the PCS Program, PCS certified individuals are required to renew their certification every four years. PCS renewal is contingent on continued involvement in the protective coatings industry, demonstrated through continuing education and professional work experience.

## CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

To become certified, a candidate must submit a PCS application, meet general education and professional work experience requirements, successfully complete specific training criteria, and provide three professional references.

Candidates must also pass a comprehensive examination covering a wide range of topics pertaining to the use of coatings for corrosion control in the industrial environment.

The PCS certification can be obtained through the options presented to the right. Several options are available for the various levels of experience coming into the course.

	Work Experience	Education	C1	C2
Option A	5 years	Bachelor's degree	C1 exam only	C2 course and exam
Option B	7 years	Associate degree	C1 exam only	C2 course and exam
Option C	10 years	High School diploma or GED	C1 exam only	C2 course and exam
Option D	15 years	N/A	N/A	C2 exam only

## PCS FAQ

### How does SSPC's PCS certification compare to NACE International Inspector certification? Is there "grandfathering" or reciprocity between the two?

NACE has two programs that are occasionally compared with the PCS program. The first is the NACE Coatings Inspector Program (CIP). CIP deals with one particular aspect of the 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 second NACE program that is compared to SSPC's PCS program is the NACE Protective Coatings Specialist Certification. This program is science-intensive. An engineering degree or passing the NACE Corrosion specialist exam is required. SSPC's PCS program is for the coatings practitioner (e.g., project manager, facility manager, technical consultant). SSPC's PCS program tests general knowledge gained on the job, not scientific acumen.

There is no grandfathering or reciprocity between NACE and SSPC certifications, but SSPC does exempt NACE certified inspectors from taking the C1 lecture (they do have to take the C1 exam) that is included in the formal training requirements.



### If I can't make it to any of the exams on the published schedule, what are my options? 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 at a convenient site. Candidates should contact Silvia Palmieri to make these arrangements at 412.281.2331 ext. 2201 or [palmieri@sspc.org](mailto:palmieri@sspc.org).

### What do I get for the certification?

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

## PCS IS THE FINAL CERTIFICATION TO OBTAIN AFTER PASSING BOTH SSPC'S C1 AND C2 PROGRAMS.







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