

SSPC

CERTIFICATION PROGRAM



PROTECTIVE COATING SPECIALIST (PCS)





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 raises the standards of the industry as a whole.

What are the 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 it 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 that you've invested in your career. It gives them confidence that when you're on the job, the job will be done right.

As a certified PCS, you will also receive the following benefits:

- A news release announcing your certification in the monthly SSPC magazine: *The Journal of Protective Coatings & Linings*
- Official notification of certification to your employer and local SSPC chapter
- A unique certification number and digital copy of the PCS logo suitable for use on business cards, letterhead and advertisements
- Wallet card
- Certificate
- Customized 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 analyses

**For a Detailed Description of the
Protective Coating Specialist (PCS) Program,
Visit www.sspc.org/Protective-Coatings-Specialist-PCS-Program**

For Information Contact

Silvia Palmieri, Individual Certification Coordinator, Phone: 877-281-7772 ext. 2201
or email: indivcert@sspc.org.



What are the Requirements for PCS Certification?

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.

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.

Preparing with SSPC Training 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.

PCS Requirements Include

	COATINGS WORK EXPERIENCE	EDUCATION	C1	C2
OPTION A	5 years	Bachelor's degree	C1 exam only	C2 Course and exam
OPTION B	7 years	Associate's 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's Inspector 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). CIP is not equivalent to the PCS Program. CIP 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 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 course that is included in the formal training requirements. SSPC also accepts NACE Session 1 training in lieu of C1.

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 877-281-7772 extension 2201, or indivcert@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.



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Protective Coatings

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