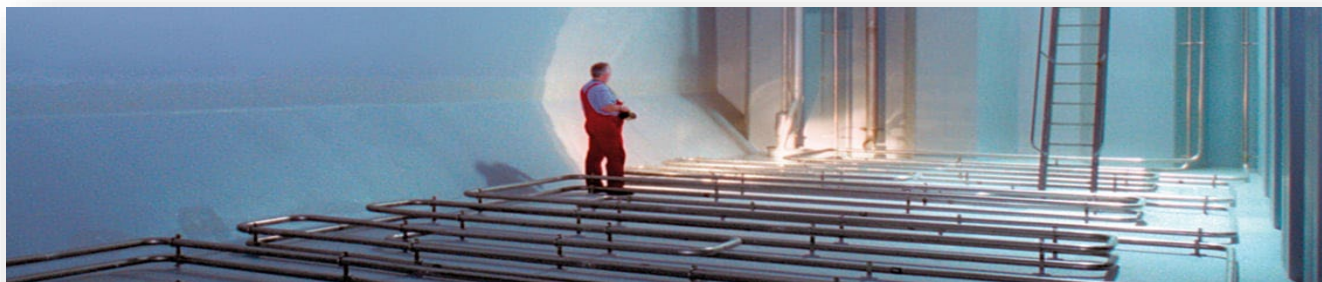


## Introduction

This Technical Information provides consolidated guidance on the Performance Standard for Protective Coatings (PSPC) as established by resolution MSC.215 (82) and as amended in a limited scope by resolution MSC.557(108).

Resolution MSC.215 (82) introduced mandatory performance-based requirements for protective coatings applied in dedicated seawater ballast tanks of all ship types and in double-side skin spaces of bulk carriers, in support of SOLAS regulations II-1/3-2 and XII/6.

At its 108th session, the Maritime Safety Committee adopted resolution MSC.557 (108), which introduces a targeted amendment limited exclusively to **the qualification requirements for coating inspection personnel under paragraph 6.1.1 of the PSPC**. The amendment does not modify the fundamental technical, documentation or performance requirements of the PSPC as established by MSC.215 (82).



## Scope of application

The PSPC, as established by MSC.215(82) and amended by MSC.557(108), applies to:

- ✚ Ships of 500 gross tonnage and above with dedicated seawater ballast tanks; and
- ✚ Bulk carriers of 150 m in length and upwards in respect of double-side skin spaces.

## Entry into Force and Transitional Arrangements

In accordance with the SOLAS amendment procedure:

- ✚ The amendments will enter into force on 1 January 2026.

The qualification requirements for coating inspectors introduced by resolution MSC.557 (108) apply only to coating inspections carried out under the PSPC as amended, for ships whose construction date, as defined under SOLAS, is on or after the entry-into-force date of 1 January 2026.

In line with the established SOLAS amendment procedure, the amendment does not apply retroactively and does not impose new qualification requirements on coating inspections performed for ships constructed prior to that date, which may continue to comply with the PSPC requirements applicable at the time of construction, unless otherwise determined by the Administration.

## PSPC Regulatory Framework (MSC.215 (82))

The PSPC establishes a performance-based framework intended to achieve a target useful life of at least 15 years in GOOD condition for protective coatings in the specified spaces.

The framework addresses coating durability through control of:

- ✚ Coating system qualification;
- ✚ Surface preparation standards;
- ✚ Environmental conditions during application;
- ✚ Coating application procedures;
- ✚ Inspection and verification activities; and
- ✚ Documentation and record retention.

Compliance with the PSPC is assessed based on the integrity of the entire coating process rather than on coating material selection alone.

*Note: The technical provisions described in this section remain unchanged by resolution MSC.557(108).*

## Coating System and Surface Preparation Requirements

Under the PSPC, coating systems are required to be epoxy-based or alternative systems demonstrated to provide equivalent performance acceptable to the Administration.

Surface preparation requirements include defined standards for:

- ✚ Blast cleanliness;
- ✚ Surface profile;
- ✚ Soluble salt limits;
- ✚ Treatment of welds, edges and damaged shop primer; and
- ✚ Environmental controls during coating application, including steel temperature, relative humidity and dew point margins.

These requirements form an integral part of the original PSPC and are not modified by MSC.557 (108).

## Coating Technical File (CTF)

The Coating Technical File (CTF) is a mandatory document under the PSPC and shall be maintained onboard throughout the ship's service life.

As a minimum, the CTF is required to contain:

- ✚ Coating specifications and manufacturer documentation;
- ✚ Application procedures;
- ✚ Inspection and test records;
- ✚ Dry film thickness measurements; and
- ✚ Maintenance and repair guidance.

The CTF serves as a reference document for surveys and verification of PSPC compliance.

*Clarification: Resolution MSC.557 (108) does not introduce new requirements concerning the content, format or management of the CTF.*

## What's NEW? Amendment Introduced by MSC.557(108)

Resolution MSC.557 (108) introduces a single amendment to the PSPC by replacing paragraph 6.1.1 under section 6 (Coating Inspection Requirements).

The amended paragraph 6.1.1 requires that coating inspections be carried out by qualified coating inspectors certified to one of the following, or an equivalent qualification as verified by the Administration:

- ✚ AMPP Certified Coatings Inspector;
- ✚ FROSIO Inspector Level III; or
- ✚ An equivalent qualification accepted by the Administration.

This amendment strengthens the formal qualification requirements for coating inspection personnel but does not alter the inspection scope, acceptance criteria or inspection documentation requirements already established under the PSPC.

## Actions Required by Shipowners, Shipbuilders and Surveyors

Shipowners, shipbuilders and surveyors shall ensure that, for ships to which the amended PSPC is applicable on or after 1 January 2026, coating inspections in dedicated seawater ballast tanks and double-side skin spaces of bulk carriers are carried out exclusively by qualified coating inspectors certified to AMPP Certified Coatings Inspector, FROSIO Inspector Level III, or an equivalent qualification accepted by the Administration, in accordance with paragraph 6.1.1 of the PSPC as amended by resolution MSC.557 (108).

Shipbuilders shall ensure that such qualified inspectors are engaged during coating application at the newbuilding stage, shipowners shall verify continued compliance during construction and initial surveys, and surveyors shall confirm inspector qualification and record compliance as part of statutory and classification surveys. All other PSPC technical, inspection and documentation requirements, including those related to surface preparation, coating application and the Coating Technical File (CTF), remain unchanged.

## Conclusion

The Performance Standard for Protective Coatings, as established by MSC.215 (82), provides a comprehensive regulatory framework for corrosion protection in ballast tanks and specified structural spaces. The amendment adopted by resolution MSC.557 (108) introduces a targeted update limited to the qualification requirements for coating inspection personnel, thereby supporting consistent application of the existing PSPC requirements. All other technical, inspection and documentation provisions of the PSPC remain unchanged.

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