

What is ICATS?

ICATS stands for 'Industrial Coatings Applicator Training Scheme'.

Who owns ICATS?

ICATS is owned by Institute of Corrosion and operated through Correx Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary of the Institute, and forms part of the Institute's training and certification portfolio.

What is the ICATS Scheme and how does it operate?

The ICATS scheme is a new comprehensive structured training scheme for the training, certification and registration of industrial surface preparation and coating operatives.

The scheme has a mandatory Basic Unit 'Industrial Coatings Applicator' that comprises 6 modules - Health & Safety, Site Access, Plant & Equipment, Surface Preparation, Paint Types & Application and Quality Control.

There are also 4 optional specialist modules; Abrasive Blast Cleaning Operator, Paint Sprayer, Thermal (Metal) Sprayer & Water Jetting Operator. (These specialist modules are to be released later). Certification is awarded to candidates when they have successfully completed each individual course.

Companies wishing to have a workforce certificated under ICATS must first register with Correx Ltd. Upon acceptance, registered companies may nominate individuals from their company to attend an ICATS 'Train the Trainer' course. Subject to meeting the acceptance criteria, the individuals then attend the 2/3 day ICATS 'Train the Trainer' course at the Scheme Provider's premises.

After successful completion of the course, certification as an ICATS trainer is awarded by the Institute of Corrosion. Certificated trainers are then qualified to train and assess operatives for individual certification as Industrial Coatings Applicators by the Institute of Corrosion.

Trainers and operatives would require re-certification after 3 years and renewal after 9 years.

Why was ICATS developed?

ICATS was produced in response to demands from specifying/procurement authorities for evidence of practical training and competency in industrial surface preparation and protective coating application to complement other industrial skills sector schemes. Additionally, ICATS enables contractors to provide 'best value' service to maximise coating performance over structure life and to reduce whole life costs.

Who is the ICATS Scheme Provider?

Argyll Ruane Ltd. in Rotherham, South Yorkshire is the Correx Ltd. appointed scheme provider. Argyll Ruane Ltd. also delivers the Institute of Corrosion Coating Inspector Training and Certification Scheme.

How is the ICATS Scheme managed and controlled?

The scheme is operated by Correx Ltd. in accordance with The Institute of Corrosion Requirements Document for the Certification of Personnel Engaged in Industrial Coatings Application (ICORR REQ DOC- ICATS).

Who is the certificating body for ICATS accreditation?

Correx Ltd. on behalf of the Institute of Corrosion.

How do I apply for ICATS training?

This is a two stage process.

Firstly, companies must complete and submit the 'Company Registration form (ICATS-AF.1) to Correx Ltd. After acceptance, Correx Ltd will advise the Scheme Provider (Argyll Ruane Ltd.) of a registered company's intent to nominate individuals for the 'Train the Trainer' course.

Subsequently, the nominated individuals would then apply to join an ICATS course by completing the ICATS Applicator Trainer form (ICATS-AF.2) and returning this to the Scheme Provider.

Suitable candidates will be offered a place on the first available 'Train the Trainer' course.

A qualified trainer can then train company identified operatives who after a satisfactory assessment will be certificated.

Trainers and operatives achievements are recorded on the Trainer's and Operatives issued wallet card and registered on the ICATS database.

Who should be ICATS trained?

Supervisors/trainers for the 'Train the Trainer' course who are considered suitable to train and assess operatives working in-house and/or operatives working on site with industrial surface preparation and coating application skills.

What are the benefits of ICATS?

Registered contracting companies will benefit as they will have proven documentation of a competent work force. Many major authorities intend to make ICATS a mandatory requirement for companies submitting tenders for contracts. ICATS certification also gives companies a competitive edge when applying for registration on approved contractors lists and quoting for contracts.

Clients will benefit as the Scheme facilitates a compilation of accurate approved contractors lists for tender requirements and the course's comprehensive training programme should minimise technical, safety and quality control difficulties/issues on site.

How does ICATS relate to other skills and competency schemes?

ICATS delivers practical training for industrial surface preparation and coating operatives not offered by any other sector scheme. It incorporates up to date practices and use of current coating materials. ICATS exceeds the evidence of training requirements of existing NVQ's for Decorative, Finishing and Industrial Painting Operations.

What are the minimum entry requirements for ICATS?

Candidates for the ICATS Trainer qualification shall have at least five year's experience related to the competencies set out in Section 3.2 of the REQ. DOC. (ICATS) which shall include at least 1 year's experience at supervisory and/or management level.

There is no minimum experience requirement that must be met by candidates for the Industrial Coatings Applicator qualification. All candidates for Abrasive Blast Cleaning Operator, Spray Painter, Thermal (Metal) Sprayer and Water Jetting Operator modules must hold the Industrial Coatings Applicator qualification prior to commencing a specialist module course.

Who supports the ICATS Scheme?

Initially, the Highways Agency, Network Rail, BCSA, The British Coating Federation and its member paint manufacturers, Consulting Engineers, Local Government and Structural Engineering Specifiers. Other major organisations are expected to follow.

ICATS is also supported by CITB and the scheme aligns with the NVQ assessment requirements for industrial painting.

How long do the courses last?

The 'Train the Trainer' course for the Industrial Coatings Applicator basic unit is 2/3 consecutive days.

Training of industrial surface preparation and coating operatives for qualification of 'Industrial Coatings Applicator' should take approximately 40 hours but this is not required to be continuous and can be completed in a module format either at the registered company's premises or on site.

Training for the four specialist modules should be approximately 8 hours.

What will it cost?

Companies registering with the Scheme will be subject to an initial and a subsequent annual fee based upon the annual turnover of the protective treatments/painting divisions within the company. The fee payable is according to the following scale;

Turnover	Registration Fee+VAT*	Annual audit fee +VAT after 1st year
Up to £5m	£1,500	£750
Between £5-£10m	£2,500	
Between £10-£25m	£3,500	
Over £25m	£5,000	
* includes first year audit		

BCSA members of the RQSC scheme may register at a 50% discount from the appropriate fee.

Non coating applicator companies may register as Associate Members of ICATS to enable their staff to apply for the 'Train the trainer' course. The fee is £1500 +VAT per annum.

Individuals may be trained as 'Industrial Coatings Applicator' with an initial registration fee of £25 plus £50 upon successful completion of the course to receive the certificate and wallet card.

The 'Train the Trainer' course is charged at £395 + VAT per candidate.

Companies registered with the CITB can claim for refunds from CITB for ICATS courses.

Liability

Whilst the scheme is responsible for training it cannot be held liable for faults or shortcomings in the performance of the operative at the workplace.

Other Training Courses for Specifiers and Engineers

The comprehensive content of the ICATS course provides informative material for additional courses for those wishing to have an appreciation of industrial surface preparation and protective coatings application. It is intended to make available an appreciation course based upon ICATS for release in the near future. Such courses will be eligible for Continuous Professional Development (CPD) points.