

ICATS Industrial Coatings Applicator Training Scheme



What is ICATS?

ICATS stands for 'Industrial Coatings Applicator Training Scheme'.

Who owns ICATS?

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

What is ICATS and how does the scheme operate?

ICATS is a comprehensive structured training scheme for the registration, training and certification 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 2 specialist modules; Abrasive Blast Cleaning Operator, Paint Sprayer with a further two, Thermal (Metal) Sprayer & Water Jetting Operator in development. 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 are expected to initiate training of their workforce with 12 months.

Workplace training is carried out by ICATS certificated trainers who are qualified to train and assess operatives. Training is carried out in-house and may be undertaken by a certificated trainer employed by an ICATS registered training organization. However it is more usual for registered companies to nominate experienced employees to ICATS for prior approval as company trainers. Subject to meeting the acceptance criteria, nominees attend a 2 day ICATS 'Train the Trainer' course held at various locations in the UK.

Successful completion of the ICATS course by operatives leads to certification by Correx. Trainers and operatives will 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 a 'best value' service that maximises coating performance over the life of the structure, which minimises whole life costs.

Who is the Scheme Provider?

Correx Ltd on behalf of the Institute of Corrosion (ICORR)

How is ICATS managed and controlled?

The scheme is operated by Correx Ltd. in accordance with the Institute of Corrosion document Requirements 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:

1. Companies must complete and submit the Company Registration form (ICATS-AF1) to Correx Ltd. After acceptance registered companies should advise Correx of intent to nominate experienced employees for the 'Train the Trainer' course. Subsequently, the nominees then apply to join an ICATS Train the Trainer course by completing the ICATS Applicator Trainer form (ICATS-AF2) and returning this to Correx Ltd. Suitable candidates will be offered a place on the first available 'Train the Trainer' course.

2. Companies must then register their operatives with Correx as undergoing ICATS training by their qualified and certificated, trainers. Certification of operatives by Correx occurs after satisfactory completion of all training units, including the training assessments.

Trainer and operative achievements are recorded on their respective wallet cards, issued by Correx, and are registered on the ICATS database.

Who should be ICATS trained?

As trainers for the 'Train the Trainer' course: Experienced supervisors who are considered suitable to train and assess operatives working in-house.

As operatives: All employees working on site with industrial surface preparation and coating application skills.

What are the benefits of ICATS?

Registered companies will benefit as they will have proven documentation of a competent work force. Many major clients intend to make ICATS a mandatory requirement for companies submitting tenders for contracts. ICATS certification thus gives companies a competitive edge when applying for registration on approved contractors lists and quoting for contracts. Clients will benefit as the scheme facilitates compilation of tender lists of competent contractors and the comprehensive training 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. ICATS is recognized by The Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS), who require a minimum of NVQ Level2. Upon successful completion of the ICATS basic module operatives may apply for a CSCS card.

What are the minimum entry requirements for ICATS?

Candidates for the ICATS Trainer qualification shall have at least five years 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. Candidates are required to hold the basic Industrial Coatings Applicator qualification prior to commencing a specialist module course.

Who supports ICATS?

The scheme stakeholders include: Highways Agency, Network Rail, British Coatings Federation, British Constructional Steelwork Association, Consulting Engineers, Local Authorities and Structural Engineering Specifiers. ICATS is mandated for Highways Works through the National Highways Sector Scheme (NHSS)19A and is also a statutory requirement for all Network Rail contracts. The Environment Agency and TFL require ICATS qualified operatives for many of their projects. Other major organisations are expected to adopt the scheme in the near future.

How long do the courses last?

The 'Train the Trainer' course for the Industrial Coatings Applicator basic unit is 2 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 must be completed within 1 year of commencement.

Training for the specialist modules should take either 2 or 3 days per module.

What will it cost?

Companies registering into the scheme will be subject to an annual registration fee based on turnover of the protective treatments/painting divisions within the company. Additional audit fees will be payable; audits will be annually. The full scale of fees is available at www.correx.org.

Companies may reclaim part or all of these training costs via organizations such as CITB provided they are in-scope.

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 coating application. It is intended to make available an appreciation course based upon ICATS

