

ISO 12944

- The universally accepted standard for corrosion protection of structural steel
- All unprotected steel is subject to corrosion whether is in the atmosphere, the soil or in water
- The steel needs to be protected from the service environment and also for the proposed life time of a structure
- The ISO 12944 standard is designed as a guideline for architects, engineers, specifiers, contractors and applicators in choosing the correct systems to meet the demands of both environment and service life



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Defining the corrosive environment (1)

Corrosion category	Exterior	Interior
C1 Very low		Heated buildings with clean atmosphere, e.g. offices, shops, schools, hotels
C2 Low	Atmospheres with low level of pollution, mostly rural areas	Unheated buildings where condensation can occur, e.g. depots, sports halls
C3 Medium	Urban and industrial atmospheres, moderate sulphur dioxide pollution, coastal areas with low salinity	Production rooms with high humidity and some air pollution, e.g. food processing plants, laundries, breweries, dairies
C4 High	Industrial areas and coastal areas with moderate salinity	Chemical plants, swimming pools, coastal ships and boatyards
C5 Very high	Industrial areas with high humidity and aggressive atmosphere and coastal areas with high salinity	Buildings or areas with almost permanent condensation and with high pollution



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The required lifetime of the coating system

Low (L)	Up to 7 years
Medium (M)	7 years to 15 years
High (H)	15 years to 25 years
Very high (VH)	More than 25 years

So there are 5 levels of corrosive environment and 4 levels of durability – 20 specifications in atmosphere and 12 specifications for immersion in water or soil



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