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Danish Standards Association  
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European Committee of Paint and Printing  
Ink Manufacturers' Association

## Standard Practice for Use of Pictorial Surface Preparation Standards and Guides for Painting Steel Surfaces<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D2200; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon ( $\epsilon$ ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

*This standard has been approved for use by agencies of the Department of Defense.*

### 1. Scope

1.1 The visual surface preparation guides and standards consist of a series of color prints available as separate publications. Five different sets of photographs are described in this standard, designated as Method A (ISO/Swedish Standard<sup>2</sup>) and Methods B through E (SSPC Guides and Reference Photographs<sup>3</sup>). The methods differ in the depiction of the initial surface, in the definition and depiction of the cleaning conditions, and in the number of cleaning methods included. Because of these differences, the specifier should state which method to use.

1.2 The colored visual surface preparation standards/guides represent different conditions of hot rolled carbon steel before and after surface preparation. Prior to cleaning, there are four rust grades, A to D, that cover the range from intact mill scale to 100 % rusted and pitted steel. The standards then depict the appearance of the initial conditions after cleaning by one or more methods (for example, dry abrasive blast cleaning) to various degrees of thoroughness. In addition, Method B includes three painted conditions that contain various degrees of deterioration. The Guide<sup>3</sup> depicts these conditions after various degrees of dry abrasive blast cleaning. Method C includes four rust grades and three painted conditions that contain various degrees of deterioration. The Guide<sup>4</sup> depicts these conditions after various degrees of hand and power tool cleaning. Method D includes two rust grades and four painted conditions that contain various degrees of deterioration. The Guide<sup>5</sup> depicts these conditions after various degrees of water jetting, with three levels of flash rusting. Method E includes two rust grades. The Guide<sup>6</sup> depicts these conditions after various degrees of wet abrasive blast cleaning, with three levels of flash rusting.

### 2. Referenced Documents

#### 2.1 Other Documents:

[Pictorial Surface Preparation Standards and Guides](#)<sup>2,3,4,5,6</sup>  
[Surface Cleanliness Definitions](#)<sup>3,4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D01 on Paint and Related Coatings, Materials, and Applications and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D01.46 on Industrial Protective Coatings.

The pictorial standards described were prepared by the Swedish Corrosion Institute and have been jointly approved by ASTM, The Society For Protective Coatings (SSPC) (VIS 1), and the Swedish Standardizing Commission.

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<sup>2</sup> The pictorial surface preparation standard Method A is available from The Society for Protective Coatings (SSPC), 40 24th St., 6th Floor, Pittsburgh, PA 15222-4656, <http://www.sspc.org> and Sveriges Standardiseringskommission, Box 3295, Stockholm 3, Sweden.

<sup>3</sup> The Visual Guide for Method B and surface cleanliness definitions are available from The Society for Protective Coatings (SSPC), 40 24th St., 6th Floor, Pittsburgh, PA 15222-4656, <http://www.sspc.org>.

<sup>4</sup> The Visual Guide for Method C and the surface cleanliness definitions are available from The Society for Protective Coatings (SSPC), 40 24th St., 6th Floor, Pittsburgh, PA 15222-4656, <http://www.sspc.org>.

<sup>5</sup> The Visual Guide for Method D and the surface cleanliness definitions are available from The Society for Protective Coatings (SSPC), 40 24th St., 6th Floor, Pittsburgh, PA 15222-4656, <http://www.sspc.org>.

<sup>6</sup> The Visual Guide for Method E and the surface cleanliness definitions are available from The Society for Protective Coatings (SSPC), 40 24th St., 6th Floor, Pittsburgh, PA 15222-4656, <http://www.sspc.org>.

### 3. Terminology

#### 3.1 Definitions:

3.1.1 The cleanliness definitions for the Method A visual surface preparation standard appear in the text of the pictorial surface preparation standards publication.<sup>2</sup> The definitions for Methods B, C, D, and E are found in a separate publication.<sup>3,4,5,6</sup>

### 4. Significance and Use

4.1 The appearance of the various degrees of dry and wet abrasive blast cleaning, hand and power tool cleaning and water jetting are influenced by the initial rust grades of the steel being cleaned and/or the type and condition of the coating on the existing steel. The standards and guides aid visually in judging and evaluating the degree of rusting and/or paint deterioration before cleaning and the degree of cleaning of steel surfaces prior to painting.

4.2 Five methods have evolved because of differences in the practice of using visual standards and guides throughout the world, and the method of surface preparation employed. In Europe, the visual standards (Method A) are used as the primary means of assessing the degree of cleaning. In the US, the SSPC written definitions take precedence with the visual guides and reference photographs used as a supplement. The visual guides and reference photographs of Methods B, C, and D conform to the SSPC written definitions. There are no written definitions for Method E.

### 5. Procedure and Interpretation

#### **Method A — ISO/Swedish Standard (Hand Tool Cleaning, Power Tool Cleaning, Abrasive Blast Cleaning, Flame Cleaning)**

5.1 Determine the method of cleaning to be used (for example, hand or power tool cleaning, abrasive blast cleaning, or flame cleaning).

5.2 Determine the initial condition of the steel according to four initial grades (conditions).

5.2.1 Condition A: Tightly adhering mill scale.

5.2.2 Condition B: Mill scale and rust.

5.2.3 Condition C: Rusted.

5.2.4 Condition D: Rusted and pitted.

5.3 Following the cleaning operation, compare the prepared surface to the photograph corresponding to the specified degree of thoroughness (St2, St3, F1, Sa1, Sa2, Sa2½, Sa3) for the particular initial condition. Determine whether the prepared surface meets the cleanliness requirements of the contract documents (specification).

5.4 Repeat the procedure for representative areas of structure and record the initial condition, method of cleaning, and degree of thoroughness achieved.

#### **Method B, SSPC VIS 1 — Guide and Reference Photographs for Steel Surfaces Prepared by Abrasive Blast Cleaning (Dry)**

5.5 Determine the degree of blast cleaning specified by the contract documents.

5.6 Determine the initial condition of steel according to the seven initial condition photographs A-~~GA~~-D: G<sub>1</sub>, G<sub>2</sub>, G<sub>3</sub>.

5.6.1 Condition A: Tightly adhering mill scale.

5.6.2 Condition B: Mill scale and rust.

5.6.3 Condition C: ~~Rusted~~ Rusted with little or no pitting.

5.6.4 Condition D: Rusted and pitted.

5.6.5 Condition G<sub>1</sub>: Deteriorated coating with extensive pinpoint rusting.

5.6.6 Condition G<sub>2</sub>: Deteriorated coating with moderate pitting.

5.6.7 Condition G<sub>3</sub>: Deteriorated coating with severe pitting.

5.7 Following the abrasive blast cleaning operation, compare the prepared surface to the photograph corresponding to the degree of surface cleanliness required by the contract documents (SSPC-SP7, SP14, SP6, SP10, SP5) for the particular initial condition. Determine whether the prepared surface meets the cleanliness requirements.

5.8 Repeat the procedure for all representative areas of structure and record for each area the initial condition and degree of cleanliness achieved.

5.9 When abrasives other than silica sand are used for blast cleaning, consult the photographs in the Appendix A of the SSPC VIS 1 Guide for variations in appearance created by the abrasive type.

5.10 Consult Appendix B of the SSPC VIS 1 Guide for photographs illustrating the effect of variations in surface profile depth, observation angle and lighting on the appearance of prepared surfaces.

NOTE 1—Different steel surfaces show differences in shade, color, tone, pitting, flaking, mill scale, etc. To some extent, these differences between the actual steel surface and the visual standard guide can be reconciled by preparing a project-specific cleanliness standard.