



# Method of Qualification of Coatings Applied to Wet Surfaces

U.S Department of Transportation

Wet surfaces, caused by rain or condensation, can lead to problems when applying coatings, but are often unavoidable. Coatings companies have recently created coatings that are said to be “wet surface tolerant”, however there are no standards for testing the tolerance of these coatings. A new draft test protocol for applying coatings under wet surface conditions and evaluating their performance will be created.

## Critical issues

***To create a testing methodology that addresses wet surface application.***

Wet surfaces, caused by rain or condensation, can lead to problems when applying coatings. Currently there are no standards for testing the surface tolerance of “wet surface tolerant” coatings; therefore these coatings still do not necessarily have the ability to cure, adhere and/or perform under non-ideal conditions. A method is needed to encompass the extremes of wet surface coating application and address both short term applicability and the long term performance of the various coating types. DNV has undertaken research to create a testing methodology which addresses wet surface application.

## Solutions

The first task is laboratory development of a test protocol by which wet surface tolerant coatings will be applied and evaluated. Two rigs will be set up, one focusing on condensation and the other on misting. Both short and long term trials will be performed. The final phase of the project will include field trials of products found to be acceptable from the laboratory testing. This phase will be conducted on actual operating pipelines.

## Value delivered

- A new draft test protocol for applying coatings under wet surface conditions and evaluating their performance will be created.
- Two alternative wet surface coating application rigs will be constructed.
- Improved safety of coatings and application procedures
- Durability of wet surface tolerant coatings will be determined.

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