



Issue 7, 19th August 2014

Shelf Life, Release Date & Test Reports

We are often asked about our Shelf-Life / Certificate of Conformity (C of C) policy.

We refer to BS ISO EN 3840; 2007; Aerospace series Paints and Varnishes, Technical Specification and BS EN ISO 17050; 1 -2004 Conformity assessment Suppliers declaration of conformity and we quote Para 4.2.5.

Storage Time & Shelf Life

All products shall be capable of being stored for not less than 12 months at a temperature between 5°C and 35°C in the original, unopened containers, unless otherwise stated in the material specification.

After adequate verification the storage time may be extended two times by half the minimum storage time.

Solvent based paints and products such as our attrition coatings are in most instances little affected by cold and can be allowed to reach lower temperatures either in transit or in exceptional storage conditions. All products need to be allowed to reach a working temperature not less than 15°C before using.

To our knowledge no ISO or other internationally accredited standard mandates that a date of manufacture is issued.

As an accredited, approved manufacturer of a very wide range of often very small volume specialist products designed for aerospace; components and gas turbines, most of our products are used in manufacturing and overhauling aerospace parts in the UK and overseas.

More than 70% of our aerospace product orders are to overseas customers who mostly require as a contractual term **“Not less than 80 % shelf life required”**.

We have had to evolve a shelf life policy that deals with this.

We therefore guarantee the quality of most of our products, for 12 months from the date of despatch from ours or our authorised distributors premises. This is certified by a statement on the Invoice /C of C, and on the container by the new label.

We do have some materials that have shelf lives of less than 12 months.

Shelf life of thinners: Indefinite if unopened.

We have instigated internal systems to ensure that our products will have no problems within this certified time span.

We therefore do not issue a date of manufacture.



Date of release means the date of despatch recorded at the bottom of the despatch note; this sometimes may vary by a few days from the date at the top of the document, and release is to the end of that calendar month; e.g.: May; June, or July.

Temperate climate means: 5°C to 35°C; (45°F to 85°F).

Standard humidity; between 30-70%.

Many paints/ coatings which are supplied to countries which have a climate classed as Tropical are given shelf life of only 6 months. This shelf life can be increased if the paint cans are stored in temperature/ humidity controlled stores, humidity; 30-70%, Temperature controlled; 5°C-35°C.

If stored to these conditions, the shelf life can be increased to 12 months.

PL470 Range of Products

Omat 4/71 – 77 Kits: Are considered to have an indefinite shelf life if unused and unopened.

PL470 Fluid: Has a 12 month shelf life from the date of despatch similar to many paints and coatings.

Certificate of Conformity

This is a simple statement that the materials listed in the C of C have been fully tested in our Paint and Coatings Quality Control laboratory in accordance with agreed test procedure.

These tests can take up to 6 weeks or more.

The charge is a contribution towards this testing split between all material sold.

Our standard Certificate of conformity is normally charged at £7.00 per C of C. This applies for 1 or more products on a C of C.

Re Life Test Certificate

From time to time customers have unopened material that goes 12 months past the original purchase date. This is then deemed "out of shelf life." We are occasionally asked to "re shelf life" such material. This entails running a series of screening tests on our retain batch sample to ensure its continuing to be satisfactory for use.

We charge £ 45.00 for this.

Full Test Report

Some customers require that we give them a fully typed, formatted report of the results of testing carried out. These results are normally kept as a simple working document. It therefore requires a chemist to collate the information and record it in a formal manner.

Our charge for a Full Test Report is normally £45.00



Exceptions

Opened cans cannot be re certified.

Opened catalyst cans: Shelf life is normally technically OK for 1 month once opened. However we obviously have no way of verifying date of opening.

Opened cans of other products: Will be OK for up to the 12 months shelf life originally certified.

Thinners: Un-opened normally have indefinite shelf life, but will be 12 months from opening.

It is often almost impossible economically to re life small volumes of paint at overseas sites, as return transport is too costly.

Any questions about this policy please refer in the first instance to:

Mr Brian Norton
Managing Director