

# LONG TERM GOVT TRIALS

German government testing agency, GKSS (Forschungszentrum Geesthacht GmbH) tested samples of Alocit formulations in long-term trials over several years at the base of an offshore platform in the North Sea.



A batch of steel panels was pre-treated by compressed air blasting underwater, coated manually to apply an Alocit coating system with an average thickness of 16 mils, and secured at a site 85 feet under water. These samples included panels on which a porous plastic foam (Spumafill) had first been bonded to the steel to allow comparison between the marine fouling of smooth and rough surfaces protected by Alocit Systems. Inspection of all the panels on six years later showed that the coatings were still in good, grade #2 condition.

Two years after the initial trial started, a second and third batch of panels were coated with Alocit Systems under water at 55°F. Inspection after four years showed that the coatings were still in grade #1 condition.

A special feature of these trials was that, unlike on previous occasions, the panels were fouled with barnacles (approx. 90%) and sea anemones (approx.10%) in layers 1" to 3" thick. Although a shovel had to be used to remove this growth, the coatings withstood the harsh treatment without showing any sign of mechanical damage. Following inspection, all the sample panels were returned to their sites in the North Sea for further testing.

*The top picture shows the heavy marine growth after submersion in the North Sea for six years. The second picture shows how the coated surface remained intact despite the hard mechanical action of the growth removal.*



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