

Travel Safety Boosted



Rotterdam is positioned strategically, in the middle of Europe, with Paris only two and a half hours away and Schiphol, Europe's fourth busiest airport, only 20 minutes away. It was therefore vital that the new station was able to cater for international travelers in large numbers; with its capacity, comfort and practicality mirroring other major European central stations.

A collaborative group of architects known as 'Team CS' and made up of Bentheim Crouwel Architects, MSVA Meyer en Van Schooten Architecten and West 8, was commissioned to transform existing designs into a fully-fledged plan for the new railway station. As with all great architectural projects, Rotterdam Centraal Station brought with it, challenges. The footprint of the station was so large that it was required to fit seamlessly into two very distinct architectural styles. Ensuring Rotterdam Centraal Station was fully protected from the effects of fire was another challenge faced during the early phases of development.

In September 2008 AkzoNobel was invited to submit a specification to provide an intumescent fire protection solution for the structural steelwork. Products from its International® range of intumescent fire protection coatings were suggested, accompanied by products from its wet paint portfolio. One of AkzoNobel's UK based Fire Engineering Specialists examined the steel structure and submitted recommendations regarding film thickness. AkzoNobel Protective Coatings Account Manager explained:

"Following this process, we then took our calculations to the construction company and the Rotterdam Municipal Authority where we explained in full, the importance of focusing on safety and film thickness rather than price per liter."

Through the assessment of film thickness, huge savings in the quantity of paint and coatings needed, can be made, which in turn, results in significant cost savings. Following AkzoNobel's film thickness assessment, they were given the go ahead in 2011 to supply both protective coatings and intumescent fire protection products for structural steel. The anticorrosive primer from AkzoNobel's International® range was topcoated with their acrylic polyurethane finish, Interthane® 870. Their intumescent fire protection coating, Interchar® 404 was also chosen to protect structural steel from the effects of fire. "Thanks to AkzoNobel's Interchar 404, if a fire should break out, passengers have an hour to leave the concourse without the risk of it collapsing," said the Sales Manager for AkzoNobel's Protective Coatings business - Benelux.

Since its official opening in 2014, Rotterdam Centraal Station has claimed several architectural and design awards. It was recipient of the 2014 National Steel Award for the inspiring use of steel where it was described as "an attractive and dynamic station with international allure" by judges.



Thanks to Intumescent Fire Protection

With a staggering 110,000 passengers reported to go through Rotterdam's main railway station every day, it's no wonder that a complete redevelopment of the area was deemed necessary. As a result of increasing passenger numbers, construction began in 2004 to demolish the old station and build a new 'super-station' in its place, capable of coping with this passenger increase, reportedly expected to reach daily highs of 323,000 by 2025.