

Pater Noster Lighthouse. Still Shining

On the tiny island of Hamneskär, off the west coast of Sweden, stands the gleaming Pater Noster Lighthouse. Originally built in 1868, a large restoration project began in 2002, to return the iron structure to its former glory. It became a long project, and it was not until late 2007 that the lighthouse was back in working condition.



In 2006-2007 AkzoNobel supplied a series of products to ensure that the finish on the lighthouse was still shining long into the future. The environment the lighthouse stands in is a very corrosive one, and therefore a strong specification was required to protect from the elements in this very exposed location. A combination of Interzinc®, Intergard® and Interfine® products were chosen, and the final finish coat, Interfine 979, was selected in the striking Ensign Red, tinted using the Chronoscan® remote tinting system.

In the early part of 2011, a four year inspection took place on the lighthouse, to ascertain whether or not there was any damage to the coating system that might compromise performance, and to determine the effects that the corrosive seawater environment had taken on the glossy red finish. The results were impressive. Red is one of the most difficult colours with which to achieve UV stability, however, the inspection showed that the colour was, to the naked eye, no different from when it was applied four years ago, and the gloss level had dropped less than ten units. To put this into perspective, there is an old Swedish standard that allowed a standard polyurethane coating to degrade by ten gloss units per year. The Interfine acrylic polysiloxane finish coat on Pater Noster has lost less than this over a four year period, and in a very challenging colour.

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AkzoNobel's Protective Coatings Business Development Manager in the Nordic region said, "The gloss levels measured were exactly the same as in the two year inspection report, meaning there had been no degradation in the past two years, and the figures were almost identical on the north and south facing sides of the tower."

"This case history really pays tribute to both the high level of corrosion protection available from AkzoNobel Protective Coatings, and the unrivalled colour and gloss retention of the Interfine range of coatings."