

# NEW RUDDER PROTECTION

**A**fter more than 10 years of strenuous testing, Subsea Industries, a Hydrex company, has launched what it claims is the ultimate rudder protection coating, Ecoshield, for permanent protection against cavitation damage for rudders. The glassflake reinforced coating protects the rudder for the service life of the ship without need for recoating or major repair and comes with a ten-year guarantee. Ecoshield is also suitable for bulbous bow, stabilizer fins, thruster nozzles and other underwater ship gear which needs special protection from corrosion.

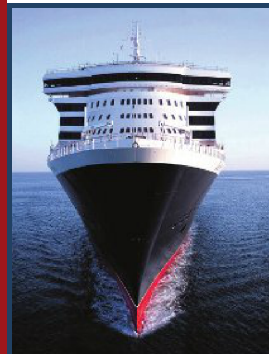
Ecoshield is designed to be applied at newbuild (best) or in drydock for ships already in service. Application is simple. It requires blasting to create a 75Qm profile and a surface preparation of SA 2.5 or SP 10 and then the glassflake paint is applied in two coats to a thickness of at least 1000 Qm DFT, with an overspray time of about 3

hours minimum and no maximum. A pitted rudder can be repaired using a thick resin paste (a new, soon-to-be-announced product) which is capable of building up the pitted surface to its original form and which is as tough or tougher than the steel it is used to fill. The heavy glass content of Ecoshield insulates the rudder or other part, making cathodic protection systems including sacrificial anodes virtually unnecessary, as evidenced by the very little wear on the anodes when a ship's rudder, coated in this way, is inspected in dry-dock and by the fact that an impressed current can be turned right down with no ill effect.

Evidence of the success of the new product is the number of companies who began by coating one rudder experimentally and who, after seeing the results in service, have ordered this coating for the rudders on other ships with plans to convert their entire fleet.



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