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# Preparation of steel substrates before application of paints and related products — Surface preparation methods —

## Part 2: Abrasive blast-cleaning

*Préparation des subjectiles d'acier avant application de peintures et de  
produits assimilés — Méthodes de préparation des subjectiles —*

*Partie 2: Décapage par projection d'abrasif*



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Printed in Switzerland

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## Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 3.

Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this part of ISO 8504 may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

International Standard ISO 8504-2 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 35, *Paints and varnishes*, Subcommittee SC 12, *Preparation of steel substrates before application of paints and related products*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 8504-2:1992), which has been updated and editorially revised.

ISO 8504 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Preparation of steel substrates before application of paints and related products — Surface preparation methods*:

- *Part 1: General principles*
- *Part 2: Abrasive blast-cleaning*
- *Part 3: Hand- and power-tool cleaning*

Further parts are planned.

Annex A of this part of ISO 8504 is for information only.

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## Introduction

The performance of protective coatings of paint and related products applied to steel is significantly affected by the state of the steel surface immediately prior to painting. The principal factors that are known to influence this performance are:

- a) the presence of rust and mill scale;
- b) the presence of surface contaminants, including salts, dust, oils and greases;
- c) the surface profile.

International Standards ISO 8501, ISO 8502 and ISO 8503 have been prepared to provide methods of assessing these factors, while ISO 8504 provides guidance on the preparation methods that are available for cleaning steel substrates, indicating the capabilities of each in attaining specified levels of cleanliness.

These International Standards do not contain recommendations for the protective coating system to be applied to the steel surface. Neither do they contain recommendations for the surface quality requirements for specific situations even though surface quality can have a direct influence on the choice of protective coating to be applied and on its performance. Such recommendations are found in other documents such as national standards and codes of practice. It will be necessary for the users of these International Standards to ensure the qualities specified are

- compatible and appropriate both for the environmental conditions to which the steel will be exposed and for the protective coating system to be used;
- within the capability of the cleaning procedure specified.

The four International Standards referred to below deal with the following aspects of preparation of steel substrates:

ISO 8501 — *Visual assessment of surface cleanliness*;

ISO 8502 — *Tests for the assessment of surface cleanliness*;

ISO 8503 — *Surface roughness characteristics of blast-cleaned steel substrates*;

ISO 8504 — *Surface preparation methods*.

Each of these International Standards is in turn divided into separate parts.

The primary objective of surface preparation is to ensure the removal of deleterious matter and to obtain a surface that permits satisfactory adhesion of the priming paint to steel. It should also assist in reducing the amounts of contaminants that initiate corrosion.

This part of ISO 8504 describes abrasive blast-cleaning methods. It should be read in conjunction with ISO 8504-1.

Abrasive blast-cleaning is a most effective method for mechanical surface preparation. It is widely applicable because this method of surface preparation has a number of versatile features listed below.

- a) The method allows a high production rate.
- b) The equipment can be stationary or mobile and is adaptable to the objects to be cleaned.

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- c) The method is applicable to most types and forms of steel surface.
- d) Many different surface states can be produced, for example different preparation grades and surface profiles.
- e) Effects such as cleaning, peening, roughening, levelling and lapping can be produced.
- f) It is possible to remove selectively partly failed coatings, leaving sound coatings intact.