

## Sustainable maintenance of buildings and infrastructure

Paint protects and refreshes.

Paint helps make our living environment more sustainable, protecting buildings, electricity pylons, bridges and a whole host of other structures for many years.

This protective quality is achieved by a professionally applied layer of paint, often no more than one tenth of a millimetre thick, and is also the result of constructive cooperation between all the links in the chain: from the client to the producer of the raw materials for the paint.

That cooperation also ensures that the structure in question is properly maintained.

We, VVVF and FOSAG\*), hereinafter: the parties, wish, together with our members, to go one step further: we want to make agreements about **sustainable** maintenance.

What requirements must **sustainable** maintenance fulfil?

### 1. The surface

How sustainable maintenance will be depends in part on the choice of surface to which the paint is applied. That choice is mainly the responsibility of the client for new-builds and the renovation of, and maintenance to, buildings and infrastructure. However, where possible, the parties will encourage the choice of a sustainable surface (e.g. FSC timber and PEFC timber\*) and the most responsible handling of that material.

\*) *FSC timber* denotes timber that is traded via a chain of FSC-certified companies. PEFC timber originates from sustainably managed PEFC-certified forests.

### 2. The paint

Sustainable maintenance requires the use of sustainable paint. The parties wish to encourage the use of the most sustainable paint possible, without expressing a preference for any particular product. The paint producer and the person applying the paint must assess the ultimate sustainability scope of the structure to be painted. The paint producer provides a clear overview of the degree of sustainability and sustainability performance of the product it supplies.

Three factors affect the sustainability of paint: **composition**, **optimum life** and **production process**.

The **composition** of the paint is made more sustainable by using renewable raw materials, raw materials that have been produced using the fewest possible resources and preferably using sustainable energy, and raw materials that have as little detrimental impact as possible on the environment and working conditions. In addition, when developing formulas, paint producers must seek to minimise as far as possible the thickness of paint that needs to be applied while **optimising the life** of the paint layer and enabling leftover paint to be reused.

Both the products and the paint production must be made more sustainable. The **production process**, for example, should use as little energy as possible and the energy that is used should, preferably, be sustainable (including for internal and external transport). Waste must be kept to a minimum and/or recycled.

### 3. The application

Paint is a half-finished product. How the (professional) painter carries out his or her work is very important to achieving a sustainable result. The parties encourage painters to employ the most sustainable working methods possible, use well-trained people, ensure that work can continue to the fullest extent possible throughout every season, use energy sparingly (during internal and external transport) and use as much sustainable energy as possible.

### 4. Calculation tools

Calculation tools are available to help ascertain sustainability. The parties support and encourage the use of those tools, including for the calculation of maintenance scenarios. The definitions of sustainability are many and varied. Calculation tools and aids to ascertaining sustainability and calculating maintenance scenarios must be widely accepted methods based on scientific approaches (e.g. Life Cycle Analysis (LCA) or the “GPR Onderhoud” (Municipal Guideline – Maintenance) tool).

### **Agreements**

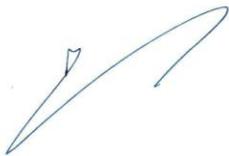
In order to ensure that sustainable maintenance becomes commonplace, VVVF and FOSAG wish to stimulate dialogue between all the links in the paint chain in order to jointly arrive at:

1. a widely recognised definition of sustainable maintenance
2. agreements about how to promote sustainable maintenance, e.g. through government measures such as tax incentives for sustainable maintenance or by creating “sustainability categories” for paint products.

The parties call upon all industry-wide and other organisations in the maintenance chain for civil engineering and utility construction to initiate this dialogue in the near future.

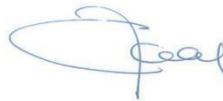
Agreed upon at  
Gorinchem, 24 October 2012

VVVF



drs. M.L. van Wijhe  
Chairman

FOSAG



R. Maas  
Chairman

\*) VVVF is the *Vereniging van Verf- en Drukinktfabrikanten* (Association of the Paint and Printing Ink Industry) and FOSAG is the *Koninklijke Ondernemersorganisatie voor de schilders-, onderhouds-, metaalconserverings- en glasbranche* (Royal Dutch Association of Painters and Decorators).