London Ambulance Service

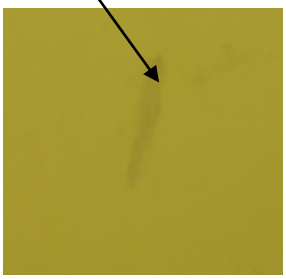
With our assistance Initial FM services won the contract for maintaining and protecting London Ambulances.

The aim of the project was to apply SiO^2 coatings to interior and exterior surfaces of vehicles used by London Ambulance Service.

The main focus was to assess the performance of the easy clean attributes associated with the use of the SiO^2 coatings. The interior surfaces of the vehicles should be coated in order to facilitate the cleaning of the vehicles. It was evident that surfaces, such as the floor of the ambulance were heavily soiled and difficult to clean. As stand alone procedures, "mop and bucket" cleaning may be considered as anachronistic. This cleaning procedure does not address the real issue which is that uncoated surfaces become easily soiled. Once coated with SiO^2, surfaces are easily cleaned with mop and bucket procedures. One also has to consider the benefits associated with coating contamination hubs withSiO^2 anti bac variants; this is proven to have a significant impact in reducing bio burden.

Cleaning and application procedures

The vehicle had ingrained oil staining which had to be removed with an abrasive agent before the SiO2 coating could be applied.



The driver's side, (windscreen, bonnet, lights, valence) was coated with an SiO^2 coating . The coating used was not the most durable variant available. Anti-graffiti variants are available.

Preparation

Windscreen

The windscreen was cleaned (pre cleaner= ethanol) and dried.

The SiO^2 coating was applied. Cleaning and application time (3 minutes)

After allowing the coating to bond (5 minutes) the surface was lightly buffed with a soft cloth.

Body work

The paint finish on this older vehicle had become porous and so oil stains had become ingrained.

De greasing agents would not remove the soiling and so an abrasive agent was used.

Following the first stage of cleaning with the abrasive agent, the surfaces were washed, dried, and then wiped over with pre cleaner in order to ensure that the surfaces were completely clean.

Application

The coating was applied by using a cloth which was impregnated with SiO^2.

The surfaces were

lightly buffed with a soft cloth after drying (approximately 5 minutes).

Interior surfaces

Cleaning of the floor

It was apparent from the cleaning procedure used that the floor of the ambulance was heavily soiled.

Even after steam cleaning, additional cleaning with ethanol was required in order to create a completely clean surface. (An agitating steam cleaning system would probably create a clean surface without the need to use ethanol). After cleaning an SiO^2 coating was applied. The coating used was suitable for flooring but a more durable variant would normally be used in this environment.

SiO^2 coated area. Showing performance on brushed stainless steel.

All of these surfaces could be coated with SiO^2

After the application of the coating all cleaning can be conducted with a warm water (40°C).