

Northrop Grumman Newport News
Contractor Environmental, Health and Safety
Resource Manual

Organotin Paints

ANTIFOULANT PAINTS CONTAINING TRIBUTYL TIN

At NNS, some commercial ships that are being worked may be coated with tributyl tin-containing antifoulant paints. Tributyl tin (TBT) is one of several organotin compounds that may irritate the skin and eyes and also the respiratory tract. It is extremely toxic to shellfish; therefore, poses a hazard in the environment. It is essential that removed paint and paint overspray be kept out of the river, and that use of TBT paints be limited only to those surfaces that are subjected to fouling by aquatic organisms.

In the State of Virginia, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS), Office of Pesticide Management controls use of TBT-containing paints. Handling and use of these paints must be done under the on-site supervision of a certified pest control applicator licensed to work with marine antifoulant paints. To purchase, store, or use TBT paints, a company must have a business license issued by VDACS. NNS requires the contractor to have the business license and sufficient certified applicators to meet the Virginia regulation.

Prior to use of any paint containing TBT (or any organotin tin compound), a copy of the Material Safety Data Sheet and a “new paint approval” form must be provide to the EH&S Department for review and authorization. Ropes and signs must be provided in appropriate areas to prevent unauthorized and unprotected personnel from entry into an area where TBT is being worked.