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Ten Year Patent Anniversary Underscores Cortec's Leadership in Corrosion Technology

This year marks the 10th anniversary of one of many patents distinguishing Cortec® as the industry's technology leader.

In 2007, Cortec® was granted a US patent that covers VpCI®-608, a Vapor phase Corrosion Inhibitor (VCI) containing product designed specifically to work in conjunction with Cathodic Protection (CP). This was an important breakthrough for protecting storage tank bottoms from corrosion; because, although VCIs promised to solve a significant deficiency of CP, not all VCI products are compatible with CP.

CP in the form of a sacrificial anode or an impressed current is often used to protect the bottoms of aboveground storage tanks from corroding and eventually leaking. However, variations in the floor of the tanks, such as irregularities caused by uneven bending of the tank bottom as the tank is filled or emptied, may limit the effectiveness of the CP by leaving certain areas out of reach of the CP current delivered through the tank base.


VpCI®-608 Powder
Corrosion Inhibiting VpCI System for Storage Tank Bottoms

In answer to these problems, Cortec® developed VpCI®-608, a VCI product that would work in conjunction with CP. VpCI®-608 works synergistically with CP to provide enhanced protection of the storage tank bottom from corrosion. It also protects against corrosion when CP is absent.

For new construction, VpCI®-608 can be applied as a powder on the tank pad or added in a modified form to wet concrete being poured for the pad. On existing tanks, it can be injected as a highly concentrated slurry beneath the tank floor. The VCIs then vaporize and adsorb on metal surfaces, forming a protective molecular layer on the tank bottom even in areas that are difficult to reach. This additional protection helps safeguard locations that may have been missed by CP, and it continues protecting the tank bottom if the CP system fails.

By developing a VCI product that works synergistically with CP to provide enhanced protection, Cortec® has made an important discovery to help owners of aboveground storage tanks preserve their assets and counteract detrimental tank leakage. The patent is yet another factor in distinguishing Cortec® as the global leader in Vapor phase Corrosion Inhibitor Technology.