Zinoco by British Steel is a premium coated rail designed for use in aggressively corrosive rail conditions such as coastal track, wet tunnels, level crossings, salt pans and stray current environments.

Our award-winning Zinoco offers superior corrosion protection compared to all currently available rail coating technologies, due to its durability, sacrificial protection and damage tolerance.

Working in partnership to meet customer needs
British Steel works in partnership with customers to understand the needs of the rail sector and develop innovative and value-adding products to directly address those needs.

Working closely with UK customer Network Rail, we have produced and tested Zinoco in response to their requirement for a rail with a durable coating to withstand corrosive track environments. Results indicate that the performance of Zinoco will surpass that of our previous corrosion protection system Railcote®, which delivered a 3-30 times life extension.

Sacrificial protection
Sacrificial protection is an electro-chemical reaction which occurs when the anode sacrifices itself in favour of the cathode. The resulting flow of electrons prevents a corrosive chemical reaction. With Zinoco coated rail, the zinc-rich (anode) coating oxidises in preference to the steel (cathode), therefore preventing the rail from corroding. This process protects the metal, even if the zinc layer is damaged. Additionally, Zinoco will age in outdoor conditions to form a stable barrier, further reducing corrosion.

Rigorous testing for product performance
The effectiveness of Zinoco is assured by our comprehensive laboratory testing procedures which cover stringent criteria such as impact and wear resistance, adhesion, prohesion and stray current corrosion. In independent laboratory trials, Zinoco has been proven to outperform all alternative coated rails tested to date. Unlike most rail coatings, Zinoco can be used in 3rd/4th rail areas and in areas where stray currents may exist.

Its performance so far has led to Zinoco being fully approved for use in track by Network Rail, London Underground, RATP and Irish Rail.

Technical support
British Steel has produced and supplied thousands of tonnes of coated rail products over the last two decades. Our coating team’s deep understanding of corrosion protection and specific, associated welding requirements, coupled with research data and practical experience deliver coating solutions to meet your rail needs.

Our technical team is available to provide advice and support, helping you to optimise your rail selections. Rail products and grades can be matched precisely to track conditions, track types, environmental conditions and a host of other variables to enable every rail we deliver to provide optimum performance throughout its extended service life.
Application process

Zinoco® is treated with a thermally sprayed zinc-rich alloy which can be applied to rails of any grade in lengths of up to 216 metres. The coating is applied to the web and around the foot of each rail – the ends of each rail are usually left uncoated to facilitate installation welding.

Zinoco coated rail protects against corrosion in the areas highlighted, enabling the rail to resist pitting, gall and general loss of section due to corrosion.

We suggest the use of corrosion-resistant fastening systems to complement Zinoco in addressing track corrosion issues.

Other coating configurations may be available upon request. Please contact us for more information.

Welding

Zinoco rail is fully weldable by both flash butt and aluminothermic welding processes. The coating must be removed from the area to be welded by an abrasive disc or belt. New rails are usually supplied with uncoated ends to speed installation and are clearly identified with a Zinoco label which contains links to further product and usage information. Touch-up kits are also available to restate corrosion protection of the welded area at the installation site.

Cutting and drilling

Zinoco may be cut and drilled using standard practices without removal of the coating.

Performance against current competition

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coating</th>
<th>Sacrificial protection</th>
<th>Stray current protection</th>
<th>Abrasion resistance</th>
<th>Impact resistance</th>
<th>Coating removal (for welding)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Zinoco®</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Railcote®</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aluminium metal spray</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Very good</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Difficult/hazardous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glass flake epoxy</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Poor once damaged</td>
<td>Very poor</td>
<td>Very poor</td>
<td>Difficult/hazardous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glass flake polyester</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Poor once damaged</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Difficult/hazardous</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>