

Discover the upside of biocide-free fouling control

Moving through the water, letting go and being free – that's why people fall in love with boating. But for a true feel-good experience, everything must click into place. It's about performance on all levels.

With B-Free fouling control, we're taking a new perspective on what coating performance means for you, your boat and the environment. Above all, it's about relentless performance and easy maintenance, yet with an ambition towards a more sustainable future.

We are excited to introduce the first product in our B-Free range with B-Free Explore; delivering relentless performance, simple maintenance and a lower impact on the marine ecosystem.

That also means you're ahead of changing regulations and free to focus on what truly matters: being out on the water.

This is how we deliver relentless performance, sustainably.

**AkzoNobel**

B-Free Explore®, the first product system of International's new biocide-free range, is a revolutionary coating designed to control fouling by providing a smooth and slick hull surface.

International has been the global leading brand of fouling control for over 140 years and has pioneered and developed foul-release systems within the commercial marine and yacht sector. This innovative technology has now been specifically tailored to fit the needs and requirements of recreational boaters to keep their boats clean and performing at their best.

How does B-Free Explore work?

B-Free Explore is based on a specially developed and innovative silicone polymer technology. This unique coating creates a very slick surface which helps prevent fouling organisms such as barnacles, worms, and mussels from forming a strong bond with the surface of the hull. Specifically developed for smaller leisure boats, this technology can be both hydrophobic (repels water) and hydrophilic (attracts water); a unique combination that makes a coating which is exceedingly difficult for marine growth to grab hold of. The coating enables fouling to be removed either through the friction created as the boat moves through the water or physical cleaning either by hand or power-washing. So, if your boat moves quickly through the water, nearly all of the fouling may be removed.

B-Free Explore offers boaters many benefits such as multi-seasonal performance that does not polish or wear away. The performance of the coating has shown to improve hull and fuel efficiencies. Along with this there is the added benefit of being biocide-free, which is an improvement for the marine ecosystem.



B-Free Explore

What is the difference between traditional fouling control and B-Free Explore, and what can I expect when moving to a biocide-free coating system?

Traditional Fouling Control (biocidal antifouling)	B-Free Explore (biocide-free)
For traditional fouling control products to work they need to release active ingredients in small quantities close to the surface of the hull to prevent and discourage microorganisms from attaching themselves to the coating. The coating is active in reducing fouling.	B-Free Explore is not a traditional antifouling paint and does not contain any active ingredients or biocides, but allows the surface of the coating to be easily cleaned at regular intervals as fouling cannot easily attach to the surface. The surface can also be cleaned passively through the friction of water when the boat is in use at high speed.
Some of these antifoulings will polish away to allow fresh active ingredients to be released over the lifespan of the coating. The hull will need to be re-coated seasonally or every other season depending on the coating used and the unique water conditions where the boat is used.	The coating does not polish or wear away into the water. It is a slick surface that prevents the fouling from adhering to the surface. When two coats of B-Free Explore are applied this will typically provide you with up to two years of fouling control. After that it is similar to a traditional fouling control in that it will require re-application of the topcoat after just a simple clean down.
Some antifoulings cannot be used on certain underwater metals like aluminium or may need a full barrier system to prevent against cathodic damage.	B-Free Explore can be used on all types and sizes of boat, including aluminium, GRP, steel, and wood with the appropriate primer and tiecoat.
If the existing antifouling is several years old, then it may be necessary to completely remove all the antifouling coatings on your hull as the base layer can become brittle and pop off the successive coats.	The full system can be applied directly on top of existing aged traditional antifouling, by first applying B-Free Conversion Coat, prior to the B-Free Tiecoat and B-Free Explore topcoat. B-Free Explore can also be applied over existing silicone-based foul-release coatings.

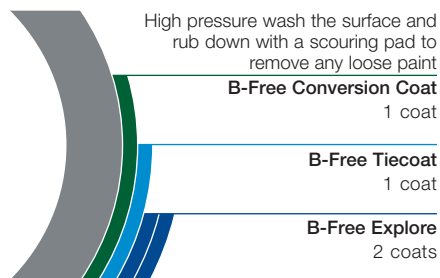
Features and benefits

Key attributes	• Can be applied over properly prepared existing traditional antifoulings or directly over silicone-based foul-release coatings • Biocide-free foul-release coating • Can be applied by brush or roller • Slippery, semi-gloss finish • Low VOC • Up to 2 years performance*
Typically used	Below the waterline on hulls to control fouling
Colors	YBF300 White, YBF301 Red, YBF303 Navy, YBF304 Black
Substrates	Lead, Steel, Iron, Aluminum, Wood, GRP (All substrates must be suitably primed, and the B-Free Tiecoat must be used to prepare the primed surface for B-Free Explore Topcoat).
Application method	Brush / Roller
Suitable for above waterline	✗
Suitable for below waterline	●

Important: B-Free Explore needs regular maintenance/cleaning to ensure optimum performance and a clean, fast hull. The frequency of cleaning is dependent on the regions' fouling conditions. More aggressive fouling areas may require more frequent usage and/or cleaning. Similarly, areas of less fouling may need cleaning less regularly. The hull can easily be cleaned in or out of the water.
*If your boat is out of the water during winter, then for best performance we would recommend a single top-up coat before going back in the water.
For more details on hauling and blocking, contact International for more information.

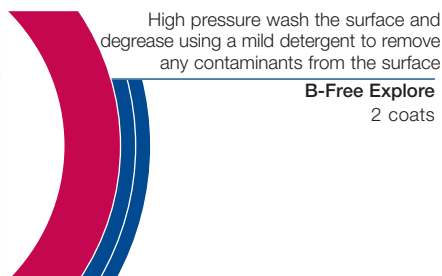
Surface preparation and application

Previously coated with traditional antifouling in good condition. (all surfaces)



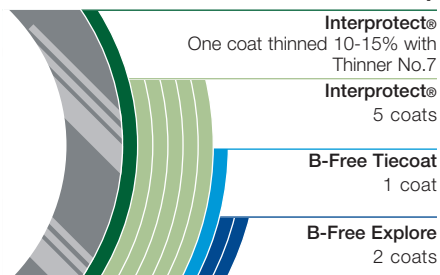
If the existing antifouling is showing any signs of cracking, peeling, detachment, or any other signs that the coating is not firmly adhered to the substrate, this should be totally removed.

Previously coated International silicone-based foul-release in good condition

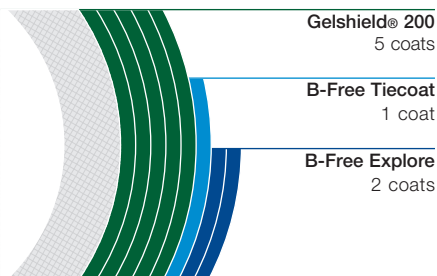


If the existing foul-release coating is showing any signs of cracking, peeling, detachment, or any other signs that the coating is not firmly adhered to the substrate, this should be totally removed.

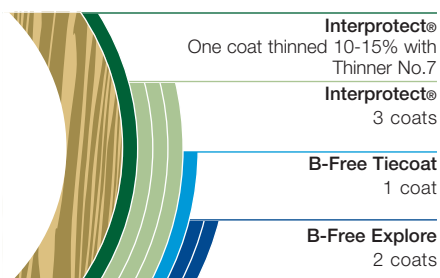
Unpainted surfaces Aluminum, Lead, Iron/Steel



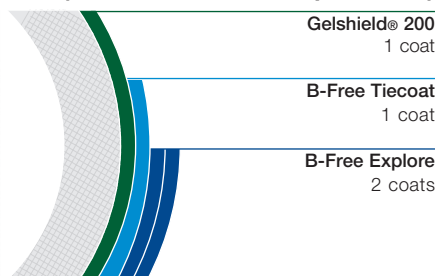
Unpainted surfaces (GRP with osmosis protection)



Wood



Unpainted surfaces (GRP without osmosis protection)



Note: Traditional antifoulings are not compatible for application over B-Free Explore.

For more information contact your local International representative below or visit international-yachtpaint.com

Netherlands: Telephone 0800-022 6555 email: iyp.nederland@akzonobel.com.

Germany: Telephone: +49 (0)800 11 989 30 email: iyp.deutschland@akzonobel.com.

Sweden: Telephone +46 (0)31 928500 email iyp.sverige@akzonobel.com.

Norway: Telephone +47 66 81 94 70 or email iyp.norge@akzonobel.com