CLAIMS:

1. A coating composition, preferably a solvent-free composition, comprising:
   (i) a binder;
   (ii) a curing agent, wherein said curing agent is selected from an amine curing agent, a polyamine curing agent, an amino functional curing agent, or a mixture thereof;
   (iii) hollow, inorganic, spherical, filler particles;
   (iv) hollow, organic, spherical, filler particles; and
   (v) a thickener,

wherein the volume ratio of said inorganic, spherical filler particles to said organic, spherical filler particles is at least 1.1:1, preferably 1.1:1.0 to 10.0:1.0.

2. A composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein said binder is selected from epoxy-based, preferably epoxy, acrylic, alkyd, phenolic based, silicone, polysiloxane, polyurethane, polyurea, polyaspartic and hybrids and mixtures thereof, and preferably said binder is epoxy-based, particularly epoxy.

3. A composition as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein said binder is epoxy-based.

4. A composition as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein said curing agent is an aliphatic or cycloaliphatic amine or polyamine.

5. A composition as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein said hollow, inorganic, spherical filler particles comprise, preferably consist of, glass.

6. A composition as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein said hollow, inorganic, spherical filler particles have an average diameter of 10-100 microns.

7. A composition as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein said hollow, organic, spherical, filler particles have an average diameter of 10-120 microns.

8. A composition as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the average diameter of the hollow, organic, spherical filler particles is greater than the average diameter of the hollow, inorganic, spherical filler particles.

9. A composition as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the volume ratio of hollow, inorganic, spherical filler particles to hollow, organic, spherical particles is 1.1:1.0 to 10.0:1.0, preferably 5.1:1.0 to 1.2:1.0.

10. A composition as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein said thickener is an amide wax thickener.

11. A composition as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein said thickener is present in the coating composition in an amount of between 0.25 to 5 wt%, based on the total weight of the coating composition.

12. A composition as claimed in any preceding claim, further comprising an organosilane adhesion promoter.

13. A composition as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the weight ratio of hollow, inorganic, spherical filler particles to hollow, organic, spherical particles is at least 50:2.5, preferably 50:2.5 to 50:0.25.

14. A composition as claimed in any preceding claim, said composition comprising:

(i) a binder, wherein said binder is epoxy-based;

(ii) a curing agent which cures at ambient temperature, wherein said curing agent is selected from an amine curing agent, a polyamine curing agent, an amino functional curing agent or a mixture thereof;

(iii) hollow, inorganic, spherical, filler particles comprising glass and having a Z-average diameter of 1 to 100 mm;

(iv) hollow, organic, spherical, filler particles comprising poly(meth)acrylate, polystyrene, polyacrylamide, polyurethane, polysiloxane, polyolefin, polyacrylonitrile, nylon, poly(vinyl ester), vinylidene, polyester or copolymers thereof, and having a Z-average diameter of 10 to 150 mm; and

(v) a thicknener,

wherein

the total amount of epoxy-based binder present in the coating composition is 10-60 wt%, based on the total weight of the coating composition;

the volume ratio of said inorganic, spherical filler particles to said organic, spherical filler particles is 1.1:1.0 to 10.0:1.0; and

the weight ratio of said hollow, inorganic, spherical filler particles to said hollow, organic, spherical filler particles is 50:2.5 to 50:0.25.

15. A composition as claimed in any preceding claim, said composition comprising:

(i) an aromatic epoxy-based binder selected from bisphenol type-epoxy binders, resorcinol diglycidyl ether, novolac type-epoxy binders and any hybrids or mixtures thereof;

(ii) a curing agent which cures at ambient temperature, the curing agent being an amino functional curing agent;

(iii) hollow, inorganic, spherical, filler particles comprising glass and having a Z-average diameter of 1 to 100 μm;

(iv) hollow, organic, spherical, filler particles comprising poly(meth)acrylate, polystyrene, polyacrylamide, polyurethane, polysiloxane, polyolefin, polyacrylonitrile, nylon, poly(vinyl ester), vinylidene, polyester or copolymers thereof, and having a Z-average diameter of 10-150 μm; and

(v) a thickener,

wherein the total amount of epoxy-based binder present in the coating composition is 10-60 wt%, based on the total weight of the coating composition, the volume ratio of said inorganic, spherical filler particles to said organic, spherical filler particles is 1.1:1.0 to 10.0:1.0; and

the weight ratio of said hollow, inorganic, spherical filler particles to said hollow, organic, spherical filler particles is 50:2.5 to 50:0.25.

16. A method for preparing a composition as claimed in any preceding claim, comprising mixing:

(i) a binder;

(ii) a curing agent, wherein said curing agent is selected from an amine curing agent, a polyamine curing agent, an amino functional curing agent or a mixture thereof;

(iii) hollow, inorganic, spherical, filler particles;

(iv) hollow, organic, spherical, filler particles; and.

(v) a thickener.

17. A kit for preparing a composition as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 15, comprising:

(i) a first container containing binder;

(ii) a second container containing curing agent,

wherein

said curing agent is selected from an amine curing agent, a polyamine curing agent, an amino functional curing agent, or a mixture thereof;

thickener is present in the first and/or second container; and

hollow, inorganic, spherical, filler particles are present in at least one of said containers;

hollow, organic, spherical, filler particles are present in at least one of said containers; and

the volume ratio of said inorganic, spherical filler particles to said organic, spherical filler particles is at least 1.1:1.

18. A kit as claimed in claim 17, wherein said thickener is present in the first and second container.

19. A method of providing a coating on a surface, preferably a metal surface, wherein said method comprises:

(i) applying a composition as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 15; and

(ii) curing said composition to form a coating on the surface.

20. A coating on a surface, preferably a metal surface, wherein said coating is formed from a composition as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 15.

21. Use of a composition as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 15 to form a coating, preferably an insulating coating, on at least one surface (e.g. a metal surface) of an article.