Claims

1. A coating composition comprising:
   i) a carboxylic acid; comprising one or more of rosin or a hydrogenated derivative thereof;
   ii) at least one metal oxide compound selected from one or more of copper (I) oxide, copper (II) oxide, zinc oxide, iron (II) oxide, iron (III) oxide, CaO, MgO, TiO_2, MnO_2;
   iii) a dehydrating agent wherein the dehydrating agent is selected from one or more of sylosiv, sylosiv A4, anhydrous gypsum ($CaSO_4$), synthetic zeolite adsorbents; orthoesters such as methyl orthoformate and methyl orthoacetate; orthoboric esters; silicates and isocyanates; and
   iv) one or more binder wherein the binder comprises an oligomeric or polymeric material;

   characterised in that, in the production of the coating composition, the dehydrating agent iii) is contacted with either of component i) or ii), prior to the addition of the other of component i) or ii).

2. A coating composition according to claim 1, wherein the dehydrating agent is contacted and mixed with either of component i) or ii), prior to the addition of the other of the component i) or ii).

3. A coating composition according to any preceding claim, wherein the carboxylic acid is present in the coating composition in an amount of between about 12 and 25 wt%.

4. A coating composition according to any preceding claim, wherein the at least one metal oxide compound is present in the coating composition in an amount of between about 40 and 60wt%.

5. A coating composition according to any preceding claim, wherein the dehydrating agent is present in the coating compositing in an amount of between about 1 and 5 wt%.

6. A coating composition according to any preceding claim, wherein the binder comprises an oligomeric or polymeric material, the oligomeric or polymeric material being formed from one or more of the following monomers: C_1-C_{10}alkyl (C_0-C_{10}alk)acrylate; trialkylsilyl (C_0-C_{10}alk)acrylate.

7. A coating composition according to any preceding claim, wherein the binder is present in the coating composition in an amount of between 1 and 5 wt%.

8. A coating composition according to any of claims 1 to 7, wherein the binder comprises an oligomer or polymer composition, formed from at least 50% by weight of monomer units of a vinyl ester of versatic acid.

9. A coating composition according to any preceding claim, wherein the coating composition contains less than 0.5% by weight of metal carboxylate.

10. A marine vessel or marine structure coated with a coating composition according to any of claims 1 to 11.

11. A method of forming a coating composition, the coating composition comprising:
    i) a carboxylic acid; comprising one or more of rosin or a hydrogenated derivative thereof;
    ii) at least one metal oxide compound;
    iii) a dehydrating agent; and
    iv) one or more binder;
    the method comprising contacting the dehydrating agent iii) with either of component i) or ii), prior to the addition of the other of component i) or ii).