Claims

1. Use of a rheological agent in a coating composition to enhance chemical resistance of a coating layer formed by the coating composition when coated on at least a portion of a substrate, wherein the rheological agent comprises at least 85 wt% of a compound having a melting temperature of greater than 95°C and the rheological agent enhances chemical resistance against a fatty acid heated to at least 60°C and/or against an organic solvent heated to at least 40°C.

2. The use according to claim 1, wherein the chemical resistance is determined in accordance with ISO 2812-1:2007.

3. The use according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the rheological agent enhances chemical resistance of the coating layer against long term exposure to, and/or repeated cycling of, a chemical, such as wherein the rheological agent enhances chemical resistance of the coating layer such that the coating layer remains intact after a total of at least 6 months of continuous exposure to a chemical.

4. The use according to any preceding claim, wherein the fatty acid comprises palm fatty acid distillate (PFAD), and the organic solvent comprises methanol.

5. The use according to any preceding claim, wherein the rheological agent comprises a thixotropic agent.

6. The use according to any preceding claim, wherein the compound having a melting temperature of greater than 95°C comprises a compound comprising at least two amide groups, such as wherein the compound comprising at least two amide groups comprises a diamide.

7. The use according to any preceding claim, wherein the rheological agent is substantially free of castor oil and/or hydrogenated castor oil.

8. The use according to any preceding claim, wherein the substrate comprises a steel substrate, such as a tank or pipe comprising an internal steel surface. 9. The use according to any preceding claim, wherein the rheological agent is included in the coating composition in an amount of 0.8 to 1.2 wt% based on the total solid weight of the coating composition.

10. The use according to any preceding claim, wherein the coating composition comprises a binder resin comprising an epoxy resin, an amine resin, a polyurea resin, a vinyl ester resin, a polyolefin resin, or a combination thereof.

11. The use according to claim 10, wherein the binder resin comprises an epoxy novolac resin.

12. A tank or pipe suitable for use in chemical storage and transport, wherein at least a portion of an internal surface of the tank or pipe is coated with a coating layer formed by applying to the internal surface a coating composition comprising a rheological agent, wherein the rheological agent comprises at least 85 wt% of a compound having a melting temperature of greater than 95°C and the rheological agent enhances chemical resistance against a fatty acid heated to at least 60°C and/or against an organic solvent heated to at least 40°C.

13. A method of producing a tank or pipe coated on at least a portion of an internal surface thereof with a coating layer, wherein the tank or pipe is suitable for use in chemical storage and transport, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a coating composition comprising a rheological agent, wherein the rheological agent comprises at least 85 wt% of a compound having a melting temperature of greater than 95°C and the rheological agent enhances chemical resistance against a fatty acid heated to at least 60°C and/or against an organic solvent heated to at least 40°C; and

(b) applying the composition to at least a portion of a substrate to form a coating layer.