



RULES GOVERNING HOW APAS® OPERATES

1 SCOPE

- a) This document provides advice and guidance on how the Australian Paint Approval Scheme (APAS® the Certification Scheme) operates.
- b) This document is prepared in a manner compliant with the requirements of AS/NZS ISO/IEC 17065.
- c) APAS® is a trademark registered with IP Australia, owned by CSIRO, the Scheme Owner, and protected under applicable laws. Use of the trademark or the Certification Scheme is prohibited unless prior approval in writing is obtained from CSIRO via the APAS Secretariat.

2 PURPOSE

- a) These rules have been developed in order to establish the administration and management principles governing the operation, roles and responsibilities of APAS in a manner compliant with the requirements of AS/NZS ISO/IEC 17065.

3 BACKGROUND

- a) For information about the history of APAS, refer the APAS web site <https://vs.csiro.au/apas/history/>
- b) For information about the Terms of Reference for the Certification Scheme, refer to APAS document AP-D112.
- c) For information about how product manufacturers may participate in APAS, refer to APAS document AP-D177.
- d) For information about how to become a Member of APAS, refer to APAS document AP-D150.

4 INTRODUCTION

- a) APAS is a Certification Body operating a Certification Scheme that determines if the performance of a paint, surface coating material or non-paint product meets or exceeds Certification Requirements and Product Requirements in order to receive status as a Certified Product.
- b) Surface coating material products can range from conventional architectural and decorative paint types, to pavement marking materials used in road delineation, to protective coatings with specialised roles such as those used in painting wharfs, fuel tanks, Defence infrastructure and sealing asbestos surfaces.
- c) APAS is not involved with OEM automotive or automotive refinish coatings.
- d) The Client, its Recognised Manufacturing Unit(s) and Recognised Reseller(s) can supply current, non-expired copies of Certificates of Product Conformity for Parent Products and Child Products certified to APAS specification.
- e) All Certificates of Product Conformity are issued with an expiry date, typically seven (7) years for CLASS I paint and surface coating material products and two (2) years for CLASS II non-paint products, from date of submission. Refer to document AP-D192 for further information.
- f) APAS structure and rules have been designed to comply with AS/NZS ISO/IEC 17065, replacing the former ISO Guide 65.

5 DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS

5.1 Definitions

The following definitions of terms used in this document and in the Certification Scheme shall apply:

- a) **Certification Body:** Third-party conformity assessment body operating the certification scheme. APAS is the Certification Body.
- b) **Certification Requirement:** The specified requirement(s), including product requirement(s), that is fulfilled by the Client as a condition of establishing or maintaining certification.
- c) **Certification Scheme:** The Certification system related to specified products (Paint and Non-Paint Products) to which the same specified requirements, specific rules and procedures apply. APAS is the applicable Certification Scheme.
- d) **Certified Product:** A product that has been assessed by an APAS Officer and found to comply with the Product and Certification Requirements. Historically referred to as an Approved Product.
- e) **Child Product:** Also known as a split-fill; these are filled from the Parent Product batch, can be relabelled / rebranded differently to the Parent Product, and either on sold by the Client (RMU) or a Recognised Reseller (RR).
- f) **Client:** The organisation responsible to the Certification Body (APAS) for ensuring that certification requirements, including product requirements, are fulfilled. The Client nominates a person(s) directly responsible (APAS Signatory) within its organisation, and to communicate directly with the Certification Scheme (APAS).
- g) **Contract Manufacture:** An arrangement whereby a contracted third-party uses its own plant, specialized equipment, labour source, organisational model and sourced and supplied raw materials, in conjunction with the Client's intellectual property, to manufacture finished product on behalf of the company, for a fee. A Contract Manufacturer must be a Recognised Manufacturing Unit.
- h) **Member:** An organisation that agrees to support and utilise the services APAS and its Secretariat provides. These services enable the organisation to specify APAS certification requirements in its own specifications, standards and/or in tender documents and/or painting specifications.
- i) **Parent Product:** The Client's principal formula used to manufacture a batch of product.
- j) **Product Requirement:** The specified requirement(s) that relates directly to a product, specified in standards or in other normative documents (APAS Specifications) identified by the Certification Scheme (APAS).
- k) **Recognised Manufacturing Unit (RMU):** A company voluntarily choosing to participate in the Certification Scheme (APAS) whereby its manufacturing facilities have been assessed in accordance with AP-D177 for supply of products certified to APAS Specifications. The RMU forms part of the Client. Historically referred to as the Supplier.



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- l) **Recognised Reseller (RR):** A company voluntarily choosing to participate in the Certification Scheme (APAS) that purchases finished products (from the Client) and:
- Onsells and/or utilises Child Products, under contractual agreement with the Client, that have been relabelled and/or rebranded, or
 - Onsells and/or utilises Non-Paint products, such as glass beads, under contractual agreement with the Client, that have been relabelled and/or rebranded
- RR's do not modify the products they purchase. The products can be resold using the primary entity's brand or, with appropriate permissions, be rebranded/relabelled.
- m) **Relabelling / Rebranding:** A Child Product is split-filled from a Parent Product and:
- Is given a new name, term, symbol, design, concept (or combination thereof) with the intention of developing a new, differentiated identity in the minds of consumers, competitors and other stakeholders.
 - Can involve changes to a brand's logo, name, legal names, image, marketing strategy, and advertising themes.
 - Can be applied to new products, mature products and products in development.
 - Can refer to a change in a company / corporate brand that may own several sub-brands for products or companies.
 - Can be within the Client's existing company or on sold to an external company by contractual arrangement.
- n) **Scheme Owner:** The organisation responsible for developing and maintaining the certification scheme. CSIRO is the APAS Scheme Owner.
- o) **Scope of Certification:** The identification of the product(s) for which the certification is granted, the applicable certification scheme (APAS) and the standard(s) and normative document(s) (APAS Specifications), including their date of publication, to which it is judged that the product(s) comply.
- p) **Secretariat:** the organisation that provides administrative support and other resources necessary to keep the Certification Scheme functioning. The Secretariat is vested in CSIRO.
- q) **Toll Manufacture:** An arrangement whereby the Client sends its intellectual property and raw materials to a contracted third-party, who supplies the plant, specialized equipment, labour source and organisational model to manufacture finished product on behalf of the company, for a fee. A Toll Manufacturer must be a Recognised Manufacturing Unit.

5.2 Acronyms

The following acronyms appear in this document:

APAS	Australian Paint Approval Scheme
ATAP	APAS Technical Advisory Panel
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
EO	Executive Officer, APAS

RMU	Recognised Manufacturing Unit
VOC	Volatile organic compounds
WHS	Workplace Health and Safety

6 RESPONSIBILITY AND AUTHORITY

- The EO may, from time to time, amend the rules governing the Certification Scheme. Such changes shall be subject to the normative four (4) week period for Public Comment.
- The EO shall consider, but is not bound to accept, all comments made during the period of Public Comment.
- The EO is responsible for the implementation of the rules governing the Certification Scheme and for their content.

7 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS

- The following standard is referenced in this document:
 - AS/NZS ISO/IEC 17065** - Conformity assessment: Requirements for bodies certifying products, processes and services.

This document may be purchased through the Reference Standards Australia website:

<https://www.standards.org.au/>

- The following APAS documents are referenced in this document:
 - AP-D003 APAS® Schedule of Fees
 - AP-D004 Rules Governing Appeals and Compliant Handling
 - AP-D006 Terms of Reference of the APAS® Technical Advisory Panel
 - AP-D112 Terms of Reference for the APAS® Certification Scheme
 - AP-D150 Rules Governing How Specifying Organisations become Members of APAS® and PCCP®
 - AP-D174 APAS® Conformance Requirements
 - AP-D177 Rules Governing How Product Manufacturers participate in APAS®
 - AP-D181 VOC Organic Compounds (VOC) Limits
 - AP-D183 Guidelines for Changes to Formulation of Approved Products
 - AP-D192 Rules Governing the APAS® Product Certification Scheme

All APAS documents are available for download from the APAS web site: <https://vs.csiro.au/apas/documents/>

8 WHY SPECIFY APAS?

8.1 Product Performance

- Paint and surface coating materials are extremely thin plastic films and are all that separates a degradable or unattractive surface from a corrosive climate or grubby fingers.
- The thickness of a film layer can be as low as 25 microns, but is still expected to completely obliterate the substrate, provide an attractive finish, be washable, resistant to stains, chemicals and the rigours of weather and chemical attack.



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- c) Unlike most products, paint and surface coating material consumers are unable to objectively appraise the product before purchase. When it fails to perform in the manner expected, its deficiencies are all too obvious.
- d) The Scheme provides its Clients and Members (refer to APAS document AP-D112) with a ready to use product pre-qualification scheme managed by an independent third-party expert in coatings at a fraction of the cost of establishing an in-house scheme.
- e) By specifying APAS approved products, purchasers have access to over 1500 products that comply with the high-performance requirements of APAS specifications.
- f) These performance specifications are set at minimum levels that are equal to, and often in excess of, the performance called for in Australian and New Zealand standards.
- g) By virtue of their industry knowledge and experience, APAS officers set these higher standards knowing the majority of products available on the market already comply.
- h) Despite these often-higher performance standards, it is important to bear in mind that APAS only sets minimum performance standards. All certified products shall perform at this level, but some may exceed the requirements. APAS does not make any attempt to differentiate between such products.

8.2 Environment, Health and Safety

- a) APAS takes a pro-active stance on environmental and workplace health and safety issues. For example, APAS has over the years, withdrawn from approval products containing toxic ingredients for example lead, chromates, asbestos and coal tar epoxies in advance of community concerns and legislative demands.
- b) APAS has introduced limits on volatile organic compounds (VOC), a contributor to outdoor air pollution and ground-level ozone production. Refer to APAS documents AP-D181 for further information.
- c) Specifiers can therefore be assured that products they select from the APAS List of Approved Products reflect good manufacturing practices in terms of health, safety and the environment.
- d) The use of recycled materials in all aspects of surface coating material manufacture (and associated products) is ever increasing and is encouraged. If a manufacturer chooses to use recycled materials in the production of products seeking certification against the APAS Certification Scheme, the Certification and Product Requirements (compositional and performance) of the APAS, wherever they apply, must still be met.

8.3 Quality Assurance

- a) Quality assurance has had a significant impact across industry in recent years, and APAS requires manufacturers to have a working quality assurance system which covers product manufacture.
- b) Quality assurance, by itself, only provides confidence in the consistency of the product supplied and gives no

guarantee that the product will meet the customer's needs.

- c) APAS has addressed this issue in three ways:
 1. APAS has developed a diverse range of specifications targeted to meet purchaser needs (refer to APAS document AP-D112).
 2. APAS requires manufacturers to be able to demonstrate technical competence (refer to APAS document AP-D177).
 3. APAS continually appraises the technical and manufacturing aspects of the product making process by inspection of each manufacturing plant (RMU) at regular intervals and by scrutiny of any formulation changes (refer to APAS documents AP-D174 and AP-D183).
- d) The use of APAS approvals gives assurance that products best suit the specifier's need.
- e) APAS recognises and accommodates the WHS and environmental concerns of the community and gives users confidence in the on-going quality of manufacturing practices and formulation control.

9 HOW DOES APAS OPERATE?

9.1 General Management

- a) Daily management of APAS is vested in CSIRO, the Australian Government's national science research agency.
- b) The EO shall be an officer of CSIRO and shall have full responsibility and accountability for the Certification Scheme, its structure and administration.
- c) Other duly authorised officers of CSIRO may, at times, assist the EO with the management of the Certification Scheme, as required.

9.2 Technical Management

- a) The EO acts as the technical coordinator between APAS Clients, Members, industry and government. Using all the resources at their disposal, the EO ensures that the Certification Scheme is technically robust, independent, non-biased and relevant by keeping specifications up to date. This includes the introduction of new technology as appropriate.
- b) The specification library maintained by APAS consists of performance specifications covering a wide variety of end uses from architectural to heavy duty protective coatings.
- c) The EO shall maintain a Technical Advisory Panel (ATAP) to assist, where required, with the resolution of technical matters that may be outside the scope of knowledge or experience of the EO.
- d) The ATAP shall operate in accordance with the requirements of APAS document AP-D006.

9.3 Industry Management

- a) APAS certified products can only be made in manufacturing facilities recognised by APAS, referred to as Recognised Manufacturing Units (RMUs), that conform to a minimum standard of industry best practice. Full details of these standards can be found in APAS document AP-D177.



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9.4 Scheme Structure

- a) APAS is composed of 4 distinct bodies:
1. **The APAS Secretariat:** a part of CSIRO and comprised of the EO and any other duly authorised officers of CSIRO.
 2. **Participating Manufacturers (Clients):** Comprised of manufacturers of paint and surface coating materials or manufacturers and/or suppliers of non-paint products approved by the EO for inclusion in the Certification Scheme, such as glass beads for use with pavement marking paint.
 3. **Specifying Members (Members):** Comprised of government departments and regulators, partially of wholly privatised entities and industry stakeholders/industry aligned organisations that opt to make use of specifying APAS products in its own specifications, standards and/or in tender documents, painting specifications etc.
 4. **APAS Technical Advisory Panel (ATAP):** Comprised of the EO or their nominee and certain Members.
- b) Rules governing Clients can be found in APAS document AP-D177.
- c) Rules governing ATAP can be found in APAS document AP-D006.
- d) Rules governing certification of products can be found in APAS document AP-D192.

10 OTHER APAS ROLES

- a) APAS plays other important roles across government and industry by:
- i. Focusing the paint and surface coating material expertise within the public sector and providing advice to Government on industry-related issues.
 - ii. Providing experts to a broad range of Standards Australia committees that prepare and issue standards and guides for the use of paints.
 - iii. Providing the National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA) with experts to act as Technical Assessors for NATA laboratory accreditation services.
 - iv. Working closely with the paint industry through the Australian Paint Manufacturers' Federation (APMF) and the Painting Contractors Certification Program (PCCP).
 - v. Liaising with relevant education and training organisations and a range of national and international organisations, including the Australasian Corrosion Association (ACA), the Surface Coatings Association of Australia (SCAA) and NATA.

11 COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS

- a) Clients and Members may lodge a complaint or an appeal against a decision made by the APAS Certification Body, Certification Scheme, Scheme Owner or any of its processes or personnel.
- b) Appeals and complaints shall subject to the process detailed in APAS document AP-D004.

12 INVOICING

- a) Upon completion of service(s) provided by APAS, an invoice will be generated and forwarded to the Client or Member as per the pricing guidelines set out in APAS document AP-D003.
- b) If a Client or Member Purchase Order Number is required to be included on the invoice generated, it must be supplied at the time of, or prior to, APAS service engagement.
- c) If a quotation for service is required, the APAS EO must be contacted prior to service engagement to arrange.
- d) Withholding, non-supply or delay in supply (> 2 weeks) of a Purchase Order Number can result in the revoking of the service(s) provided by APAS, for example removal of product certification.
- e) If a Client has any history of non-payment or lengthy delays in payment of an invoice(s), then the cost of any audit fees must be paid in full up front prior to audit commencement.

13 DISCLAIMER

- a) CSIRO is the administrator of the Australian Paint Approval Scheme (APAS). CSIRO assesses evidence of conformity to documented minimum standards for manufacture and performance of products produced by participating paint and surface coating manufacturers. APAS assessment includes review of test reports from accredited laboratories which have appropriate expertise for testing, assessment and technical verification of the relevant products together with regular audits of the manufacturing plants.
- b) **Important Notice:** Conformity to APAS specifications does not guarantee the performance of any particular product, which may be affected by many factors including surface preparation, environmental conditions and product application methodology. CSIRO does not accept any liability for any loss, damage or injury caused by use of the products or services provided by APAS members.



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14 APPENDIX A**Document History**

Status: Current
Version: 17
Date Published: 03-03-2022

Document Version No.:	Date Published:	Summary of Changes:
17	03-03-2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Updated document to be more inclusive of Members as well as Clients, specifically in clauses 5.1 h), 8.1, 9.4, 11 and 12
16	23-11-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Wording change in clause 8.2 d) from accreditation to certification
15	29-07-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Updated document clause 8.2 to include clause 8.2 d) regarding use of recycled materials in products certified by APAS
14	13-07-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Updated document to include new clause 12 (Invoicing)
13	11-06-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Updated APAS website details within documentFurther defined clause 1 b) Scope and 4 f)Updated clause 7 b) v. and vii. Referenced Documents and references to them in clause 8.3 c) 3.
12	21-01-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Updated clause 12
11	19-10-2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Addition of Appendix A Document History and removal of the Editorial Note previously used in document versionsUpdated clauses 1, 5 and 11
10	15-09-2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Updated document to the current formatDocument brought in line with requirements of AS/NZS ISO/IEC 17065Updated definitions and references in line with the certification schemeUpdated internal document references, acronyms and website detailsInclusion of Class I and Class II Product Certification Levels (replacing Full and Interim Certification designation)Addition of "People + Product = Protection" to Footer
9	06-10-2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Restructured APAS membership
8	07-05-2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Corrected clause numbering in clause 11
7	06-01-2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none">This version of the document is essentially version 7 of AP-D188Updated to new formatIncorporates changes to demonstration of technical competence agreed at APAS66