

Painting Contractor Certification Program PCCP

An accreditation scheme for contractors involved in the preparation of surfaces and the application of coatings to protect assets and infrastructure from corrosion (PCCP Classes 1 to 6, and Class 30).

Background

PCCP was formed in 1992 to provide owner/managers of public assets and infrastructure with a means of minimising spending on corrosion protection and maintenance. Based on the quality assurance requirement contained in ISO9001, PCCP aims to ensure contractors accredited by the program operate to industry best practice standards. The related Australian Paint Approval Scheme (APAS), administered by CSIRO, tests and accredits paints and coatings to ensure that they meet stringent performance.

The operation of the two schemes combine to link product approval, quality management, correct specification and application of coating products.

PCCP Requirements

Accreditation requires that the contractor can provide evidence which demonstrates that they have established and maintain:

- a quality management system to control the organisation's output or activities to the satisfaction of their clients and PCCP officers.
- a workplace health and safety management system which ensure that employees and others are kept safe and well prior to, during, and after the completion of the necessary project actions.
- an environmental management system which ensures that all aspects of the environment in which the contractor operates are cared for prior to, during, and after the completion of the necessary project actions.
- all necessary plant and equipment including inspection and test equipment
- operators who are trained, skilled and experienced in the use and maintenance of the equipment.

Each of the above elements work synergistically to promote high quality services maximising service life of the asset while minimised future maintenance and rectification spending.

PCCP is not, however, a permanent job inspection service. While project site inspections are conducted by PCCP

officers during the accreditation audits, the main focus of the scheme is to ensure that accredited contractors maintain systems which ensure high quality services on each and every one of the projects they undertake..

Demonstration of Conformance

Conformance with PCCP requirements is ensured through a program of regular audits by skilled independent auditors provided by the scheme. Audits alternate between desktop audits of past job records and management system records, and with on-site audits of in-progress projects.

Audit reports are produced, and the contractor has to rectify all non-conformances detected and provide evidence of corrective actions to the PCCP auditor before accreditation is issued.

Evidence of Conformance

Once a contractor has completed all required actions resulting from an initial audit, a PCCP Certificate of Accreditation is issued which details:

- the name and ABN (for Australia) of the organisation.
- a unique PCCP Certification number and expiry date.
- a listing of the capabilities of the contractor including accredited PCCP categories, classes and sub-classes.

A current PCCP certificate is the only acceptable evidence for accreditation by PCCP. Certificates may be verified against the list of currently accredited contractors through review of PCCP document D016 which is available on the CSIRO Verification Services website:

[PP-D016 - PCCP Accredited contractors \(csiro.au\)](#)

Structure of Accreditation

Asset owners/managers are able to select contractors holding accreditation to the relevant PCCP category and class to ensure that a high-quality protective coating service is provided.

The Protective Coating Category is divided into **Classes**:

- Class 1 - *Shop application of protective coatings - immersion exposure*
- Class 2 - *Shop application of protective coatings*
- Class 3 *Site application of protective coatings – atmospheric exposure*
- Class 4 *Site application of protective coatings – immersion exposure*
- Class 5 *Management of hazardous protective coatings (e.g. heavy metals)*
- Class 6 *Management of hazardous protective coatings (e.g. respirable dust)*
- Class 30 *High voltage transmission tower refurbishment*

In addition, capabilities are further divided into **Sub-Classes** by application of:

- Sub-class 1 *Liquid organic and inorganic coatings*
- Sub-class 2 *Thermal metal spray coatings*
- Sub-class 3 *Intumescent coatings for fire retardance*

The above are described in more detail in PCCP Document D007 on the PCCP website:

[PP-D007 - PCCP Categories and classes \(csiro.au\)](https://www.csiro.au/pp-d007-pccp-categories-and-classes)



CSR Sugar Treatment Plant – protective coating applied by Cox Steel. Photograph used with permission.

Use of pre-qualification scheme

PCCP is a registered trademark of CSIRO and is protected by applicable laws. Government bodies (Commonwealth, State or Local) wishing to make use of the pre-qualification scheme on their projects need to make application to CSIRO. Once granted, pre-qualification requirement statements may be added to tender documents, specifications etc.

Recipients of low quotes following a call for tender are advised to verify accreditation details of the submitting organisation. Low project quotes may arise through non-accredited contractors saving cost through omission of important quality controls.

Member benefits

Government departments that become financial APAS/PCCP members gain the advantage of specifying the use of PCCP contractors and APAS certified paint/coating products. Members gain the following benefits:

- confidence that the best products are applied in a manner that will ensure the product achieves its full potential, saving money throughout the asset lifetime.
- outsourcing of the responsibility for auditing painting contractors to a reputable and independent government agency.
- minimisation of maintenance costs by potentially increasing the time between maintenance activities due to the high-quality coating initially applied.

Management of PCCP

The management of PCCP is vested in CSIRO, the premier scientific R&D organisation of the Australian Government. CSIRO recognises that PCCP provides services to the public sector that are in the national interest where publicly owned assets and infrastructure are concerned.

The Executive Officer of PCCP is responsible for the structure and management of the scheme and for all interactions with stakeholders.

Disclaimer

Please read and take note of the Copyright & Disclaimer statement on the PCCP website before making any decisions based on the above.

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We do this by using science to solve real issues. Our research makes a difference to industry, people and the planet.

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