

Painting Contractor Certification Program (PCCP)

An accreditation scheme for contractors involved in the application of specialist low VOC protective architectural coatings to public buildings (PCCP Class 17 & Class 18)

Many public buildings such as schools, prisons and hospitals require the application of architectural coatings for both decoration and protection of substrates. Where extended periods of inadequate ventilation are unavoidable, the use of low volatile organic compound (VOC) coatings may be required to minimise workplace health and safety (WHS) and environmental risk.

VOC – Volatile organic compounds are often included in paint formulations and later are released into the ambient environment by evaporation as the coating dries. VOC emissions can occur over a short (<1 hr) or long term (up to 3 weeks or more) depending on the compound and the coating.

Background

In 1994 the QLD State Government was faced with a serious WHS issue that forced the closing of a school following reports of alleged illness among some pupils. The cause was ultimately traced to the emission of chemicals from a floor coating, which had been applied some weeks earlier during the school holidays.

This episode resulted in a QLD State Government ban on the use of seamless flooring products in buildings under its management until 1998 when an assessment protocol for both the evaluation of supplied products and an accreditation requirement for application contractors (SOA450/EPA450) was developed and implemented by the Qld Department of Housing and Public Works. Subsequently, these pre-qualification activities were merged into the *Australian Paint Approval Scheme (APAS)* and the *Painting Contractor Certification Program (PCCP)*.

APAS and PCCP continue to provide and demonstrate pre-qualification of paint and coating products and contractors respectively in Australia and New Zealand.

PCCP Requirements

PCCP accreditation requires that applicators of low VOC coatings demonstrate evidence that they have established and maintain:

- a management system to control the quality of their activities to the satisfaction of their clients and PCCP officers.

- a workplace health and safety system to ensure that their employees and all others are kept safe and well prior to, during, and after, the completion of the coating project.
- an environmental welfare system to ensure that all aspects of the environment in which the contractor operates are cared for prior to, during, and after, the completion of the coating project.
- necessary plant and equipment to provide the contracted services plus suitable inspection, and test equipment, operated by skilled and trained operators who are experienced in the use and maintenance of the equipment.

Demonstration of Conformance

The primary function of PCCP accreditation is to provide government bodies with confidence that a selected contractor will ensure that coating applications will apply strictly in accordance a scheme aligned with their interests, including the protection of life safety and environment for all stakeholders.

Conformance with the PCCP architectural coating requirements is ensured through a program of regular audits by skilled PCCP auditors. Audits alternate between examination of past job records, and on-site audits of architectural coating application projects currently in progress.

Audit reports are provided to the contractor, identifying all non-conformances found during the audit. Should any non-conformances be identified, a contractor seeking to gain or maintain accreditation is required to provide evidence of corrective actions before accreditation is provided or extended.

Once a contractor has completed all required actions resulting from the initial audit, a Certificate of Accreditation is issued. Containing a unique number and an expiry date, a PCCP Certificate lists the capabilities as confirmed by PCCP site audit and is typically supplied to contractor's clients as evidence of accreditation.

The List of currently accredited contractors is available in document D016 on the PCCP website:

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

Scheme application

Contractors that provide services related to protective architectural coatings may apply for accreditation to PCCP Class 17 & 18 as described in Documents D011 & D018 available on the PCCP website:

[PP-D011 - PCCP - Accreditation requirements - Class 18 Low VOC coatings for buildings \(csiro.au\)](#)

[PP-D018 - PCCP - Accreditation Requirements – Class 17 Domestic, Residential and Commercial Buildings \(csiro.au\)](#)

The specific QLD requirements for accreditation of contractors by PCCP and mandatory use of APAS certified paints and coatings is detailed as the following location – <https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/building-property-development/building-construction/supply-queensland-government/special-requirements-building/floor-coatings-vocs>

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. This provides the key advantage of fundamentally outsourcing reliable and respected pre-qualification activities of architectural coating applicators and materials.

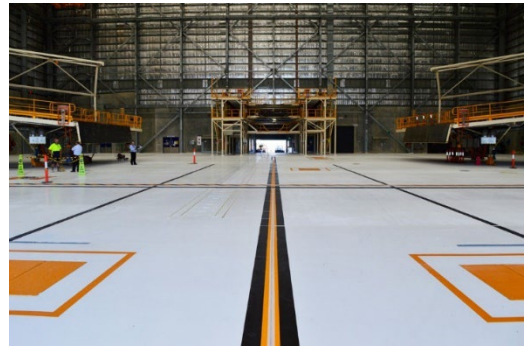
Non-governmental organisations that wish to access the benefits of the pre-qualification offered by APAS and PCCP may also become financial members of the schemes.

Fees related to scheme membership are available upon application.

Low VOC floor coatings

It is a mandatory requirement of PCCP that all coating products used are certified by APAS. APAS product certifications are based upon the results factory audits of the manufacturing facility, and of laboratory tests conducted by CSIRO or other recognised agencies, to stringent performance specifications.

Similar to PCCP, APAS conducts regular audits of paint and coating manufacturing facilities and their formulae to ensure consistent performance of solvent-based and solvent-free (low surface emitting) floor coatings for building interiors.



RAAF Amberley, QLD. Floor coating applied by Multiblast Flooring. Photograph used with permission.

To reduce possible incidents of ill-health due to the fumes from coatings used on floors, only coatings certified to APAS specification AP-VS0209 should be applied. The table below lists the currently certified coating products meeting this specification.

Brand	APAS Certified Product
Sika	Sikafloor 160, Sikafloor 169, Sikafloor 264T
Hychem	Epoxy Glaze 3; GP Epoxy; Hycrete PU-SL; E500T; PAGlaze3; SF20; SupaFloor; SL20; SF20V; PA300; Polyaspartic Coloured Coating
allnex	Nuthane; Surecote 200; Surecote 500; ZV Terrazzite
All Purpose Coatings	Tinted Epoxy; Epoxy Glaze, Clear Epoxy; Chemicoat; Liquathane Water Based Clear Urethane; Sparta Guard Polyaspartic
Haymes Paint	Ultimate Two Pack Epoxy
A & I Coatings	Enviroset E2100 Satin
Tremco CPG	DeckcoatEP/Flowcoat OP, Deckshield UV (WB) Clear

List current as at September 2023

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.

Disclaimer

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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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