



# Industry Policy

## Applicator Training and Qualification

### Applicator Technical Group Mission

*To represent the needs of ACA Member specialist applicators in industries that serve the protection or restoration of corrosion affected structures throughout Australasia including New Zealand. These include companies and individuals in; concrete protection, concrete repair, applied concrete floor finishes, hazardous coating removal, surface preparation and coating application.*

In accordance with our Vision, the ATG has developed this Industry Policy towards Applicator Training and Qualification with a focus on providing site staff with career pathways.

### Definitions

**Applicator training** is a program that provides individuals awareness and learning in a specific module to enable them to carry out their work properly and safely.

**Applicator Accreditation** is a structured learning pathway made up of training modules that as a whole provides the individual with an industry recognized verification of competency.

### History of training

There is a checkered history of Applicator training within Australia, including;

1. A trade certificate was administered by a handful of TAFE facilities for Industrial coating application through 1980 & 1990.
2. The ACA has made attempts accrediting existing abrasive blast and coating applicators previously that were not taken up by industry.
3. Large contracting firms that specialize in heavy engineering projects have their own in-house programs with training organisations presenting individual modules.
4. Manufacturers of coatings and repair materials often provide demonstrations and training for application of specific products and list attendees as being competent.
5. Manufacturers have inhouse training sessions to pre-approve applicators which are not formally recognized.
6. There are a handful of independent bodies and trainers offering introductory classes.

The most common pathway for new Applicator staff training is haphazard, often informal and coming from fabrication, construction or labour trades and being employed on a project-specific basis.





## Purpose

To encourage industry bodies and asset owners to recognize these training requirements in their project documentation before pre-qualifying suitable Applicator companies. This is particularly encouraged for protective coatings certification scheme (PCCP) participants and can be adopted during contractor accreditation audits.

Supporting this industry policy will support Applicators in developing career pathways for the benefit of all. Career pathways through the Applicator trades needs to include a multi-pronged approach.

## Individual Applicator Accreditation

We support a [Certificate III in Surface Preparation and Coating Application](#) for the following reasons;

1. This is a nationally recognized training package within Australia which makes it eligible for employers to receive government funding (Currently available throughout Australia – See Appendix for list of pre-qualified providers).
2. It could be reciprocal or equivalent with New Zealand industry.
3. Clause 7.2 in AS 2312.1 requires that “critical work should only be carried out by personnel having appropriate qualifications by an approved body”, noting Cert III qualifications as being suitable. Any specifying agency following such guidelines will require applicators to be so qualified.

This is a program that has the advantage to industry in that it provides ‘recognition of prior learning’ to existing staff. Moreover, it provides an effective pathway for new talent to progress their individual competencies within the Application industries.

The [MEM30305](#) Certificate III in Engineering Fabrication (Surface Finishing). This qualification covers the skills and knowledge required for employment as an Engineering Tradesperson - Fabrication within the metal, engineering, manufacturing and associated industries. The qualification can be adapted to include only surface preparation and finishing units and is suited for workers in a workshop environment.

The [MSM30216](#) Certificate III in Surface Preparation and Coating Application provides the trade-level competencies required to perform the wide range of surface preparation and protective coating application operations that occur across a range of heavy industry, ships and infrastructure. The qualification can be adapted to include up to 6 concrete repair specific units.

The [MSF30813](#) Certificate III in Flooring Technology. This qualification describes the skills and knowledge required to perform flooring technology tasks, including preparing flooring surfaces, including polished concrete floors; and installing and finishing carpet, resilient, vinyl and timber flooring materials and polished concrete floors. The qualification can be adapted to include only surface preparation and coating units.

There are a number of pathways within the Certificate III framework to allow Registered Training Providers (RTO's) to mix and match training units to meet the requirements of the employer.



## Individual Applicator Training

There are segments of the Applicator industry that may not realise the full benefit of a Certificate III trained workforce however we believe these segments still need to be engaged to ensure quality outcomes are being addressed for Asset Owners.

Specific individual applicator training short course modules that are affordable and effective will be suitable for this market. Prequalified courses include, as follows;

1. Protective coatings
  - a) [Train the Painter \(TTP\)](#) - Is a structured training course that can provide international recognition.
  - b) [SSPC C7 & C12 training programs](#) – these are an accreditation for skilled operators and is offered in Australia by the ACA.
2. Concrete repair
  - a) The joint ACA/ACRA [corrosion and protection of concrete structures and buildings](#) (CPCSB) course.
3. Hazardous coatings removal
  - a) Training courses that have been pre-qualified by [PCCP](#).

Currently we are looking for training opportunities for applicators for;

- Concrete floor applied finishes
- Thermal Metal Spray
- Passive fire protection systems
- Duplex coating systems on HDG and TMS
- Marine coating applicator
- Others

## Future Developments

This document will be revised as new training opportunities are assessed and approved for inclusion. Current opportunities include;

- A recent merger between SSPC and NACE International created an Association for Materials Protection and Performance (AMPP). This may provide more suitable training opportunities within Australia.
- Further course development by the;
  - a) Australasian Corrosion Association, or;
  - b) Other training providers.

## Implementation

Application companies that intend to align under this policy should incorporate the tables in appendices into their training policies and align their training matrix to enable ease of verification when applying statistical data in Table 4.

PCCP audits should include a requirement to view an applicator companies training matrix and verify the values that are derived in providing their training score in Table 4.



## Availability

This policy will be provided free of charge and made available for download through the ACA ATG website portal.

## Specification

This document is available for industry professionals to be applied during assessment of an Application company's competency to deliver high quality workmanship.

Requests for quotation, engineering specifications and scope tender evaluation documents should include the following requirement;

***Specification clause: To be 'copy and paste' as appropriate.***

### ***Specification Section - Workmanship***

*The Applicator company shall be scored according to the latest revision of the Australasian Corrosion Associations' Industry Policy for Applicator Training Qualification. The Applicator Company shall complete Table 4 of the document and provide suitable evidence.*

*The training score derived from Table 4 shall meet or exceed the minimum score required in Table 1 or 2 as relevant to the works.*

## Review

The ACA Applicator Technical Group will review this policy every 2 years, or as required, and seek recommendation for revision or re-confirmation by the ACA Education and Training Committee and submission for ACA Board approval.



## Appendix A

### PCCP Accreditation Scheme

In order for an Application company to qualify for the requirements of this policy they must attain a point score as follows;

- a) Develop a matrix including each employee as per Table 3.  
*An employee for this purpose is defined as a person who is on the job performing handheld surface and/or application of protective coatings on a steel or concrete structure.*
- b) Divide the total point score (a) by the total number of on-site staff (b) to arrive at an average score, as per table 3.
- c) The average score must meet or exceed the requirements listed in Table 1 or 2 as relevant to the works.

Note – This score shall first be ascertained for the organization during audits and can also be required by a project manager on a project basis.

*Table 1 - Average points required per person on-site (Steel)*

General Name	PCCP Class (Metal)		Points
Workshop	PCCP Category A: Class 1	Shop application of coatings for immersion service	7
	PCCP Category A: Class 2	Shop application of coatings for atmospheric service	5
Site works	PCCP Category A: Class 3	Site application of coatings for atmospheric service	7
	PCCP Category A: Class 4	Site application of coatings for immersion service	10
	PCCP Category D: Class 30	High voltage transmission tower refurbishment	10
Hazardous materials	PCCP Category C:	Management of hazardous coatings (Residential)	7
	PCCP Category A: Class 5	Management of hazardous coatings, heavy metal containing (lead)	15
	PCCP Category A: Class 6	Management of hazardous coatings, respirable air-borne dusts	15

*Table 2 - Average points required per person on-site (Concrete)*

General Name	Concrete		Points
Concrete Flooring	Decorative		Na
	PCCP Category C: Class 18	Application of liquid applied seamless floor coatings to commercial buildings	5
	Industrial	Site application of toppings, mortar, and protective coatings	10
Concrete structures	Atmospherically exposed	Surface repair and site application of coatings for atmospheric service	7
	Wastewater & chemical exposure	Surface repair and site application of coatings for immersion service	10
	Coastal exposure	Surface repair and site application of coatings for chloride exposure	7
	Buried	Sub surface waterproofing and negative side surface repair. Bridge deck waterproofing.	10



Table 3 - Points available for each accreditation, per person

Applicator Accreditation		Applicator Training		Applicator work experience	
Certificate III		<b>Train the Painter (TTP)</b>		0.5 to 1 year (without Cert III) , or;	1
being task specific, or;	30	Bronze, or;	3	1 to 2 years (without Cert III) , or;	2
another trade-based discipline (Welding, Masonry, Etc)	5	Silver, or;	5	2 to 5 years (without Cert III) , or;	3
Verifiable training specific to site management provided by a third party.	3	Gold	10	Greater than 5 years	4
		<b>Joint ACA/ACRA corrosion and protection of concrete structures and buildings (CPCSB)</b>	5		
		<b>SSPC C series (per accreditation)</b>	5		
		<b>NACE Coating inspector<sup>1</sup></b>			
		Level 1, or;	15		
		Level 2, or;	20		
		Level 3	30		
		<b>ACA Galvanizers inspection course</b>	5		
		<b>Hazardous paint</b>			
		Responsible person course (AS4361.1 Industrial) <sup>1</sup> , or;	10		
		Awareness course (AS4361.1 Industrial) , or;	1		
		Lead paint removal course (AS4361.2 Residential)	3		
		<b>Verifiable training specific to workmanship or quality control provided by a third party.</b> 1 point per day of course duration	1		
		<b>Verifiable training specific to workmanship or quality control provided inhouse or by a coating supplier.</b> Minimum ½ day of course duration (Maximum 1 point per person).	1		
		<b>Verifiable training specific to site competencies provided by a third party.</b> <b>Includes;</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confined space entry</li> <li>• Working at heights</li> <li>• Rigging</li> <li>• Forklift</li> <li>• Elevated work platform</li> </ul>	1		

<sup>1</sup> These courses are described as Mandatory to achieve certain PCCP Classes of Accreditation.



Table 4 - Assessment Table

Name	Position	Total score	Evidence attached
Total score (a)		(sum of whole column)	
Total number of project related staff (b)			
Average score (c)		A/B=C	Average score per person

Note: A downloadable spreadsheet is available from the ACA to assist with scoring.



## Appendix B

### Approved Training Providers

Table 5 - Applicator Accreditation

Accreditation	Provider	Contact	Geography	Contact
Certificate III	TAFE NSW	Ian Squire	All Australian states except WA	<a href="http://tafensw.edu.au">tafensw.edu.au</a>
	South Metro TAFE	James Ragg	Western Australia	<a href="https://www.southmetrotafe.wa.edu.au/">https://www.southmetrotafe.wa.edu.au/</a>
	TBC		New Zealand	

Table 6 - Applicator Training

Accreditation	Provider	Contact	Geography	Contact
Specialist courses	ACA	Jeff Lim	Australasia	<a href="https://corrosion.com.au">https://corrosion.com.au</a>
NACE/SSPC Courses				
Corrosion and protection of concrete structures and buildings	ACA & ACRA		Australasia	<a href="https://corrosion.com.au">https://corrosion.com.au</a> or <a href="https://acraassoc.com.au">https://acraassoc.com.au</a>
Responsible person course for hazardous paint management	CTI Consultants	Fred Salome	Australia	<a href="https://cticonsultants.com.au">https://cticonsultants.com.au</a>
Thermal Metal Spray	TBC			
Industrial waterproofing	TBC			
Intumescent coating application	TBC			
UHP surface preparation	TBC			

## Revisions

#	Date	Type	Additions	Changes	Author	Reviewed
0	3rd September 2020	Issued for comment to ATG, CTG and select applicator companies			Justin Rigby	Adrian Dal Pozzo, Applicator TG, Coatings TG
1	22nd September 2020	Issued to ACA E&T, PCCP Committee for endorsement	Implementation, Review, Availability.		Justin Rigby	ACA ETC
2	30th March 2021			Adjust scoring	Justin Rigby	Peter Dove
3	9th April 2021		Add experience categories		Justin Rigby	Peter Dove
4	12th April 2021	Issued to ACA Board for approval		Minor	Justin Rigby	Ross Boucher
5.1	12th May 2021	Approved for issue		Updates to C7 & C12	Justin Rigby	

