

## Powdercoaters Unite for Quality's Sake

As of April this year, fourteen of the country's major powdercoating plants joined forces to become part of the international benchmark of quality that is Qualicoat.

In an Australian first, Alspec, Architectural Window Systems, Australian Aluminium Finishing, Bradnams, Capral, Trend, Vantage and Verticote have banded together with powder suppliers Akzo Nobel, Dulux and Jotun under the Qualicoat banner.

Qualicoat is more than an industry association; it's an accreditation system that has operated globally for 20 years which verifies the quality of the powder coating materials and processes of its members.



*Filling out a Qualicoat Inspection Report in the Bradnams Powder Coating Laboratory*

Bill Wyllie, Qualicoat President, says "It is estimated that Qualicoat now represents upwards of 65% of the Australian market. This figure will increase significantly as all those involved in specifying, such as architects, recognise the benefits of specifying all powdercoating to the Qualicoat standard.

Bill continues, "...the surge in Qualicoat membership and interest in compliance has come about as every level of our industry recognises the need for independent quality control. Quality issues of some imported products, strict guidelines set in the Building Code of Australia and the changing environment are just some of the many reasons why third party accreditation and compliance is vital to the growth of our Australian powdercoating industry."

What sets Qualicoat apart is the fact that its members are independently audited for compliance to Australian Standards, essentially removing any risk for those working with or specifying Qualicoat-approved materials.

The Qualicoat system compounds the existing quality requirements of the powder suppliers, so fabricators and architects who specify Qualicoat are protected by two

levels of assurance. This means that both the powder and the actual application of the powder are covered by a seven year warranty, leaving no room for liability to the fabricator or specifier.

Zel Medak, General Manager of Powder Coatings, Akzo Nobel, comments "The Qualicoat scheme compliments our strict quality requirements. The outcome of this collaboration is a high quality powder coated aluminium product that provides the consumer with confidence and satisfaction."

The Qualicoat system guarantees quality and compliance with all relevant Australian Standards for powdercoated metal finishing as set in the BCA, which also stipulates that suppliers must provide a seven-year guarantee on building products and materials.

Members are inspected by Azuma Design, which runs a NATA approved testing laboratory and business through a management system of ISO 9001-2000. This year, Qualicoat will purchase a salt spray cabinet so offering another level of testing for its members.

Craig Brennan, Azuma Auditor, said "Azuma administers two random audits of Qualicoat members annually. To know you're dealing with an accredited applicator or manufacturer, ask to see a Qualicoat compliance certificate, which is your proof of third party accreditation."

Some of the industry's most prolific associations such as the Australasian Institute of Surface Finishing, Australian Window Association and the Australian Aluminium Council endorse Qualicoat.



For more information about Qualicoat please visit [www.qualicoat.org.au](http://www.qualicoat.org.au) or call 03 9416 2222.