

Never finish without a Licence

Good news for aluminium window and door fabricators - Australian powder coating plants of note have signed up to join the internationally recognised Qualicoat licensing program. This makes it easy for fabricators to identify the applicators that provide a high quality, durable and compliant finish every time.

Licensed plants must pass two inspections by third party auditing company Azuma Design. Approval from the AISF Qualicoat Division and Qualicoat Europe is also required. At that point, a Qualicoat license is issued. Each plant must then submit to two unannounced audits every year to maintain its license.

Colin Brewster, Qualicoat President, said, "Using plants that are Qualicoat-approved gives fabricators continued assurance and protection. Without this independent verification there is a risk of sub-standard results that can tarnish reputations and even lead to costly litigation."

At the time of publication AAF in Syd-

ney and Brisbane, Trend Windows Sydney, Vertikote Sydney and Bradnams Melbourne all have current Qualicoat licenses.

Qualicoat plans to have another five plants licensed by Christmas - Bradnams Brisbane, Capral Brisbane, Capral Perth, AAF Melbourne and Alspec Melbourne. Azuma is conducting initial inspections with Architectural Window Systems in Brisbane and Melbourne and Alspec in Sydney. The forecast is that these plants will become licensed next year.

So by 2010 thirteen of the major Australian powder coating plants will be fully licensed, servicing the market with quality assured products that are backed by an independent auditing process.

Craig Brennan, Technical Consultant for AISF - Qualicoat, comments, "The auditing process has been strengthened this year with the release of the 12th edition of the Qualicoat specification manual. Particularly relevant to Australia is the new seaside class for

powder coating application, adding specifications for class 3 powders."

The Qualideco label specifications have been bolstered, and Decorative Imaging will be pursuing its Qualideco licence in 2010.

Azuma Design recently introduced three new inspectors, qualified with European accreditation, to service the growing need in Australia. Qualicoat is also authoring a powder coating module specifically for AWA window training courses.

"Approved applicators are being sought out as more building specifications stipulate a Qualicoat license," Craig adds. "Plus, we have received numerous enquiries from plants seeking information on how to gain a license recently. Both these points bode well for the industry, as it means the coater and the fabricator recognise the value of quality assurance."