

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Certificate of confidence

Recommending robust, durable building materials that can withstand Australia's erratic weather conditions and varied environments has become a priority for architects and builders, who seek the peace of mind afforded by products tested by a third party to meet Australian Standards.

For powder coated aluminium windows, doors and facades, Qualicoat is the only independent compliance system in Australia.

Guy Vissel, Qualicoat member and supporter, comments, "Developed for 20 years and accepted in as many countries, Qualicoat is an international benchmark of quality that sets strict standards for the powder coating materials and processes of its members.

"There are over a 1000 powder applicators in Australia," Guy continues, "...and they all coat different substrates. Unfortunately, not all applicators use the right pre-treatment systems, laboratories and processes. Powder coaters with Qualicoat accreditation have been independently tested to meet the standards set in the Building Code of Australia."

The Qualicoat system guarantees quality and compliance with AS3715, the Australian Standard for metal finishing as set in the Building Code of Australia (BCA). Under the BCA, all suppliers to the building industry are required to provide a seven year guarantee of products.

The third party accreditation program is similar to the compliance program implemented by the Australian Window Association, in that members are inspected by Azuma, which is itself a National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA) approved laboratory and an Iso 9001-2000 quality endorsed company.

Craig Brennan, Azuma auditor, said "Azuma administers two random audits of Qualicoat members annually. These audits provide the industry with a level of certainty, so architects and builders are assured of premium quality for all powder coated specifications. To know you're dealing with an accredited applicator or manufacturer, ask to see a compliance certificate. A Qualicoat compliance certificate is your proof of third party accreditation."

Hiring a Qualicoat member will promote the long term viability of powder coated aluminium finishes in Australia, as all Qualicoat members provide a seven year warranty.

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. Powder manufacturers and suppliers to the industry like Akzo Nobel, Dulux and Jotun also play key roles within the program.

Zel Medak, General Manager, Akzo Nobel Australasia, said "Akzo Nobel has supported the Qualicoat certification scheme globally for many years. The Qualicoat scheme compliments our strict quality requirements by the approval of powder coatings, pre-treatment systems and the application process. The outcome of this collaboration between Akzo Nobel and Qualicoat is a high quality powder coated aluminium product which provides the consumer with confidence and satisfaction."

For more information about Qualicoat please visit www.qualicoat.org.au or call 03 9416 2222.

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