

APPENDIX B6 – HIGHWAYS AUTHORITIES PRODUCT APPROVAL SCHEME (HAPAS)

The British Board of Agrément (BBA) is the UK's major authority offering approval and certification services to manufacturers and installers supplying the construction industry. The BBA provides reassurance to the construction industry by assessing manufacturers' products, systems and procedures to ensure they are 'fit for purpose'. This includes the Highways Authorities Product Approval Scheme (HAPAS) for the Highways Agency, the Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport (ADEPT) and other agencies in the UK. This is similar to the Agrément Certificate process, but applied to highways products. Some of these have Approved Installer schemes linked to them and the BBA also runs those.

The success of the Scheme and the value now attached to it has led to HAPAS Certificates being directly referred to in the Manual of Contract Documents for Highway Works, Volume 1 Specification for Highway Works, Appendices C and F and the Design Manuals for Roads and Bridges. A number of local authority specifications for highway works also make reference to the Scheme as a requirement where appropriate.

HAPAS Certificates are issued either through a Guideline or as a one-off assessment procedure. A Guideline will be developed if a product sector is sufficiently large enough but has no national specification or standard (eg high friction surfacing), and will normally be produced by a specialist group formed of members identified by the Highways Technical Advisory Committee (HiTAC).

A one-off assessment will be generated if:

- A road authority is requesting HAPAS for a proprietary product.
- A manufacturer requests HAPAS to support their performance claims.
- The product sector is too small (ie less than five Certificates) to warrant a Guideline.

All HAPAS approvals involve laboratory and road tests, site inspection, performance trials and an evaluation of production. Data generated from these key elements is assessed by the BBA's technical experts and, if acceptable, will form the basis of a draft Certificate which will be drawn up and circulated to HiTAC for their comments. Only then will the Certificate be issued. After the Certificate has been issued, the BBA ensures that the manufacture, specification and performance of the product is maintained by conducting a minimum of two surveillance visits per year and five-yearly Reviews of the product's performance in use. It is imperative that certificates are read and used by personnel competent to do so, ie with the appropriate knowledge and understanding.

The relevant HAPAS product sectors include:

- Permanent Cold-lay Surfacing Materials (PCSM) – Guideline and Certificates.
- Infra-red Asphalt Surface Repair Systems – Certificates only.
- Patch Repair Products – Certificates only.

There are other products used on the highway for pothole and patch repair that are under 'Bituminous Surface Course' and also 'Thin Surfacing'.