

your
NATSPEC

How do You Update Your Building Specifications?

Over **1600** organisations base their specifications on **NATSPEC**



Project: The Warren Health Service, Manjimup WA
Architect: Silver Thomas Hanley
Photographer: Silvertone



Project: St James Chapel, Anglicare Castle Hill NSW
Architect: Jackson Teece
Photographer: Michael Nicholson



Project: Young TAFE, Young NSW
Architect: Gran Associates
Photographer: Simon Dallinger

NATSPEC the national building specification
Owned and trusted by government and industry

The Importance of Subscribing to the National Building Specification

Quality cannot be managed if it is not defined. In construction, as there are many different parties who work on a project, the desired level of quality must be clearly specified in order to achieve it. Poor documentation and low quality result in re-work, variations, excess meetings, and delays.

Construction specifications are the most reliable way to define the required level of quality and meet technical standards. An up-to-date and comprehensive specification to support your contract and drawings is required to deliver a project with reduced risk of litigation.

Maintaining up-to-date specifications is time-consuming. NATSPEC, which is owned by the design, build, construct, and property industry and government bodies, provides an economy of scale for the industry, by the industry.

Through the leadership of information and a well-resourced team that tracks and incorporates the latest changes to regulation, standards, and industry information, NATSPEC keeps up-to-date with the current building standards to make it easier for you to define the level of quality needed for your projects.



"It's incredibly important to manage processes, it's incredibly important to manage information: to know what information is correct, what information is out of date, and what is the current information. NATSPEC is very important because it is a common language and what it does is, it creates a whole specification database for the elements we're proposing to build. Essentially, working through NATSPEC provides you with a full gamut of opportunities that you can potentially face, so it acts as an aide-mémoire as well as working through the documentation."

David Sutherland
Fender Katsalidis Architects

Subscriber Quotes



Using the NATSPEC system gave assurance that we had up to date standards and latest industry information at our fingertips. We've found NATSPEC to be well understood by and accepted within the industry. Its systematic approach to specification writing ensures thorough and rigorous documentation. (Case Study Magazine 2018)



JACKSON TEECE

Jackson Teece Architects found NATSPEC, the main construction specification used, to be an excellent resource, assisting us by compiling current industry information in an easy-to-follow format. (Case Study Magazine 2018)



Writing an architectural specification for a contractual documentation requires precise and accurate description of the products, execution methods, procedure, etc. With NATSPEC, we are able to access and download all latest and updated information on specific products available in the construction industry and ensure that the products meet Australian Standards (AS) and National Code of Construction (NCC) via live website. (Case Study Magazine 2016)



NATSPEC is a comprehensive classification system and an indispensable architectural design and documentation tool. The system provides a foundation of information, which is reflective of current industry standards as well as Product Partner worksections featuring current products. These worksections clearly outline product performance and characteristics, allowing us as specifiers to assess which products are best suited and meet the requirements of the NCC. (Case Study Magazine 2019-2020)

BUILDING Basic

BUILDING Basic is a cut-down version of the BUILDING Professional package for architects and building designers. It is aimed at simple building projects requiring less technical material on products, their execution and scheduling. It contains approximately 90 worksections selected from the BUILDING Professional package. Of these, 40 have reduced content compared to BUILDING Professional relating to inspections, sampling, testing and shop drawing submissions.

Intended use

Project types

- Low-rise commercial (including fitouts)
- Aged care communities
- Low-rise industrial
- Medium density residential (townhouses and apartments up to 3-4 storeys)
- Pre-school/childcare centres
- Medical centres
- Single residences

Size and complexity

Medium to small scale projects of simple to moderate complexity requiring less technical material on products, their execution and scheduling.

Typical users

Architects and building designers.

Inclusions

- Twice yearly update including changes to the National Construction Code and Standards.
- SPECbuilder online specification compilation software compatible with all versions of Windows, Macintosh and Linux operating systems.
- Editable worksection *Templates* in Microsoft Word *.docx format.
- Hidden text *Guidance* for developing project specifications for tender and contract documentation.
- Fully searchable pdf version of package with highlighted updates.
- Instructional guides and technical resources.
- Package USB (backup).
- Branded worksections.

Are You At Risk?

In Australia, there is no law requiring contractors to build your project to Australian Standards, if it is not specified or required under the National Construction Code Series. A specification reduces the number of variations, or extras, by enabling a clear understanding of the acceptable level of quality for the project. Without a specification, such as BUILDING BASIC, you may find a number of small extra items resulting in unexpected, substantial additional cost, and you may not receive the quality you would like. For a specification to be enforceable, it needs to be included or referenced in the contractual agreement between you and your contractor.

"Having quality documentation underpins the entire project. Based on good design documentation, you protect reputation, you reduce defects, you produce high quality, you can protect costs and more importantly and overarchingly, you deliver on time."

Mario Macri, Lend Lease

To request an information pack or to discuss your specification needs with one of our technical staff members, please contact us on 1300 797 142 or email: mail@natspec.com.au.

A Subscription form can be downloaded at www.natspec.com.au

Industry Testimonials



"The Australian Institute of Building Surveyors (AIBS) congratulates NATSPEC on their work to update and publish their National Building Specification to reflect the NCC BCA 2019 requirements.

Building surveyors gain significant confidence when a project has utilised a National Building Specification published by NATSPEC. In the current environment of product uncertainty and complexity of design, it is reassuring to see a clear and thorough approach to specification of buildings. The benefits of this are a smoother assessment process and greater certainty through inspections. The end result is that building surveyors operating in statutory roles throughout Australia are better able to deliver on their responsibilities to the public and their clients.

AIBS continues to fully support the National Building Specification from NATSPEC."

Troy Olds, AIBS President



"Quality documentation is one of the most important aspects for ensuring a project finishes on time, on budget, and meets the client's expectations of quality.

Without the guidance of NATSPEC and the inclusion of quality project specifications, there is an increased risk that projects will not achieve positive outcomes in terms of cost, quality, effectiveness, and timeliness of construction.

The NATSPEC Open BIM Object Standard for Building Information Modelling represents another key contribution to the construction industry."

Grant Warner, Chief Executive Officer, AIQS



"NATSPEC's construction specification system has been a guiding voice for government, industry and professional bodies over forty years.

As a vocal campaign for increased professional standards, Engineers Australia commends NATSPEC for the critical role it plays in improving the standards of the building and construction industry."

Dr Bronwyn Evans, CEO Engineers Australia



"The quality and productivity of the building and construction industry is enhanced by the work of the National Building Specification (NATSPEC). For more than 40 years NATSPEC has provided professional and specialty packages for all sectors of the industry and all building structures. NATSPEC is highly regarded by industry stakeholders in both the private and public sectors and is strongly supported by Master Builders Australia (MBA)."

Denita Wawn, Chief Executive Officer, Master Builders Australia



"Standards Australia endeavours to shape a safer and efficient Australia, cementing our role within the building and construction sector. Sharing the same values as NATSPEC, Standards Australia are proud to be key partners. The ongoing quality and productivity focus with the beneficiaries of a safer community being Australians."

Adrian O'Connell, Chief Executive Officer, Standards Australia



"An architectural practice should have, amongst other things, three fundamental project control documents: its Integrated Management Manual, the National Construction Code and NATSPEC."

Tony Kemeny, Director, Gran Associates Australia

"...Hence, the courts and others often look to the specification in particular to determine the message conveyed by the contract documents to those who work with them."

Acumen, Australian Institute of Architects



'... the level of quality that can be policed in the construction stage cannot be higher than that which is spelt out in the contract. If the building contract documents permit a sow's ear then all the quality control in the world cannot demand a silk purse . . . True quality control starts with the documentation for a project and in the project specification in particular . . .'

'... for many years an army of experts has been producing minimum quality standard specifications for reference in a variety of industries, including the building industry, and in regulations relevant to those industries.'

Nothing could be more necessary, more logical, more timely or more useful in today's building industry or more responsive to the call for quality control than a specification system tied to relevant Australian standards. That is what NATSPEC sets out to be.'

Bryce Mortlock - Father of NATSPEC, RAIA Gold Medallist

NATSPEC is owned by the following organisations:

- Air Conditioning and Mechanical Contractors' Association of Australia
- Australian Council of Built Environment Design Professions
- Australian Elevator Association
- Australian Institute of Architects
- Australian Institute of Building Surveyors
- Australian Institute of Quantity Surveyors
- Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (ACT)
- Construction Industry Engineering Services Group
- Consult Australia
- Dept for Infrastructure and Transport (SA)
- Dept of Energy and Public Works (QLD)
- Department of Finance (Federal)
- Department of Finance (WA)
- Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics (NT)
- Department of Treasury and Finance (TAS)
- Department of Treasury and Finance (VIC)
- Engineers Australia
- Master Builders Australia
- Public Works Advisory (NSW)
- Standards Australia

NATSPEC the national building specification

NATSPEC is a national not-for-profit organisation, owned by Government and industry, whose objective is to improve the construction quality and productivity of the built environment through leadership of information. It is impartial and is not involved in advocacy or policy development.

www.natspec.com.au

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