



- Easy to use ✓
- Comprehensive ✓
- Regularly updated ✓



"Unfortunately 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."

- Bryce Mortlock, NATSPEC Founder 1975

The need for a construction specification

- In Australia the builder need not **conform to Australian Standards** unless they are cited in regulation or within the construction specification.
- A crooked wall costs more to construct than a straight one. If you don't **specify the quality of construction and finish**, the client will pay for any rectification work, variation, time extension and increased maintenance.
- Clearly defined quality requirements **reduce construction cost blowouts** that result from re-work, redesign, variations and disputes. Poor documentation adds an estimated 10-15% to project costs.
- Good specifications **increase construction productivity** due to clarity of instruction. This results in less repairs and replacement and reduces the construction period due to reduced RFIs (request for information).
- Construction specifications **reduce the risk of lengthy and expensive litigation** as it is a clear record of what is needed and the level of quality.

Benefits of NATSPEC

- NATSPEC, founded in 1975, is a **not-for-profit organisation** that is owned by the design, build, construct and property industry through professional associations and government property groups. It is impartial and is not involved in advocacy or policy development.
- NATSPEC is the **only national, comprehensive and regularly updated master specification system in Australia**. NATSPEC has a team of 20 who are dedicated to monitoring the changes in regulations, standards, products and technological developments. This task is not economically viable or efficient for most individual consulting practices to undertake.
- NATSPEC is by far the **most-used Australian national specification system**. Based on an Australian Institute of Architect's survey, approximately 47% of architects use NATSPEC and 45% of architects use an individual in-house office specification. It is important to note that many in-house specifications are based on NATSPEC but have not been fully maintained to reflect changes in regulations and standards.

NATSPEC is the trading name of Construction Information Systems Limited, ABN 20 117 574 606.

NATSPEC's major service is the provision of the comprehensive national specification systems endorsed by government and professional bodies. NATSPEC, the National Building Specification, is for all building structures, with specialist packages for architects, interior designers, landscape architects, structural engineers, service engineers and domestic owners. AUS-SPEC is the Local Government specification system for the life-cycle management of assets. Packages include Urban and Open Spaces, Roadworks and Bridges, Public Utilities, and Maintenance.

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
- 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
- Department of Finance (Federal)
- Department of Finance (WA)
- Department of Housing and Public Works (QLD)
- Department of Infrastructure (NT)
- Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (SA)
- Department of Treasury and Finance (TAS)
- Department of Treasury and Finance (VIC)
- Engineers Australia
- Master Builders Australia
- Office of Finance and Services (NSW)
- Standards Australia

NATSPEC is a national not-for-profit organisation 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.

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Why NATSPEC?

NATSPEC is the only, regularly updated, comprehensive national building specification system endorsed by government and professional bodies. NATSPEC, the national specification system is for all building structures with specialist packages for architects, interior designers, landscape architects, building designers, structural engineers, service engineers and domestic owners.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS and clients prefer NATSPEC specifications so that they are assured of a baseline level of project quality. For over 30 years NATSPEC has been trusted to deliver quality results.

CONTRACTORS want to compete on an even footing and a NATSPEC specification means that the job will not be lost to someone who will cut the quality of construction. NATSPEC is independent and does not favour one party over another.

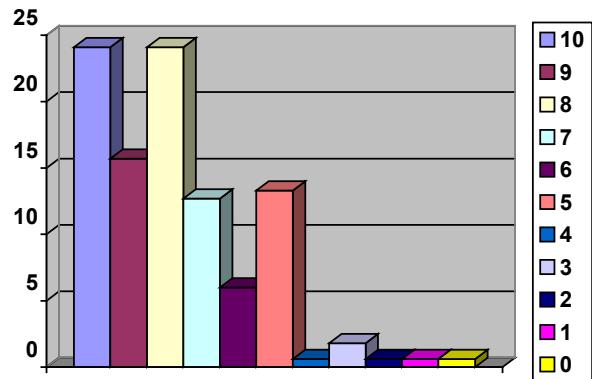
CONSULTANTS know that NATSPEC is comprehensive and provides a clear outline of the quality of materials and tolerance of construction required. NATSPEC specifications save litigation and support the teams desire for successful projects. NATSPEC provides the economies of scale to keep consultants up-to-date.

PROJECT MANAGERS do not waste time clarifying project requirements as NATSPEC's specifications are written in simple plain English without duplication or contradiction.



Subscriber feedback

Many Government departments, contractors, consultants and architects are NATSPEC subscribers. When subscribers were asked how likely they would be to recommend NATSPEC on a scale of 1 to 10, 65% responded with an 8, 9 or 10.



"NATSPEC is an evolution of specification. On this particular project... we haven't been called back for any defects, which means that the specification was well written and incorporated all the correct elements"

- Mario Macri, Lend Lease*

"One of the major attractions from our clients' point of view is the consistency of product we put out and so the point of that is to make sure that no matter where it comes from, from which component of the business, that the product is consistent of a high standard and that is where the likes of systems like NATSPEC comes into play in that, they are a standard base, they are known to everybody and that the quality of the project is guaranteed to be of a high order"

- Anthony Job, Project Services QLD*

*View the 'NATSPEC for Quality Projects video at www.natspec.com.au