

UNDERSTANDING TWO-PART SPECIFICATIONS

NATSPEC specification templates

NATSPEC produces a range of specification worksection templates which include technical and quality requirements for most building types. A specifier can prepare:

- An integrated specification by selecting the worksection templates relevant to their project and editing them to make the templates project specific.
- A two-part specification, comprising non-editable worksections, supplemented by additional project specific information.

What is a two-part specification?

Two-part specifications are typically composed of:

- Part A (also known as the *Reference specification*), which defines the minimum project performance requirements for materials and workmanship.
- Part B (also known as the *Project specific information*), which describes any amendments to Part A and includes any additional project specific information, such as schedules, drawings, models, or further specification information.

Two-part specifications differ from an integrated specification in that the Part A reference specification does not include prompts or schedules and is not editable.

Structure of a NATSPEC reference specification

NATSPEC uses the term *worksection* to describe the foundation unit of a specification. Some worksections are trade based (e.g. brick and blockwork), others follow processes (e.g. windows, lining) or systems (e.g. mechanical systems). Worksections are numbered according to the National Classification System. The reference specifications offered by NATSPEC are made up of worksections from the National Classification System that are relevant for the project type.

Those familiar with NATSPEC worksection templates will recognise the structured hierarchy of clauses, subclauses, paragraphs and tables in a Part A reference specification.

General requirements and common requirements

NATSPEC reference specifications contain *General requirements* and/or *Common requirements* worksections, which draw together material common to all technical worksections, including services, and should be brought to the attention of contractors, subcontractors and others using that material.

These worksections cover topics such as referenced documents, interpretation, inspection and tests, samples, contractor's submissions, materials and components, bushfire resistance, installation, marking and completion. It also sets out the precedence of specification documents.

Two-part specification and construction contracts

Both the Part A reference specification and the Part B project specific information, including amendments to Part A, must be identified in the contract. If there are discrepancies between the two parts, the requirements of Part B take precedence over Part A, as set out in the Part A *General requirements* or *Common requirements* worksections.

Benefits of using a two-part specification

A two-part specification allows for up-to-date content, consistent baseline quality and reduced risk. NATSPEC reference specifications are updated periodically to account for any new editions or amendments of standards and other referenced documents. As specifiers, contractors and suppliers become increasingly familiar with the structure and content of the Part A Reference specification, this will lead to improved productivity and quality which will in turn lead to cost and time savings.



NATSPEC CLASS 2 SPECIFICATION



NATSPEC CLASS 3 AND CLASS 9c SPECIFICATION



NATSPEC CLASS 3 AND CLASS 9c SPECIFICATION



NATSPEC CLASS 3 AND CLASS 9c SPECIFICATION



SIMPLE DOMESTIC SPECIFICATION



SIMPLE DOMESTIC SPECIFICATION



SIMPLE OFFICE FITOUT



SIMPLE OFFICE FITOUT

NATSPEC reference specifications
Reference specifications offered by NATSPEC include:

- Class 2 Reference Specification.
- Class 3 and Class 9c Reference Specification.
- SIMPLE Domestic Specification.
- SIMPLE Office Fitout Specification.

Project specific requirements

Some of the NATSPEC reference specifications may include an **Items to be documented elsewhere** section at the beginning of the reference specification, listing items that designers should consider when preparing their Part B project specific documents.

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Customising a two-part specification

All design consultants on the project must confirm that the appropriate requirements in the Part A of a two-part specification are relevant to the project and document in Part B any additional or alternative specification information that is required to correctly document the project. The requirements of Part A must not be duplicated in Part B.

Requirements in Part A can be modified as appropriate by including text in a Part B appendix.

To ADD to the requirements of Part A, add the following text to Part B:

2 PRODUCTS

Add to the requirements of Part A as follows:

2.4 ROOF LIGHTS

General

<Insert text.>

To REPLACE the requirements of Part A, add the following text to Part B:

3 EXECUTION

3.1 INSTALLATION

Replace the requirements of Part A as follows:

Metal separation

<Insert text to be replaced> with <Insert replacement text.>

Specifiers can also include a list of relevant worksections in their Part B documentation to indicate which worksections in Part A are applicable to the project.

NATSPEC schedules

NATSPEC BASIC and PROFESSIONAL subscribers have access to dedicated Class 2, Class 3 and Class 9c schedules prepared by NATSPEC for the architectural components of a Class 2, Class 3 or Class 9c Buildings. Schedules have not been developed for the engineering and services components as this information is usually dealt with either on the engineering drawings or in the services engineers' custom schedules.

Other NATSPEC resources

Subscribers to any NATSPEC package can use additional information from the worksections available to them as part of their subscription to prepare the Part B Project specific information.

NATSPEC also has a library of TECHnotes and TECHreports to assist specification writers. These are freely available to both subscribers and non-subscribers and can be accessed on SPECbuilder.

See also:

- NATSPEC TECHnote
GEN 005 Specifications
- SPECbuilder
specbldr.natspec.com.au
- Specification Writing Paper
www.natspec.com.au/training-support/getting-started
- National Classification System
www.natspec.com.au/resources/national-classification-system

