

## **PCA P5**

# **Benchmark Sample Procedures for Paint and Other Decorative Coating Systems**

## **1. Scope**

- 1.1 The purpose of this Standard is to provide a guideline to achieve approved Benchmark Samples of complete paint and coating systems for painting projects.
- 1.2 This Standard provides a protocol to establish an approved level of achievable quality for a specific paint and coating system.
- 1.3 It is intended that this Standard be used where the scope of the project is such that it is advisable to establish achievable levels of quality before beginning the job.
- 1.4 This Standard includes the surface preparation of typical areas of a project site in accordance with the applicable project specifications or contract documents.

## **2. Significance and Use**

- 2.1 This Standard consists of the procedures and criteria whereby a Benchmark Sample for paint, coating and other decorative systems will be prepared and presented by the Painting Contractor for approval by the contracting entity.
- 2.2 Approved Benchmark Samples are established utilizing full scale, on-site surface areas. These shall be prepared using the complete specified or approved paint, coating or decorative system. The sample is to include surface preparation, and the application of the primer, intermediate, finish coat and touch up materials as specified.

## **3. Definitions and Trade Terms**

- 3.1 Definitions and Trade Terms see P9.

## **4. Reference Documents and Standards**

- 4.1 Reference Documents and Standards see P9.

## **5. Standard Specification**

- 5.1 Procedure

- 5.1.1 The contracting entity and the Painting Contractor shall select and designate sample sites to meet the criteria of this Standard.

- 5.1.1.1** The contracting entity and the Painting Contractor shall agree to a time schedule to prepare and approve Benchmark Samples. Samples shall be prepared only after permanent lighting, heating, venting and air conditioning equipment have been installed and activated.
- 5.1.1.2** The condition of the surface to be used as the sample area must be approved by the contracting entity prior to the preparation of the Benchmark Sample by the Painting Contractor.
- 5.1.1.3** After receiving approval from the contracting entity to proceed, the Painting Contractor shall prepare and apply the complete coating system as specified in the contract documents to produce the Benchmark Samples.
- 5.1.1.4** The Painting Contractor will produce a properly painted surface.
- 5.1.2** The recommended Benchmark Sample area should be approximately 100 square feet. Small areas, such as doors, handrails and trim, may have a more practical square footage arrangement, as agreed by the parties involved. The specific number, placement and size of samples will be clearly defined in the bid documents.

  - 5.1.2.1** The substrate type and application method used to produce the Benchmark Sample must be representative of the specified application method(s) for substrate.
  - 5.1.2.2** The Benchmark Sample shall leave exposed a sampling of the approved substrate, before and after any specified surface preparation for the system. In addition, there should be left a separate and individual sampling of each designated and subsequently applied coating and any intercoat surface preparation.
- 5.1.3** If the Benchmark Sample is impossible or impractical to achieve, then an alternate shall be agreed upon in writing by the contracting entity and Painting Contractor.
- 5.1.4** A separate Benchmark Sample area may be prepared for approval for each substrate and each coating system as required by the contract documents or as agreed by the contracting entity and the Painting Contractor. The specific number and placement of samples will be clearly defined in the bid documents, and ultimately in the contract documents.

- 5.1.5** Production work may proceed as soon as approval of the Benchmark Sample is received by the Painting Contractor from the contracting entity. Approval or rejection must be issued according to the time schedule agreed upon as outlined in section 5.1.1.1 above.
- 5.1.5.1** Approval of Benchmark Samples shall be granted by the contracting entity after the sample areas have been prepared and coated in accordance with the contract documents and this Standard.
- 5.1.5.2** Approval of the Benchmark Sample shall be documented in writing by the contracting entity and delivered to the Painting Contractor.
- 5.1.6** After final approval, the sample surface area shall be secured and clearly identified with signage reading: BENCHMARK SAMPLE! DO NOT PAINT, DEFACE, CHANGE OR ALTER IN ANY WAY WITHOUT MUTUAL CONSENT OF CONTRACTING ENTITY AND THE PAINTING CONTRACTOR.
- 5.1.7** Sample touch ups may be applied to the approved sample surfaces. The area of touch up shall be clearly identified, approved, and retained as part of the Benchmark Sample.
- 5.2** Benchmark Sample Procedure: The Painting Contractor shall prepare and paint a sample in accordance with the contract documents and as prescribed in this Standard.
- 5.2.1** The contracting entity or its designated representatives shall approve Benchmark Sample areas after confirming complete compliance with the contracting documents and/or in accordance with this Standard.

## **6. Comments**

- 6.1** This Standard outlines procedures for onsite determination and approval of achievable quality from specified paint and coating systems.
- 6.2** This Standard clarifies areas of authority and responsibilities. Improved communication reduces misunderstandings.
- 6.3** This Standard is a nationally recognized consensus document for the painting and coating industry's work practices.

## **7. Disclaimer of Liability**

- 7.1** PCA does not warrant or assume any legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy, completeness, or usefulness of any of the information contained herein.