

## NATSPEC COPYRIGHT

This Department along with all other State Public Works Authorities are shareholders in NATSPEC, the national building specification and use NATSPEC exclusively in the documentation of building works. NATSPEC is a not for profit company and is funded through a subscription service to which this Department contributes. NATSPEC copyright requires that anyone using NATSPEC material must be a subscriber and therefore consultants producing documentation for this Department are required to be NATSPEC subscribers.

Within our Department we have a modified version of NATSPEC Basic which is tailored to suit our regional and policy requirements and this is the basis for the production of all of our building specifications. Providing this to Consultants saves them considerable time in producing project specifications and also provides us with documents more suited to our needs.

The Department's Specification Services internet site allows access to these modified master specifications and is protected by a password to ensure that access is only gained by persons who have a subscription to NATSPEC. However, Project Officers, when producing the commercial sections of project specifications for consultants usually attach the draft NATSPEC material and provide the Consultant with the complete draft specification, ready for editing to suit the specific project.

In this case the Consultant is still required to be a NATSPEC subscriber, however, some Project Officers are not adhering to this requirement and therefore are placing the Department in breach of the copyright requirements. The copyright requirements are clearly defined on the Specification Services internet and intranet sites and also in the document "Guide to Specification Production" which should be provided to Consultants as part of their brief.

Consultants are only required to hold a subscription to NATSPEC Basic, which costs \$649 per year and this is essential if NATSPEC is to remain a viable company to continue providing this valuable service to the construction industry in Australia. Obviously the cost of the subscription would partly be reflected in the consultant's fees for our work. Note that our Department holds a full subscription to NATSPEC at a cost of \$8466 in this financial year.

In the past modified NATSPEC material has been offered on request, to Consultants provided that they subsequently take out a subscription, if they already do not hold one, however, they are not doing that and the Northern Territory subscription rate has dropped substantially. This has been done to ensure that the project documentation work is not delayed. Consequently, it should be reinforced that consultants hold a NATSPEC subscription prior to being given any NATSPEC material.

Project Managers and Project Officers in the infrastructure area of the Construction Division should become aware of these requirements and brief Consultants on their obligations accordingly.

Please contact me if you require any further details.

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14 February 2006

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