

FACT SHEET

SHEEN STAINING OF PLASTERBOARD - THE IMPORTANCE OF THREE COAT SYSTEMS

This statement refers to joints that have been set consistent with good practice.

Incidences of what is commonly known as sheen staining or gloss banding have been investigated by an APMF Technical Reference Group, in conjunction with experts representing the plasterboard manufacturers.

After reviewing laboratory test results, scientific analyses and information gathered from the field, the Working Group has established that sheen staining is a multi-variable phenomenon involving jointing compound composition, paint characteristics and the manner and conditions in which both materials are applied.

Factors which promote sheen staining include: full drying between coats of jointing cement; use of low viscosity joint cement; and, low viscosity paint. Products that perform satisfactorily in by far the majority of all applications can still be susceptible to sheen staining when subjected to a combination of the variables.

The Working Group has, therefore, reached the conclusion that to minimise or eliminate the occurrence of sheen staining, a three coat paint system must be specified, as defined in Australian Standard AS 2311: The Painting of Buildings.

The first coat would need to be a sealer of specific composition to substantially reduce migration of material into or out of the substrate. Ideally, this sealer would be water-borne to avoid: a) fibre raising of the paper facing; b) VOC odour concerns; and c) delays in re-coating.

Where there is any doubt as to the correct sealer to be used, advice should be sought from the coating supplier.

Since the new housing market often utilises paint systems which do not meet these requirements, no guarantee can be provided against the occurrence of sheen staining. The Working Group believes that only the specifier or builder can assess whether the low incidence of sheen staining justifies the use of the formally **recommended three coat system on all work.**

If the three coat system above is not selected, the plasterboard and paint manufacturers' cannot rule out the possible occurrence of sheen staining, albeit low, and, therefore, cannot be held responsible for rectification costs.

The Working group believes that all paint manufacturers should be technically in a position to recommend effective, minimal cost, rectification painting procedures, should sheen staining be experienced when the builder/specifier has selected a two coat system.