

Specifications - Definitions & Usages

1. DEFINITION

- a. A DE Specification is a document which specifies the MOD preferred solution for a works matter. Specifications can relate to procedures, methods of work, materials, or other elements of works projects or maintenance.

2. APPLICATION

- b. DWS specifications are designed to advise both MOD staff and contractors of standards required in the execution of MOD works. As such they provide Property Managers and Sponsors with reference material against which to assess work of consultants and contractors. They also provide guidance for those same consultants and contractors on the MOD's requirements.
- c. DWS Specifications will be quoted in contract documentation when considered appropriate. In almost all cases they will not be prescribed but will indicate a preference. They will not in any way exonerate a consultant or contractor from any obligations or responsibilities under his contract but they will set a minimum standard which he must achieve. They will also serve to provide guidance where the requirements of the MOD vary from common commercial practice.
- d. While such consultants or contractors will normally be at liberty to offer alternatives to DWS Specifications, providing Health & Safety obligations are not compromised they should be required to demonstrate that their solutions will achieve the same standards before their proposals are accepted.

3. INITIATION AND DEVELOPMENT

- a. DWS Specifications will be produced to fill gaps in existing commercial or other applicable documentation to cover MOD works. Where a functional authority exists for a subject area, such as D Def H&S or the ESTC, that functional authority will usually be invited to be the patron for the document. Where no functional authority exists, a relevant TLB will be invited to provide patronage.
- b. Patrons will always be included in identifying the need for such specifications, and in the development process, so as to ensure that no nugatory work is undertaken, and that the customers' priorities are observed.
- c. For specialist works, such as airfield pavements or bulk POL facilities, main users may also be included in the development process to obtain maximum user input/feedback.

4. SCOPE

- a. The scope of DWS Specifications will vary from case to case. The extremes will be: on the one hand, a selected bibliography of preferred commercially available documentation which meets the MOD's requirements, on the other hand, detailed documents setting out the full MOD Specification required.
- b. Documents may be produced anywhere within this range which add clauses or details to existing documentation.

5. CO-ORDINATION

DWS Specifications will primarily be co-ordinated with the document patron, but other major users may also be included in the co-ordination process.

6. APPROVAL

As Technical Authority for works matters, DWS will approve the Specifications, but the prior agreement of any relevant Functional Authority will always be obtained before this approval is given.