

uPVC Profiles Accreditation

Guide to Applicants for use of the uPVC Profiles Trade Mark

The Vinyl Council of Australia has established an application process, Registry and Trade Mark that manufacturers and suppliers who qualify can use to indicate their products' compliance with the uPVC Window Profiles Industry Code of Practice.



uPVC Profiles for Windows & Doors



An Industry Code of Practice (ICP) has been developed by the Vinyl Council of Australia, its members and key stakeholders to offer an accreditation pathway for suppliers of uPVC profiles to Australia's market to demonstrate they meet stringent weathering resistance requirements. uPVC profiles are widely used around the world—they are, in fact, the most commonly used type of profile for windows accounting for 55% of the global window market. However, Australia has high UV weather conditions which require more particular polymer formulations to resist the UV and prevent early discolouring.

The ICP offers a single generic code for extruded uPVC profiles to be used in windows and doors in Australian buildings, providing customers and consumers greater confidence in the durability of uPVC profiles in Australian climatic conditions.

To demonstrate compliance with the ICP, the product(s) must be independently verified by third party testing laboratories and auditors.

The ICP document provides the means by which profile suppliers may establish compliance of uPVC products.



Information for Applicants

Registration of Product(s)

1. The Registrant must become a Licensee registered with the VCA for the purposes of the uPVC Profiles Accreditation Licence and the use of the Trade Mark.
2. A Licensee must apply for registration of its legal entity with the VCA using the Licence Registration Form supplied. Applications made to the VCA must use the forms provided and must be signed by an officer of the organisation making the registration application.
3. An annual Licensee Registration Fee shall apply to cover administration costs.
4. Evidence of compliance to the Industry Code of Practice for uPVC Profiles for Windows & Doors must be provided for each unique Product range, where the "Product range" is defined as a set of products with the same composition of the compliant component, produced from the same manufacturing facility. Evidence consists of a true copy of the third party verification certificate(s) of compliance issued in accordance with the Industry Code of Practice.
5. When a product registration is accepted by the VCA a Product Registration Number will be issued along with the Accreditation Licence Mark.
6. Product Registration Fees may apply as dictated by the Board of Directors of the VCA, to cover the costs incurred in administration, marketing and other elements of maintenance of the Trade Mark.
7. A Licensee must be a registered legal organisation and comply with relevant Australian / New Zealand regulations.
8. Licensee registrations are not transferable to another organisation. Product registrations are not transferable.
9. The period of validity of registration corresponds to the term of the Licence period, as specified in the ICP. The maximum term of the licence agreement is two years from the date of issue. The maximum period of validity of Interim Accreditation certificates shall be thirty (30) months.
10. At the termination of the two year Licence Period, the Licensee may apply to renew the Licence for the same Product Range upon written confirmation from an authorised signatory of the Company that the Product Range is unchanged.
11. The Licensee can withdraw a Product registration at any time with written notice of such withdrawal to the VCA.
12. There is no process of review of the Licensee declarations by the VCA other than confirmation of the completeness

of the compliance evidence and validations provided. The VCA claims no expertise in relation to the compliance of products to meet the ICP criteria, the liability for which is taken up by those who test and verify the product declarations.

13. The details of the product registered and the Licensee will be recorded in the uPVC Profile Register on the VCA web site maintained by the VCA.
14. VCA reserves the right to terminate the use of a Trade Mark by a Licensee and registration of the licensed Product.

Use of the Trade Mark

The uPVC Profiles Trade Mark, once issued, can be displayed on the product, in promotional materials and on samples of the product without alteration, in accordance with the Trade Mark Style Guide issued by the VCA.

The Trade Mark may not be altered, distorted, or over-printed. The colours of the Trade Mark cannot be altered but the Mark may be used in black only or white only.

The Trade Mark can be accompanied by an explanation of the criteria met under the ICP compliance system.

The Licensee must not use the Trade Mark in connection with products that cease to meet the ICP criteria.

Recognising ICP Compliant Product

The VCA will maintain an on-line register of Licensed uPVC profiles at www.vinyl.org.au.



Licensed products will be recorded together with company contact details.

Home-owners, window fabricators, specifiers, architects, designers and builders will be able to readily identify durable, quality uPVC windows that will withstand Australia's high UV conditions by accessing the Register.

The uPVC Profiles Accreditation Trade Mark will assist this process by giving clear and credible recognition to those uPVC profiles that have been independently assessed and found compliant with stringent weathering resistance guidelines.

The on-line Register is a readily available directory of compliant product.

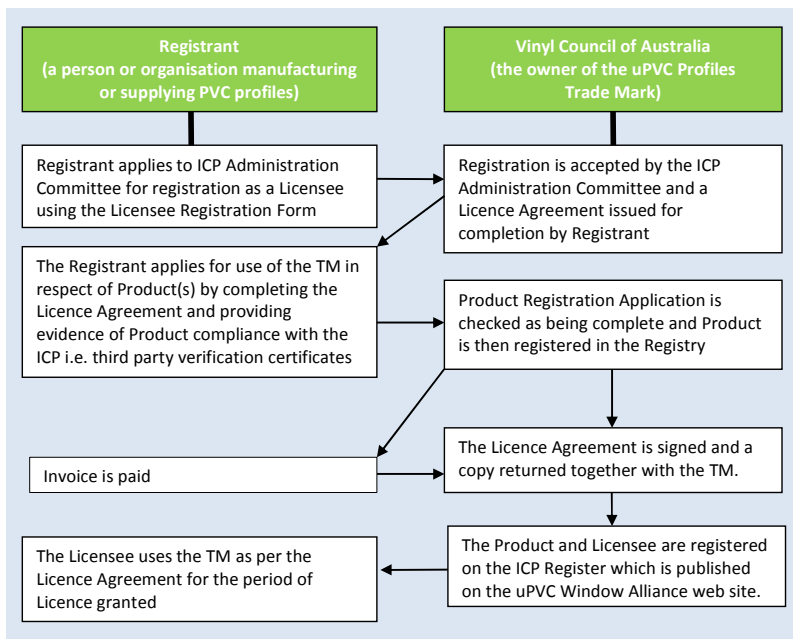
Product manufacturers and suppliers are encouraged to promote their uPVC profiles and windows using the Trade Mark.



Governance of the Accreditation Program

1. Applications for registration of products will be granted or rejected within 3 weeks of receipt of the application in full by the ICP Administration Committee.
2. The Administration Committee retains the right to refuse an application or to terminate a registration on the following grounds:
 - inadequate or incomplete registration declarations
 - unverified declaration detail
 - false or misleading information supplied by the Licensee
 - Licensee registration lapse, or applicant unregistered
 - the Administration Committee has a reasonable belief that the product(s) no longer complies with the ICP criteria.
3. Changes to the declarations made by the Licensee must be registered with the Administration Committee or the Vinyl Council of Australia (VCA) within two (2) weeks.
4. Changes to the conditions of the registration of the Trade Mark and its use will be recorded on the uPVC Window Alliance web site as pending for a minimum of sixty (60) days to allow stakeholder review and comment, before the registration changes are implemented.
5. Decisions to change the Trade Mark and its use may be made by the VCA Board of Directors in consultation with the Administration Committee.
6. Decisions made by the VCA Board regarding the Trade Mark will be recorded on the uPVC Window Alliance web site.
7. Complaints regarding decisions on and uses of the Trade Mark can be registered with the Administration Committee. These will be dealt with in an open forum in which all correspondence is available to all stakeholders.
8. Complaint resolution procedure shall involve:
 - appeal to the Administration Committee in writing by the Registrant
 - review of the complaint by the Administration Committee within 4 weeks of the date of receipt of the complaint,
 - the appointment of an independent arbitrator if necessary,
 - engagement of parties in dispute,
 - decision of the parties on the complaint posted on the uPVC Window Alliance web site.
9. An aggrieved party may further appeal to the Registrar of Trade Marks.
10. No endorsement of registered products by the VCA or related parties is implied through the uPVC Profiles Accreditation process, or use of the Trade Mark
11. The VCA and related parties shall not bear any liability for loss or damage resulting from the use of the Trade Mark. The Licensee shall indemnify those parties from any such loss or damage.
12. The Licensee shall also indemnify the VCA for all losses of damage suffered by the VCA as a result of a breach of any provisions of the ICP Accreditation system as stated herein.

Licensee Application Process



Licence Mark Registration Fees

1 July 2015 - June 30 2016

Licence Registration Fee	The fee a company (Registrant) pays on application to be registered as a Licensee	A\$300 p.a.
Product Registration Fee	The fee paid by the Licensee for the use of the Trade Mark in respect of all compliant uPVC Profiles covered by a verification certificate	Non-Members: A\$2,500 VCA Member for < 2 years: Discount 50% VCA Member for > 2 years: Discount 100%
Product Registration Renewal Fee	The fee paid by the Licensee to renew its use of the Trade Mark in respect of all compliant uPVC Profiles covered by a verification certificate	VCA Members: A\$250 Non-Members: A\$500

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