

TOPAS

Traffic Open Products and Specifications

TOPAS 0600A *TOPAS Registration Process*

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1. INTRODUCTION

General

- 1.1. Prior to 2015 United Kingdom legislation existed requiring traffic control equipment, intended for use on public highways, to be approved by the Secretary of State. In practice the Highways' Agency effected approvals on behalf of the Secretary of State.
- 1.2. The purpose of the Statutory Approval was to ensure, as far as was practicably possible, that equipment was safe and fit for use before it was installed on the public highway.
- 1.3. From 2015 the statutory requirement for Approval was removed and equipment is only required by statute to meet limited safety and performance requirements set out in TSRGD.
- 1.4. To avoid the need for individual Authorities to write and maintain their own detailed performance specifications, TOPAS now maintains the key specifications for traffic signal equipment which are no longer maintained by the Highways Agency.
- 1.5. In addition TOPAS also maintains a register of all equipment which is recognised as meeting the relevant specification. Local and other Purchasing Authorities are able to reference this register and typically require that equipment purchased complies with TOPAS specifications and is TOPAS registered.

Scope

- 1.6. This document provides the detailed requirements and procedures for registration of products against TOPAS specifications. It replaces the earlier Highways Agency process defined in TRG 0600A.
- 1.7. Registration requires that manufacturers operate within a defined QA system and that individual registration applications are

accompanied by Certification of Verification, issued by a third party Notified Body.

- 1.8. Equipment that is registered with TOPAS is listed on the organisation's web site www.topasgroup.org.uk

Status of TOPAS specifications

- 1.9. TOPAS Technical Product Specifications are explicitly Purchasing Specifications and compliance with them is not mandatory.
- 1.10. Equipment Approvals issued under the previous Highways Agency Procedures defined in TRG 0600 may be transferred to TOPAS registration without the need for independent verification. (The simple process for this is described in section 3).
- 1.11. Under the Sale and Supply of Goods Act 1994, vendors must purvey goods that are as described, of merchantable quality and fit for purpose. TOPAS Registration does not guarantee compliance to the Act, but does seek to encourage best practice so that compliance is expected to be the norm.
- 1.12. Registered equipment is required to comply with all relevant European standards and directives and the associated UK class requirements as defined in TSRGD. Where there is no specific European standard, equipment will normally be required to comply with the relevant UK standards as defined in the individual TOPAS product specifications.

2. DEFINITIONS

- 2.1. TOPAS – Traffic Open Products and Specifications.
- 2.2. TSRGD – Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions: the statute which prescribes traffic signs and the minimum safety requirements for traffic control equipment.
- 2.3. Manufacturer – A body responsible for the manufacture or supply of a product for which TOPAS registration exists or is being sought.
- 2.4. Purchaser – Any body or individual who buys Traffic Control or monitoring equipment encompassed by the TOPAS procurement specifications.
- 2.5. Registration – the process described in this document which enables Manufacturers to have their products included in the list of products which have been accepted as meeting the relevant TOPAS specification which may be referenced by prospective Purchasers.
- 2.6. Notified Body. - A third-party body accredited by a European Union Member State to provide verification and certification services to ensure compliance with defined specifications.
- 2.7. Technical File – the file of documentation and results necessary for Registration which demonstrates that the product has been designed and tested to meet a relevant TOPAS procurement specification.
- 2.8. Accredited Test Facility Any facility that is formally certified to the EN45000 series of standards and commissioned to test and certify a product's optical, environmental or EMC performance.

3. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Scope

- 3.1. Products which are registered with TOPAS are required to have been designed and tested within a certified EN ISO 9001 Quality Management System or equivalent.
- 3.2. This section defines the requirements for product validation testing which must be demonstrated by the manufacturer seeking TOPAS registration.
- 3.3. A list of current TOPAS specifications can be found on the TOPAS website, www.topasgroup.org.uk
- 3.4. The registration procedure is explained in section 4.

Product Testing

Requirements

- 3.5. Product design and design proving is expected to be undertaken in a formal environment, where product tests are properly specified and test records are maintained.
- 3.6. The manufacturer will maintain a Technical File recording evidence of all relevant product testing results and is responsible for maintaining the Technical File.
- 3.7. The individual TOPAS Technical Product Specifications provide minimum content requirements for Technical Files for each product.
- 3.8. Where required by a TOPAS Technical Product Specification, all detailed Environmental, EMC and optical test results shall be included in the Technical File.
- 3.9. Other internal test schedules and results may (depending on the requirements of the individual TOPAS Technical Requirement Specifications) be simply referenced by document part number and formal issue status.

(Detailed test results may be requested by TOPAS as part of the registration process set out in section 4 of this document).

- 3.10. The tests, which are the responsibility of the manufacturer, shall always address at least:
 - i) Functional performance affecting the safe operation of the product when installed on the highway;
 - ii) Key operational and functional performance requirements that do not relate to public safety;
 - iii) Failure modes operation of the product and where applicable its controlled shut down and recovery.
 - iv) The product's suitability for the environment in which it is intended to operate, where these are not covered by formal Environmental or EMC testing regimes.

Environmental, EMC and optical testing

- 3.11. Where required by the individual TOPAS Technical Product specification the product shall be independently tested by an Accredited Test Facility. Test reports and certificates issued by the facility will form part of the Technical File submitted to the notified body as part of the TOPAS registration procedure defined in section 3.
- 3.12. Any facility that is commissioned to test and certify optical, environmental or EMC performance must be formally certified to the EN 45000 series of standards.
- 3.13. Worldwide certification will be accepted provided the certification body is mutually recognised by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS). Within Europe this is achieved via the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the European Accreditation Committee (EAC) under the auspices of the European Organisation for Testing and Certification (EOTC) Self-Certification Procedure.

Registration Procedure

Introduction

- 3.14. TOPAS registration aims to give purchasers of traffic control and monitoring equipment confidence that the equipment they purchase has been designed and tested within an appropriate quality system and meets the requirements of the relevant TOPAS specification.
- 3.15. The process relies on the manufacturer self certifying that the appropriate TOPAS specifications have been complied with, but also involves an independent review of the Product Technical File to increase confidence that the equipment complies with specification requirements. (This is a more rigorous process than the HA self-certification process which TOPAS registration replaces).
- 3.16. The detailed content requirement for the Technical File will depend on the type of product being registered and is defined in the TOPAS Product Technical Specification for the product.

Outline Process

- 3.17. The manufacturer will undertake product design and testing using a properly documented engineering process.
- 3.18. At the completion of the design and testing process the manufacturer will submit a completed Product Technical File to an appropriate Notified Body who will verify that the content of the Technical File meets the requirements of the TOPAS Technical Product Specification against which the product is to be Registered.
- 3.19. The Notified Body will issue a Certificate of Compliance to the manufacturer.
- 3.20. The manufacturer submits the Certificate of Compliance along with the registration fee to TOPAS. (An example submission letter is shown in Appendix A).
- 3.21. TOPAS will review the Certificate of Compliance and if all is in order will add the product to the TOPAS Register and notify the manufacturer.

Product Technical Options

- 3.22. Certain TOPAS Technical Product Specifications define optional requirements or performance features that the Manufacturer may wish to include in a product. The Technical File and request for registration shall define unequivocally if the product includes or excludes defined options, by reference to their specification section or appendix.

Notification of Registration

- 3.23. On successful completion of the registration process TOPAS will issue a Certificate of Registration which may be freely used by the manufacturer to demonstrate that the product is TOPAS registered.
- 3.24. A product will normally remain registered indefinitely until it is significantly changed or is declared obsolete by the manufacturer. (Obsolete products may continue to be used on-street but may no longer be supported by the manufacturer in terms of spares or other technical back-up).
- 3.25. A product will require to be re-registered if the legal entity of the Manufacturer changes. This may be achieved by simply providing TOPAS with evidence of the change of legal entity and listing all of the products affected by the changes. (There is no charge for this re-registration).
- 3.26. If a Manufacturer ceases trading and no other legal entity takes over responsibility for the product and a significant number are still in use the product will be declared obsolete in the TOPAS register.
- 3.27. If a Registration request is refused by TOPAS (due to ambiguity or interpretation of a TOPAS specification), a Manufacture may request that the Registration is reviewed by the TOPAS Management Group. The decision of the Management Group, to award or withhold Registration, will be final.

Modifications to Registered Products

- 3.28. TOPAS encourages innovation and product updates to enhance or correct issues with

registered products and such changes would not normally require re-registration. Examples of changes where re-registration is not required include:-

- i) Minor updates to hardware or firmware to correct defects or obsolescence.
- ii) Minor enhancements to hardware or firmware where compliance with the relevant TOPAS specification is not affected.
- iii) Addition of new product variants of a Registered Product, where compliance with the relevant TOPAS specification is maintained.

3.29. Where such changes are made manufacturers are advised to notify TOPAS in writing of any new part numbers or firmware revisions, so that the TOPAS product registration information is kept up to date.

3.30. Where changes are significant re-registration (or new registration) is necessary. Examples of changes where re-registration / new registration is required include:-

- i) Major update to hardware or firmware which effectively creates a new product, for example a type T001 product updated and now being sold as a T002 product.
- ii) Any changes to hardware or firmware where compliance with the relevant TOPAS specification is affected.
- iii) Any major changes which affect the failure modes operation of the product and where applicable its controlled shut down and recovery.

3.31. Where a Manufacturer is in doubt about the scope of a change the manufacturer should seek advice from TOPAS via its website www.topasgroup.org.uk.

Existing HA Approvals

3.32. Where a product already has HA approval it is not necessary to undertake further testing or independent verification for that product to be TOPAS registered.

3.33. To register existing HA-approved products a manufacturer must simply provide a list of the relevant products in a form defined in Appendix B along with a copy of the HA approval letter or certificate for that product. (There is no charge for the registration of existing HA approved products).

4. AUDITS

Prior to Registration

- 4.1. Should TOPAS consider it necessary to validate a registration application an audit, relating to the Design Authority's Quality Management System (QMS) and Technical File may be implemented.
- 4.2. If, as a result of an audit, the self certification that the product meets the relevant specifications is deemed to be fraudulent, unsubstantiated or the product is in breach of the specification then the registration request will be rejected. (The registration fee paid by the manufacturer will also be forfeit).

Post Registration

- 4.3. Should TOPAS receive a formal complaint, or if the performance of a registered product has been proved to be unsatisfactory, or any safety concerns are brought to the attention of TOPAS an audit may be undertaken to investigate the complaint.
- 4.4. If it is proved that the conformity, reliability or serviceability of the product fails to meet the TOPAS Technical Product Specification then the registration may be revoked. (See Section 5 Revocation of Registration.)

Audit

- 4.5. TOPAS shall have reasonable access to inspect the Quality Management System, Technical File, product production facilities and may require further product testing or previously documented tests to be repeated and witnessed by a nominated TOPAS representative.
- 4.6. Tests may be carried out at the Design Authority's premises using products taken at random from a production batch or removed from an installed site.

5. REVOCATION OF REGISTRATION

- 5.1. If TOPAS considers that a manufacturer has failed to resolve the issues raised during an audit, or that implementation of an agreed remedial action is inadequate, it may initiate action to revoke the registration.
- 5.2. The revocation procedures culminate in the withdrawal of registration. As TOPAS registration is not mandatory revocation does not mean that products must be withdrawn from service. Such a withdrawal is a matter which may however be pursued by the Purchasing Organisation.
- 5.3. TOPAS will publish such registration withdrawal on its website and remove the product from the list of registered products.
- 5.4. Once registration has been revoked, any subsequent modification and application for re-registration of that product shall be submitted as for a new product.

TOPAS Application for Registration of Product

(Please complete this document and return to enquiries@topasgroup.org.uk)

Full Company Name:

Company Registered Office:

Company Trading Address:.....

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Company Product Name:

Company Product Reference Code:

TOPAS Specification:

Applicable appendices:

PLEASE ATTACH A COPY OF THE NOTIFIED BODY COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATE

I/we understand that Traffic Open Products And Specifications Limited is entitled to rely on the Manufacturer's expertise and I/we indemnify Traffic Open Products And Specifications Limited for any losses or liability that may occur in the event that The Product fails to meet any requirement defined in the applicable Specification or TOPAS 0600A.

Applicant Signature..... Date

Applicant Name: (PLEASE PRINT).....

Applicant Job Title (PLEASE PRINT).....

Telephone Number: Email.....

TOPAS Application for Registration of existing Highways Agency Type Approved products

(Please complete this document and return to enquiries@topasgroup.org.uk)

Full Company Name:

Company Registered Office:

Company Trading Address:.....

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Company Product Name	Company Product Reference Code or Part Number	HA Spec approved under	Date of HA approval	HA Reference Number	Originating Design Authority (if different)

(Use continuation sheet if insufficient space to list all products above)

PLEASE ATTACH A COPY OF YOUR APPROVAL LETTER FROM THE HA & DECLARATION OF CONFORMITY FOR EACH PRODUCT LISTED

I/we understand that Traffic Open Products And Specifications Limited is entitled to rely on the Manufacturer's expertise and I/we indemnify Traffic Open Products And Specifications Limited for any losses or liability that may occur in the event that The Product fails to meet any requirement defined in the applicable Specification or TOPAS 0600A.

Applicant Signature..... Date

Applicant Name: (PLEASE PRINT).....

Applicant Job Title (PLEASE PRINT).....

Telephone Number: Email.....

