

IMI/THATCHAM BODYSHOP ACCREDITATION PAINT TECHNICIAN ASSESSMENT GUIDELINES

1. INTRODUCTION

IMI/Thatcham Bodyshop Accreditation is governed by the IMI and Thatcham in line with ATA requirements.

Under this scheme, any technician will be able to gain accredited status (at different levels) by successfully completing a series of theory and practical assessments.

Successful technicians will be issued with a photo ID card, valid for five years, and entered onto the ATA Register of Accredited Bodyshop Technicians.

2. OPERATING IMI/THATCHAM BODYSHOP ACCREDITATION

Prior to assessment, the approved centre must ensure that the paint technician:

- has been registered to take the assessments
- is eligible to take the assessments (see section 3 below)
- has signed the ATA Code of Conduct which is printed on the application form.

On the assessment day the centre must take a digital photograph of the technician in line with ATA requirements.

Following successful assessments, the centre must submit the technician's photograph and claim their ID card on line. The centre must also submit the technicians' application forms (including signed ATA Code of Conduct) and a summary of the results.

Note: All ATA assessors and verifiers must be approved in advance of carrying out assessments/verification and issued with their unique PIN.

Full details of all administrative requirements are contained in the ATA Operating Manual – Bodyshop Handbook available on the ATA website: (www.automotivetechician.org.uk).

3. LEVELS OF PAINT TECHNICIAN ACCREDITATION

Paint technicians may become accredited at the following levels:

- paint technician
- senior paint technician

A requirement of ATA is the prerequisites for each grade of technician. To be eligible to take the assessment, a paint technician must:

- have a minimum level of industry experience in an appropriate role as follows:
 - for paint technicians 2 years
 - for senior paint technicians 5 years
- or**
- hold a relevant NQF qualification at the same level and have a minimum of two years post qualification experience in an appropriate role.

4. ASSESSMENTS

To attain each level of accreditation, technicians will have to pass practical assessments and an on-line knowledge test. The practical assessments, comprising technician's instructions, work station requirements, marking schedules and associated paperwork can be found in the secure area on the ATA website. These are accessible to approved centres only.

To ensure currency of assessments, no more than six months may elapse between the first successful assessment and the last successful assessment. Technicians who are referred on one or two practical assessments may re-take these assessments within the six-month period. Technicians who are referred on more than two practical assessments will have to retake **all** the assessments again.

4.1 Practical Assessments

To become an accredited **paint technician**, candidates must pass **five practical assessments**:

PAIT01-01	New Panel Surface Preparation Process
PAIT02-01	Preparation, Priming and Flatting Procedures
PAIT03-01	Sealing Techniques
PAIT04-01	Colour Identification and Mixing Process
PAIT05-01	Preparation and Application of Wet on Wet Paint Processes and Masking Techniques

To become an accredited **senior paint technician**, candidates must pass **five practical assessments**:

PAIS01-01	Carry Out a Cosmetic Repair on a Plastic Component
PAIS02-01	Carry Out Plastic and Textured Paint Application
PAIS03-01	Application of Clear over Base (COB) Metallic
PAIS04-01	Carry Out Local Repair (Blend/Fade Out)
PAIS05-01	Rectify a Paint Run

Each of these assessments is given a maximum time allowance according to the complexity of the assessment.

All workstation requirements and assessment material can be downloaded from the 'centres' area of the ATA website. Workstation documentation and candidate's assessment results sheets are also available from this area.

4.2 Knowledge Assessments

To allow flexibility the on-line knowledge test can be taken before, during or after the assessment day. The test remains valid for 6 months from completion. If all other assessments have not been completed within 6 months, centres will need to contact the IMI to reset the test and the candidate will need to complete the test again.

The on-line test will be multiple choice and consist of 30 randomised questions. The time limit for the test will be 45 minutes.

The **paint technician on-line test** will be aligned to national occupational standards and measure knowledge in the following areas:

- legislation, health and safety relating to refinishing
- identification of substrates
- preparation techniques
- mixing and application of foundation coats
- identification of basic paint faults
- spray equipment adjustment and maintenance
- application of basic topcoats

The paint technician on-line test number is IMIA/PAI/2

The **senior paint technician on-line test** will be aligned to national occupational standards and measure knowledge in the following areas:

- legislation, health and safety relating to refinishing
- complete preparation prior to top coat application
- colour mixing and matching techniques
- application of metallic and mica top coats
- identification, rectification and prevention of paint faults

The senior paint technician on-line test number is IMIA/PAI/3

To gain a pass in the on-line knowledge tests, candidates will be required to achieve a mark of 60% or above. Tests are marked instantly and feedback is available on the day. If the candidate is unsuccessful, opportunity to gain feedback on weak areas is also available.