

Rural Roads Specification Package

AUS-SPEC, a joint venture between IPWEA and NATSPEC, released the Rural Roads Specification Package, in response to challenges faced by regional, rural and remote councils. The national local government specification system, AUS-SPEC has been used by local councils since 1997. This package is part of an ongoing investment by AUS-SPEC to support rural councils manage their large network of road assets.

The AUS-SPEC Rural Roads Package will equip councils to implement improved practices across the asset lifecycle. The package covers documentation for planning, design, tendering, contract preliminaries, construction, maintenance and operation of regional and rural roads. Several new specifications and reference documents included in the package will assist rural Councils to effectively manage their sealed and unsealed road network.

- // National specifications updated annually**
- // Quick and easy compilation with SPECbuilder**
- // Follows the National classification system**
- // Better practices for design, construction, maintenance and operations of local rural roads**

Local councils manage approximately 80% of Australia's total road network, comprising a mix of sealed and unsealed roads. Roads in regional and rural areas provide a vital link between local communities and the major road networks. The design, construction and maintenance of these roads are generally implemented using traditional materials and practices, without sufficient scientific methodology. To improve service delivery and meet local community needs, rural councils need better ways to design, construct and proactively maintain their road assets.



Unsealed road



Sealed road

Enhanced technical skills are required to understand that sealed and unsealed local roads are dynamic systems with traffic, environment, road profile and material characteristics influencing their performance. Material blending can be used to reduce defects on the weather exposed unsealed wearing courses. Material and techniques for the placement of material are the only elements that can be controlled and improved.

AUS-SPEC has identified ways Councils can extend the life of constructed assets. These life extension methods are documented in the AUS-SPEC worksections and other new additional reference documents including *TECHguides*, *TECHnotes*, *TECHreports*, *Design reference and checklists*, *Construction reference and schedules*.

AUS-SPEC national documents have been specifically tailored towards local government. Rural and remote councils will benefit from the AUS-SPEC Rural Roads Package by:

- ✓ Easily documenting the design, construction and maintenance of road network using SPECbuilder, the outlined specification compiler.
- ✓ Assist councils in bridging the gap where there is a lack of in-house engineering capability to efficiently deliver road assets.
- ✓ Significantly improving the structural integrity, safety and performance of sealed and unsealed roads.

Full details of the list of worksections included and their abstracts are available on www.aus-spec.com.au

Rural Roads Package

What is AUS-SPEC?

AUS-SPEC is the national specification system for the design, construction, maintenance and operation of local government assets. It is the only comprehensive Australian national specification system for local government assets that is regularly updated to reflect the latest changes in regulations and standards.

As a joint venture between NATSPEC and IPWEA, AUS-SPEC promotes standardisation and consistency in documentation across Local Government infrastructure works to increase competition, productivity and efficient use of resources.

The AUS-SPEC system provides tools, technical specification templates, a framework and processes to document requirements for various asset life cycle activities for buildings, roadworks, urban and open spaces and public utilities.

Why a national specification?

As a national system, AUS-SPEC promotes national uniformity and good practice in specifications for local governments, whilst allowing for inclusion of local requirements.

About NATSPEC

NATSPEC is a national not-for-profit organisation that aims to improve the construction quality and productivity of the sustainable built environment through leadership of information. It is impartial and not involved in advocacy and policy.

IPWEA is recognised for its best-practice, industry-leading publications and training programs, with a solutions-focused approach that is highly valued by local Councils, Government agencies, and the private sector.

AUS SPEC was developed in partnership with IPWEA Australasia, AUS-SPEC delivers nationally consistent civil specifications that help Councils reduce duplication, lower costs, and improve efficiency.

The AUS-SPEC library provides comprehensive templates for the design, construction, and maintenance of civil infrastructure. In an environment of increasing pressure on resources, these tools support streamlined asset lifecycle planning and maintenance—while keeping community safety and risk management at the forefront.



David Jenkins
CEO, IPWEA Australasia



“We definitely refer to AUS-SPEC specifications heavily throughout the design phase and use them to help formulate a practical design that is going to be workable, efficient and effective.”

*Mark Johnston, Manager Infrastructure Strategy and Design,
Dubbo Regional Council*

“We set a high benchmark for the civil works, and the AUS-SPEC documents provided very clear details so there was no ambiguity and they knew exactly what was expected from them.”

Stuart Small, Team Leader Project Delivery, Midcoast Council



AUS-SPEC Rural Roads Package

Annual

Rural roads

\$1380 + \$138 GST

Ongoing payment system

Annually on receipt of an invoice
(Please include first payment)

Quarterly by direct debit only
(Please complete authority below)

On receipt of an invoice
(with a Council Purchase Order)

Cheque enclosed

Credit card

Annual \$ _____

GST \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Credit card payment (refer to Direct Debit Arrangements on Subscription Page 2 of 2)

Please debit according to the above schedule \$ _____ CW _____ Mastercard Visa

Card number _____ Expiry ____ / ____

Cardholder's name _____ Signature _____

Bank account debit (refer to Direct Debit Arrangements on Subscription Page 2 of 2)

I/We request Construction Information Systems Limited [ID 184871] to arrange for funds to be debited from my/our nominated account at the financial institution shown below according to the schedule above.

Name and branch of financial institution _____

BSB No. _____ Account No _____ Commencing Immediately

Agreement

I/We have read and agree to be bound by the Subscription Conditions on page 2. It is understood that NATSPEC may need further information before opening a subscription account. If NATSPEC accepts this application it is understood that:

- > Subscriptions run for a minimum of two years.
- > Subscription rates increase each June by the national CPI rounded down to the nearest 10 dollars.
- > A subscription is required for each Council or each office using AUS-SPEC.
- > Ownership of the material remains with NATSPEC.
- > Subscribers may NOT distribute editable versions of AUS-SPEC to non-subscribers.

Authorised signature(s) for this agreement _____ Date _____

Name(s) of person(s) signing _____ Date _____

Contact details

Organisation _____ ABN _____

Contact name _____ Telephone _____

Job title _____ Fax _____

Email _____ Website _____

Street address _____ Address level _____

Suburb _____ State _____ Postcode _____ Mobile _____

PO Box _____ Suburb _____ State _____ Postcode _____

Send to NATSPEC

PO Box 1527

QVB NSW 1230

Australia

PHONE 1300 797 142

FAX 1300 797 143

EMAIL mail@natspec.com.au

Subscription Conditions

Terms of subscription

AUS-SPEC subscriptions run for a minimum of two years. After the first year of subscription a renewal invoice will be issued for the part calendar year to bring the subscription to the common renewal date of 1 July.

Termination

After the initial period, a subscription to an AUS-SPEC package will continue until either party cancels it in writing. Payment will be required to the end of the fiscal year. Once the subscription is terminated all copies of our material must be destroyed and no new specifications may be developed using all or part of AUS-SPEC or NATSPEC material.

Licence

AUS-SPEC subscribers are licensed to reproduce the subscription package material during the subscription period. At all times, ownership of all information and material supplied by NATSPEC remains with NATSPEC. This licence extends to the single office or Council nominated as the organisation in the Subscription Order and payment authorisation. This licence only extends to the production of specifications by a single office or Council for projects on which that office is engaged to produce the specification and either the drawings or the bill of quantities. NATSPEC material may not be used to provide a commercial specification preparation service, or for any other purpose, without approval in writing from NATSPEC.

As part of the licence agreement, Councils may distribute, in non-editable formats, amended relevant worksections to consultants or contractors involved in a particular project, who do works for Council or do works that Council later accepts (e.g. residential subdivision).

NATSPEC requests that any PDF versions of project specifications uploaded to a Council's website are placed in a secure location and require registration before downloading or viewing.

Consultants or contractors engaged to produce and be responsible for a specification based on AUS-SPEC also require a relevant NATSPEC subscription. State, territory and federal government bodies can check that consultants are subscribers by viewing the subscriber list on www.aus-spec.com.au or www.natspec.com.au.

If an organisation has more than one office, each office using NATSPEC material must have a subscription.

NATSPEC material may not be placed on an organisation's national server unless all Australian offices listed on the organisation's website are subscribers to AUS-SPEC and/or NATSPEC.

Subscription rates

Subscriptions may be increased annually each June by the national CPI rounded down to the nearest 10 dollars.

Changes to fees and conditions

We will give you at least 14 days' notice in writing when changes to the initial terms of the arrangement are made. This notice will state any changes to the initial terms. If you wish to discuss any changes to the initial terms, please contact NATSPEC.

NATSPEC

Level 4

263 Clarence Street

SYDNEY NSW 2000

Australia

Direct Debit Arrangements

Note: Direct debits are only required when entering into a quarterly subscription payment arrangement.

Our commitment to you

This document outlines the Direct Debit Request (DDR) arrangements made between Construction Information Systems Limited (NATSPEC) (DDR ID #184871) and yourself.

Initial terms of the arrangement

Under the terms of the Direct Debit arrangements authorised by you, we undertake to periodically debit your nominated account for the agreed amount for AUS-SPEC subscriptions.

Drawing arrangements

The first drawing under this Direct Debit arrangement will occur immediately. If any drawing falls due on a non-business day, it will be debited to your account on the next business day following the scheduled drawing date.

Changes to the arrangement

If you want to make changes to the drawing arrangements, please contact NATSPEC. However, please note that you have agreed to make payments for your AUS-SPEC subscription for a minimum two-year period from the date of the first quarterly payment.

Enquiries

Direct all enquiries to NATSPEC, rather than to your financial institution. Enquiries should be made at least 14 working days before the next scheduled drawing date. All communication addressed to us should include your Subscriber ID #.

All personal customer information held by us will be kept confidential except information provided to our financial institution to initiate the drawing from your nominated account.

Disputes

If you believe that a drawing has been initiated incorrectly, please contact us directly.

Your commitment to us

It is your responsibility to ensure that:

- Your nominated account can accept direct debits (your financial institution can confirm this); and
- On the drawing date there are enough cleared funds in the nominated account; and
- You advise us if the nominated account is transferred or closed.

If your drawing is returned or dishonoured by your financial institution we will contact you and then redraw after three working days. Any transaction fees payable by us in respect of the above will be added to your account.

PHONE 1300 797 142

FAX 1300 797 143

EMAIL mail@natspec.com.au

WEB www.natspec.com.au

WEB www.aus-spec.com.au

Construction Information Systems Limited
ABN 20 117 574 606

June 2026