

## PAINT TECHNICIAN ATA - GUIDELINES

### 1. Introduction

ATA is governed by the Institute of the Motor Industry (IMI) in line with ATA requirements.

Under this scheme, a Paint Technician will be able to gain accredited status by successfully completing a series of knowledge tests and practical assessments.

The successful Paint Technician will be issued with an ATA photo ID card, which is valid for five years, and entered onto the ATA Register (refer to ATA website).

Organisations wishing to offer ATA Paint assessments must be approved by a regulated awarding body which is recognised by the IMI.

### 2. ATA Paint Assessment Guidelines

Assessments must be undertaken off the job within an approved assessment centre. Each assessment must be assessed by occupationally competent and qualified assessors.

**Note:** *All ATA assessors and verifiers must be approved by the awarding body in advance of carrying out assessments/verification.*

To ensure currency of assessments, no more than twelve months may elapse between the first assessment and the last successful assessment (online test and/or practical assessments).

Prior to assessment, the approved centre must ensure that the candidate:

- has been registered to take the assessments
- is eligible to take the assessments (see prerequisites below)
- has signed the ATA Code of Conduct.

On the assessment day the centre must ensure the candidate has provided photographic proof of identity in the form of a driving licence or valid passport.

Candidates who are referred on one or two practical assessments may re-take these assessments within the twelve-month period. Candidates who are referred on more than two practical assessments will have to retake **all** the assessments again.

Candidates must successfully pass the underpinning knowledge test. Candidates may re-take the on-line knowledge test as many times as the centre considers appropriate. However, if they are not successful after three attempts and suitable refresher training, the centre should review whether they are being assessed at the most appropriate level.

### 3. Levels of Paint Technician Accreditation

Paint technicians may become accredited at the following levels:

- Paint Technician
- Senior Paint Technician

### 4. Pre-requisites for Candidates

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 3 years

**or**

- hold a relevant NQF qualification at the same level and have a minimum of one year post qualification experience in an appropriate role:
  - for Paint Technician Level 2
  - for Senior Paint technicians Level 3

### 5. Assessment Details

To attain ATA Paint accreditation, candidates will have to pass an on-line knowledge test and a number of required practical assessments, which is dependant on level (see section(s) below).

The on-line test will be multiple choice and consist of randomised questions from a bank.

The ATA Paint practical assessment documents comprise of the technician's instructions and other associated documents. These documents are accessible to approved centres only.

**Note:** *Throughout the practical assessments, candidates will be assessed against Health and Safety, any regulation requirements and use of Personal Protection Equipment.*

## Paint Technician Assessment

To become an accredited Paint Technician, candidates must pass 6 practical assessments and an on-line knowledge test.

- **Paint Technician- practical assessments:**

### Surface Preparation

- To demonstrate your skills in preparing a vehicle panel to receive primers and undercoats.
- Identify body panel substrate accurately prior to undertaking and preparation work (surface to be prepared to accept foundation coats).
- Select materials and equipment required to further the preparation process.
- Satisfactorily prepare the surface.
- Prepare panel to accept foundation paint.

### Preparation, Priming and Flattening Procedures

- To demonstrate your skills in preparing a repaired vehicle panel to receive primers and undercoats (foundation materials).
- Select and preparing foundation materials for the surface to be painted.
- Identify, select and adjust tools and equipment used in the priming and flattening procedure.
- To demonstrate your skills at applying, drying and preparing foundation materials
- To demonstrate your skills using masking techniques and materials to prevent any unwanted overspray.

### Sealing Techniques

- To demonstrate your skills in correctly removing original sealer
- To demonstrate your ability to identify, select and apply the appropriate sealer to re-instate to the original specification.
- To demonstrate your ability to prepare the area to accept new sealant.

### Colour Identification and Mixing Process

- To demonstrate your skills in identifying the original vehicle colour and shade.
- To demonstrate your ability to select the correct primers for the selected topcoats.
- To demonstrate your ability to mix the topcoat colour as recommended by the paint manufacturer.

### Application of Wet on Wet Paint

- To demonstrate your skills in ensuring the panel is ready to receive topcoats.
- To demonstrate your ability to apply wet on wet paint processes.
- To demonstrate your ability to select and adjust spray equipment to ensure a quality finish.
- To demonstrate your topcoat application skills can produce a finish that meets industry standard.
- To demonstrate your ability to select the correct drying techniques to ensure a timely and efficient repair.
- To demonstrate your skills at successfully using various masking techniques and materials.

### **Application of Clear Over Base (COB) Metallic Paint**

- Prepare the panel, equipment, materials and spray area used in the repair process.
- Mix the clear coat as recommended by the paint manufacturer
- Apply the basecoat and clear coat materials to achieve a fault free finish
- Dry the finish correctly without causing any paint faults
- To demonstrate your topcoat application skills and produce a finish that meets industry standards.

### • **Paint Technician – underpinning knowledge test:**

Paint Technician – 30 questions / 60 minutes

The theory test includes the following areas to ensure that the candidate has the underpinning knowledge of a Paint technician.

- 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 topcoats

### **Senior Paint Technician Assessment**

To become an accredited Senior Paint Technician, candidates must pass 4 practical assessments and an on-line knowledge test.

### • **Senior Paint Technician- practical assessments:**

#### **Cosmetic Repair on a Plastic Component and application of foundation materials**

- Carry out a cosmetic repair to a plastic panel.
- Prepare foundation materials.
- To demonstrate your skills in application of foundation materials to accept top coats.

#### **Application of Clear Over Base (COB) Metallic Paint – 3 Stage Pearlescent**

- Prepare a vehicle panel to accept topcoats.
- To demonstrate your ability to identify the correct colour and shade, adjusting as required.
- To demonstrate your ability to mix the basecoat, second coat colour and clear coat as recommended by the paint manufacturer.
- To demonstrate your topcoat application skills to produce a fault free finish.

#### **Rectify a Paint Run**

- To demonstrate your skills in identifying and successfully removing a paint run.

**Panel Preparation and Fade Out**

- To identify type of paint system required to reinstate repair.
- To demonstrate your skills in identifying the correct colour and mixing of the colour. Mix and prepare refinishing material to product specification.
- To demonstrate your skills in achieving a successful fade out of the clear coat into the existing finish.
- To demonstrate your ability to polish newly refinished panel to achieve a fault free finish.
- To demonstrate your skills in completing a local blended repair.

**• Senior Paint Technician – underpinning knowledge test:**

Senior Paint Technician – 30 questions / 60 minutes

The theory test includes the following areas to ensure that the candidate has the underpinning knowledge of a Senior Paint technician.

- 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