

## The Highway Authorities Product Approval Scheme (HAPAS)

The Highway Authorities Product Approval Scheme (HAPAS) was set up by the Highways Agency, CSS and the British Board of Agrément, with the objective of developing national approval arrangements for innovative products, materials and systems for use in highways and related areas, removing the need for individual authorities to carry out their own assessments and tests.

The scheme is supported by regulators in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, CSS and TAG (Local Government Technical Advisers Group).

HAPAS Specialist Groups draw up Guidelines, documents giving details of the tests, assessment criteria and quality assurance requirements which the BBA then uses in its evaluations.

The Specialist Groups are set up by the Highways Technical Advisory Committee (HiTAC), whose members are drawn from organisations with technical expertise in highways work.

The BBA's approval process for HAPAS involves laboratory and witness testing, site inspection and evaluation of the source of production of the material under assessment. Existing test or performance information will also be investigated.

Data generated from these key elements are assessed by the BBA's technical experts in the context of the requirements set out in the Guideline. The draft is then circulated to members of HiTAC for their comments and observations. Comments are considered by the BBA and the Certificate is formally issued. The BBA's interest in the product, however, does not end with the award of its Certificate. Surveillance visits are normally conducted twice yearly to ensure that the specification of the product is being maintained and, at the end of each five-year period, a formal Review process is undertaken.

The BBA's HAPAS Certificates are called up where appropriate in the Specification for Highway Works.

On request for approval of a product not covered by an existing Guideline, the BBA approaches HiTAC for a decision as to whether it should be the subject of a new Specialist Group or be allowed to proceed via the 'one-off' route. If it is decided that the 'one-off' route is the most appropriate, the BBA draws up an Assessment Specification in consultation with the manufacturer, HiTAC members or their nominees and other experts as necessary. The Assessment Specification can be viewed as a bespoke guideline for the approval of the product in question.

The completed Assessment Specification has to be submitted to HiTAC for ratification prior to the commencement of any approval and, as with all HAPAS Certificates, on completion of the work, the draft Certificate is circulated to HiTAC for approval prior to issue.

BBA HAPAS Certificates that have resulted from a 'one-off' approval have undergone an assessment that is no less rigorous than approvals for products that have been assessed against a Guideline. Therefore, it is possible for specifiers to use these products with the same degree of confidence as all HAPAS approved products, while allowing the BBA to react to requests for approval in a flexible and timely manner.

Product types that have successfully followed the 'one-off' approval route include manhole raising systems, footway/footpath surfacing materials, drainage systems and localised surface repair systems.



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**BBA** BRITISH BOARD OF AGREEMENT  
TECHNICAL APPROVALS FOR CONSTRUCTION

Designated by Government to issue European Technical Approvals

**HOTGRIP HIGH-FRICTION SURFACING SYSTEM**

This Certificate is issued under the Highway Authorities' Product Approval Scheme (HAPAS) by the BBA in conjunction with the Highways Agency (acting on behalf of the overseeing organisations of the Department for Transport; the Scottish Executive; the Welsh Assembly Government; the Department for Regional Development, Northern Ireland), the County Surveyors' Society, the Local Government Technical Advisers' Group, and industry bodies. HAPAS Agrément Certificates are normally each subject to a review every five years.

**Product**



**HAPAS Requirements**

**1 Requirements**

1.1 The Highways Technical Advisory Committee (HiTAC) and HAPAS Specialist Group 1 (High-Friction Surfacing) have agreed with the British Board of Agrément the aspects of performance to be used by the BBA in assessing the compliance of High-Friction surfacing systems with the Guidelines Document. In the opinion of the BBA, the Hotgrip High-Friction Surfacing System, when applied to suitable bituminous surfaces, in accordance with the provisions of this Certificate, will meet the relevant requirements and is deemed to be of Type 2.

1.2 Additional requirements of the overseeing organisations are given in the Manual of Contract Documents for Highway Works (MCHW), Volumes 1 and 2, Series 900.

Readers are advised to check the validity of this Certificate by either referring to the BBA's website ([www.bbacerts.co.uk](http://www.bbacerts.co.uk)) or contacting the BBA direct (Telephone Hotline 01923 665400).