



Painting and Decorating Contractors of America PDCA INDUSTRY STANDARDS

Introduction to the PDCA Standards Process

Of all of the functions performed by an association, there is perhaps none more important or more public-spirited than that of establishing industry standards. By undertaking to define what constitutes the proper – or more specifically, professional – way of doing things in an industry, and then communicating those standards to the general public, it removes the “veil of secrecy” that so often exists between an industry and the public. Thus, by making clear to consumers the terms and understandings by which an industry’s members communicate with the public and each other, the opportunities for confusion and disagreements are substantially diminished.

PDCA, earlier this year through its Standards Committee, embarked on just such a venture – to make the painting and decorating industry less opaque both to those who rely upon it to make their living, as well as to those who purchase its services. Each Standard is organized into seven sections: (1) scope; (2) significance and use; (3) reference documents and standards; (4) definitions; (5) standard specification; (6) comments; and (7) disclaimer of liability. The Standards discuss a range of issues that commonly become the subject of misunderstandings or, in extreme cases, contract disputes and provide guidance for both the contractor and the layman about how such differences can best be avoided.

To date, the Committee has completed work on ten Standards, with five more currently in progress. Comments or questions regarding the Standards or their interpretation should be addressed to the Chairman of the Committee at PDCA headquarters.

2004 Edition of the PDCA Standards

PDCA Standard P1-04 establishes criteria for determining a properly painted surface, defines touch up and repair, and determines which party to an agreement should bear the ***financial responsibility*** for such work.

PDCA Standard P2-04 establishes criteria for determining the qualifications and responsibilities of third parties charged with conducting ***inspections*** of coatings application work performed by painting and decorating contractors, as well as the procedures to be followed by inspectors in the performance of their duties. The establishment of "inspection hold points" by all parties to the agreement are an important part of this standard.

PDCA Standard P3-04 describes the impact on the ***costs*** associated with and ***time*** required to complete a project as the number and placement of paint colors and types of finishes grow. The standard is intended to provide guidance in those instances where the number and placement of paint colors and color ranges are either not specified in the bid documents or are unclear.

PDCA Standard P4-04 establishes criteria for determining which of the parties to an agreement has responsibility for inspecting and ***approving surfaces*** prior to their being painted or decorated.

PDCA Standard P5-04 establishes a procedure for the submission and approval of benchmark samples which will serve to determine achievable quality from specified preparation, paint and coating systems.

PDCA Standard P6-04 establishes criteria for determining the acceptance of completed wallcovering installations and defines the responsibilities of the parties to an agreement.

PDCA Standard P7-04 establishes criteria for the order of work performed by various parties on a construction project as it relates to the efficient and successful completion of painting and decorating work. The cost impact of variations from a prescribed schedule are discussed.

PDCA Standard P8-04 establishes the contracting entity's responsibility *maintenance* of painted and coated surfaces and prescribes procedures and financial responsibilities for inspecting and repainting previously painted surfaces that have since become aesthetically less pleasing in appearance.

PDCA Standard P9-04 defines *terms* commonly used to describe work to be performed by painting and decorating contractors in the routine and ordinary course of their duties. This standard clarifies the work scope and responsibilities of the painting and decorating contractor.

PDCA Standard 10-4 prescribes a methodology for measuring surfaces for *estimating* and *bidding* painting and decorating work.