

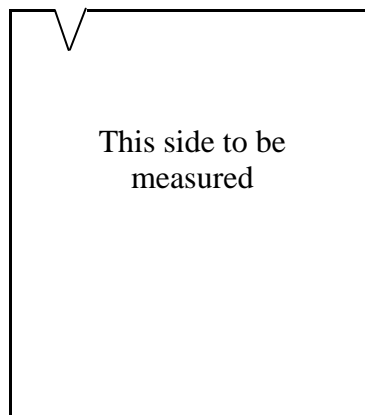


## IMPORTANT NOTICE AS-09 SWATCH BATCHES

09 January 2009

On 19 December 2008 a notice was placed on the energyrating website warning that a manufacturers testing laboratory had observed some variability of initial reflectance readings of a recently approved batch of AS-09 soil swatches. It was also noted that a recommended range for initial reflectance was now included with the publication of swatch normalisation curves (Swatch calibration calculator Version 37 – batches 040 onwards).

Subsequent investigations have revealed that there was in fact no particular issue with the initial reflectance readings for this batch. The error in measurement occurred because the test laboratory had been reading the wrong side of the swatch in some cases. Until recently most swatch orders included ink markings on the swatch by which the user could identify the correct side for measurement. However, recent problems with the ink used for marking has resulted in swatches being supplied without ink markings. Users should be aware that the current method (Jan 2009) for determining the correct side of the swatch for measurement is to align the “V” cut in the swatch to the top left corner when the swatch is in a portrait orientation (see illustration below). Any changes in this protocol will be advised by the material supplier.



Whilst the perceived problem with the batch was in fact not a real problem at all, it has been decided that we shall continue to publish a recommended range for initial reflectance values with each new normalisation curve. This recommended range represents the range observed in the sample unwashed swatches used in the calibration process  $\pm 0.3$ . This range is advisory only (noting that there is likely to be some variation between user instruments and

the spectrophotometer used to produced the recommended range), however the following procedure is recommended.

If a user finds only a limited number of swatches within a supply that lie outside the recommended range then these should simply be discarded. If a user finds a significant number of swatches that lie outside the recommended range then the following steps should be undertaken:

1. If the supply consists of several packets of swatches, check a number of packets to determine if the problem is confined to a single packet. If not then proceed to step 2.
2. Check the calibration of your spectrophotometer. If the results you obtain are consistently higher or lower than the recommended range then it is possible that a calibration issue exists. The reference spectrophotometer used for calibrating the swatch batches is calibrated at a NATA accredited laboratory. If the calibration is OK then proceed to step 3.
3. Send some samples of the problem swatches (including a list of your readings) to the swatch calibration laboratory for checking. This can be organised by contacting Energy Efficient Strategies on +61 3 5626 6333 or by emailing [rwfoster@energyefficient.com.au](mailto:rwfoster@energyefficient.com.au)