



INSTITUTE OF THE  
MOTOR INDUSTRY

IMI ACCREDITATION

# PAINT

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## What is IMI Accreditation?

IMI Accreditation is a practical, non-academic way to demonstrate individual capability, providing independent proof of current competence, knowledge and skills.

Focused on the Light Vehicle area of the automotive sector, IMI Accreditation encompasses everyone within this area, from individuals working directly on vehicles to those advising customers or managing a dealership. Three different types of accreditation reflect the diverse range of roles within the motor industry: Technical, Customer Facing and Management

Accreditation typically takes just one day to achieve (depending on the specific route), with individuals assessed against industry-agreed standards. Each accreditation route is designed using best practice techniques, and offers multiple career development options for a specific job role.

## Accreditation is available for the following routes:

- Technical
  - Air Conditioning
  - Autoglazing
  - Cosmetic Repair
  - Digital Audio Broadcasting
  - Electric Vehicle
  - Fast Fit
  - Light Vehicle Maintenance & Repair
  - Light Vehicle Inspection
  - Mechanical Electrical Trim
  - Motorcycle
  - Paint
  - Panel
  - Roadside
  - Vehicle Damage Assessor
- Customer Facing
  - Customer Service
  - Finance and Insurance
  - Parts
  - Sales
- Management
  - Management

Once an individual has passed all the required practical and knowledge-based modules in a specific route, they will receive a certificate of achievement which is valid for three years.



## IMI Accreditation benefits

IMI Accreditation was created to help the motor industry keep on top of constant, rapid changes in technology, legislation and working methods, by encouraging and measuring the current competence, knowledge and ability of those working within it. By providing proof of current competence, IMI Accreditation benefits both individuals and their employers.

Those gaining accreditation receive:

- An IMI Accredited certificate
- Inclusion on IMI Professional Register
- Industry-wide recognition of their skills and abilities
- Confidence
- Advice and guidance for development
- An opportunity for career progression

While the employer of an accredited individual benefits from:

- Confidence in the individual's ability
- Eligibility for British Standard/DVSA requirements (depending on routes)
- Increased customer visibility on the IMI Professional Register
- Higher work output and fewer mistakes
- Public confidence in abilities

## Industry Recognition through the IMI Professional Register

The IMI Professional Register is an industry-wide database of professionals in the motor industry. The Register is promoted to consumers as a place to find trustworthy professionals who have proven their skills and competence within specialist areas of the industry. IMI Accredited individuals are automatically included on the IMI Professional Register.

## Routes to Accreditation

There are two routes to gaining IMI Accredited status: Full Assessment, and Conversion\*. Full Assessment involves the completion of all practical and knowledge-based assessments at each level. Conversion enables an individual to use existing qualifications to gain exemption from specific modules.

IMI Accreditation continually evolves to meet the changing needs of the industry, with each accreditation valid for three years, after which time an individual is required to undertake a new assessment either at the same level, next career level or a different route in order to prove their current competence.

IMI Accreditations are delivered through the IMI approved centre network, and you can find your nearest centre or explore assessment routes at [www.theimi.org.uk/awarding](http://www.theimi.org.uk/awarding).

### Further Information

For further information on any of the accreditation routes, please visit <http://accreditation.theimi.org.uk/>  
Alternatively call 01992 511521 to contact IMI directly.



### Who is the Paint route for?

The Paint route is intended for technicians whose job role involves the repair of vehicles typically involved in accidents or similar incident circumstances.

There are two levels within Paint:

- **Technician**

The technician should be working in the accident repair sector of the industry and have at least two years' experience to ensure they are familiar with the skills, knowledge and techniques required for the preparation of panels (existing) and to give a fault free finish.

- **Senior Technician**

The technician should be working in the accident repair sector of the industry and have at least three years' experience to ensure they are familiar with the skills, knowledge and techniques required to give a fault free finish for both the preparation of panels (existing and new) and the finishing of panels to match existing vehicle paint.

### Paint Route Structure

Those wishing to achieve IMI accreditation will be required to use the following method:

- **Full Assessment**

For those wishing to retain their accreditation there are two options, these are:

- **Full Assessment**
- or
- **AOM Update**

**Note:** In order to re-accredit using 'AOM Updates' (Assessed Outcome Modules) the candidate's accreditation must remain valid throughout the assessments and until all of the prescribed AOMs have been passed. Should the accreditation expire beforehand, the candidate will be required to re-take a 'full assessment'.

**Paint – Technician**

**Full Assessment**

High Build Primer Preparation (45 min)	AOM 217
Seam Sealing (45 min)	AOM 218
Apply a Wet on Wet Primer (1 hour)	AOM 219
Masking Techniques (45 min)	AOM 220
Application of a Clear Over Base Finish (2 hours)	AOM 221
<b>Total: 5 hours 15 minutes</b>	

This will normally be a one-day assessment.

**Paint – Senior Technician**

**Full Assessment**

This level requires the candidate to complete the following modules:

Apply a Wet on Wet Primer (1 hour)	AOM 219
Spot / Rapid Repair on a Clear Over Base Finish (2.5 hours)	AOM 222
Application of a 3 Stage Pearlescent Finish (2.5 hours)	AOM 223
<b>Total: 6 hours</b>	

This will normally be a one-day assessment.



**Paint – Technician**

**AOM Update : Reaccreditation only**

This level requires the candidate to complete the following module:

Spot / Rapid Repair on a Clear Over Base Finish (2.5 hours)	AOM 222
<b>Total: 2.5 hours</b>	

This may either be achieved through a one-day assessment or may be spread over the duration of the individual's existing IMI accreditation.

**Paint – Senior Technician**

**AOM Update Reaccreditation only**

This level requires the candidate to complete the following module:

Application and Blending of a 3 Stage Pearlescent Finish (4 hours)	AOM 226
<b>Total: 4 hours</b>	

This may either be achieved through a one-day assessment or may be spread over the duration of the individual's existing IMI accreditation.



<b>Accreditation Module Title</b>	High Build Primer Preparation
<b>Module Code</b>	AOM - 217
<b>Practical Assessment Time</b>	45 min
<b>On-line Knowledge Test</b>	K-217
<b>IMI AOM Level</b>	2
<b>Module Overview</b>	
<p>This module will enable the candidate to demonstrate their competence in preparing high build primers to accept top coats.</p>	
<b>Candidate Profile</b>	
<p>The technician is expected to be working in the accident repair sector of the motor industry and must have at least two years' experience, this is to ensure they are familiar with the skills, knowledge and techniques which are required to successfully complete the module.</p>	
<b>Links with Accreditation Routes and Modules</b>	
<p>This module features in:</p>	
<b>IMI Accreditation Route</b>	<b>IMI Accreditation Level</b>
Paint	Technician
	Senior Technician

Knowledge Requirements	
The candidate must know and understand:	
1.1	The importance of selecting the appropriate tools and equipment to prepare high build primers.
1.2	The difference between a range of abrasives and their grades.
1.3	Why different sanding techniques are used for a variety of situations, for example on curved surfaces or restricted areas.

Skills Requirements	
The candidate must demonstrate the ability to:	
2.1	Set up and wear the appropriate personal protective equipment.
2.2	Consult relevant technical information and ensure that ADAS systems are not affected by the preparation process.
2.3	Identify the body panel material / substrate prior to applying the primer.
2.4	Select and check the materials, consumables, tools and equipment before preparing the primer. Note: all materials and consumables must be used economically and efficiently.
2.5	Consult the technical data sheets and the Safety Data Sheet(s) for all the products involved in this task.
2.6	Carry out checks to ensure that surface is sufficiently cured prior to carrying out any sanding.
2.7	Use masking materials to protect any vulnerable areas or adjacent panels.
2.8	Check the cleanliness of the panel and clean if it is required.
2.9	Apply a guide coat to the panel.
2.10	Prepare the panel in accordance with the paint manufacturer's guidelines.
2.11	Rectify any sanding breakthrough in the primer as required.
2.12	Clean and remove static from the panel to accept topcoats.
2.13	Carry out quality checks.
2.14	Dispose of any waste materials safely and legally.
2.15	Clean all the equipment.
2.16	Return and store the tools, equipment, products and consumables in their appropriate place.





Accreditation Module Title	Seam Sealing
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Module Code	AOM - 218
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Practical Assessment Time	45 min
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On-line Knowledge Test	K-218
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IMI AOM Level	2
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Module Overview	
This module will enable the candidate to demonstrate their competence in applying seam sealer, to replicate original appearances and finishes.	

Candidate Profile	
The technician is expected to be working in the accident repair sector of the motor industry and must have at least two years' experience, this is to ensure they are familiar with the skills, knowledge and techniques which are required to successfully complete the module.	

Links with Accreditation Routes and Modules	
This module features in:	
IMI Accreditation Route	IMI Accreditation Level
Paint	Technician

Knowledge Requirements	
The candidate must know and understand:	
1.1	The importance of surface preparation, prior to applying seam sealers.
1.2	How to select identify the seam sealer which is appropriate for a range of applications.
1.3	A range of techniques which can be used to replicate the vehicle manufacturer's sealed joints

Skills Requirements	
The candidate must demonstrate the ability to:	
2.1	Use the appropriate masking material.
2.2	Consult relevant technical information and ensure that ADAS systems are not affected by the seam sealing process.
2.3	Consult the manufacturer's technical and safety data sheets.
2.4	Apply appropriate foundation material(s) if applicable.
2.5	Select the appropriate seam sealer.
2.6	Prepare the panel and apply the seam seal in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
2.7	Replicate the original appearance and finish.
2.8	Clean off any access seam sealer.
2.9	Remove any masking materials used during the task.
2.10	Check the quality and accuracy of the seam sealer before moving to next stage of the repair.
2.11	Clean the work area and leave it in a safe condition.



<b>Accreditation Module Title</b>	Application of a Wet on Wet Primer
<b>Module Code</b>	AOM – 219
<b>Practical Assessment Time</b>	1 hour
<b>On-line Knowledge Test</b>	K-219
<b>IMI AOM Level</b>	2
<b>Module Overview</b>	
<p>This module will enable the candidate to demonstrate their competence in applying a non-sanding (wet on wet) primer.</p>	
<b>Candidate Profile</b>	
<p>The technician is expected to be working in the accident repair sector of the motor industry and must have at least two years' experience, this is to ensure they are familiar with the skills, knowledge and techniques which are required to successfully complete the module.</p>	
<b>Links with Accreditation Routes and Modules</b>	
<p>This module features in:</p>	
<b>IMI Accreditation Route</b>	<b>IMI Accreditation Level</b>
Paint	Technician
	Senior Technician

Knowledge Requirements	
The candidate must know and understand:	
1.1	How to select the wet on wet primer which is appropriate for the panel material.
1.2	The processes which are involved in mixing non-sanding primers.
1.3	The setting up process and methods of testing spraying equipment.
1.4	The methods of drying non-sanding primers to accept topcoats.
1.5	The cause and rectification process for a range of surface defects.

Skills Requirements	
The candidate must demonstrate the ability to:	
2.1	Set up and wear the appropriate personal protective equipment.
2.2	Consult relevant technical information and ensure that ADAS systems are not affected by the application of the primer.
2.3	Identify the body panel material / substrate prior to applying the primer.
2.4	Select and check the materials, consumables, tools and equipment before carrying out the application process.
2.5	Consult the technical data sheets and safety data sheet(s).
2.6	Prepare the panel surface to accept the foundation materials as stated in the technical data sheet.
2.7	Clean the surface using the appropriate products and method.
2.8	Remove dust and static from the panel surface.
2.9	Mix the primer in accordance with the technical data sheet.
2.10	Filter the primer into spray gun.
2.11	Set up the spraying environment.
2.12	Set up and test the spraying equipment.
2.13	Apply the primer as stated in the technical data sheet.
2.14	Check the applied primer for evenness and any surface defects.
2.15	Dispose of waste materials safely and legally.
2.16	Clean all the equipment.
2.17	Return and store the tools, equipment, products and consumables in their appropriate place.
2.18	Carry out quality checks to the primed surface.



Accreditation Module Title	Masking Techniques
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Module Code	AOM – 220
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Practical Assessment Time	45 minutes
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On-line Knowledge Test	K-220
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IMI AOM Level	2
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Module Overview	
This module will enable the candidate to demonstrate their competence in masking techniques using a range of materials.	

Candidate Profile	
The technician is expected to be working in the accident repair sector of the motor industry and must have at least two years' experience, this is to ensure they are familiar with the skills, knowledge and techniques which are required to successfully complete the module.	

Links with Accreditation Routes and Modules	
This module features in:	
IMI Accreditation Route	IMI Accreditation Level
Paint	Technician

Knowledge Requirements	
The candidate must know and understand:	
1.1	The importance of selecting the appropriate masking equipment and materials and the consequences of failing to do so.
1.2	The reasons for cleaning surfaces prior to using masking materials.
1.3	A range of masking techniques and when they are appropriate.
1.4	The importance of checking the quality of the masking, before applying any paint products.
1.5	A range of masking faults and the rectification process
1.6	The methods of storing masking equipment and materials and the consequences of storing them in an inappropriate environment.
1.7	The methods which are appropriate for disposing of waste masking materials.

Skills Requirements	
The candidate must demonstrate the ability to:	
2.1	Clean the surfaces to accept masking materials.
2.2	Select and use the appropriate masking materials.
2.3	Use appropriate and accurate masking techniques.
2.4	Check the accuracy of the masking
2.5	Identify and rectify any masking faults.



<b>Accreditation Module Title</b>	Application of a Clear over Base Finish
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<b>Module Code</b>	AOM – 221
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<b>Practical Assessment Time</b>	2 hours
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<b>On-line Knowledge Test</b>	K-221
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<b>IMI AOM Level</b>	2
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<b>Module Overview</b>	
This module will enable the candidate to demonstrate their competence in matching and mixing vehicle colours and applying a clear over base finish.	

<b>Candidate Profile</b>	
The technician is expected to be working in the accident repair sector of the motor industry and must have at least two years' experience, this is to ensure they are familiar with the skills, knowledge and techniques which are required to successfully complete the module.	

<b>Links with Accreditation Routes and Modules</b>	
This module features in:	
<b>IMI Accreditation Route</b>	<b>IMI Accreditation Level</b>
Paint	Technician

Knowledge Requirements	
The candidate must know and understand:	
1.1	The methods which are used to match vehicle colours.
1.2	How to accurately mix the colour(s) using the paint manufacturer's formulations.
1.3	Know how to mix clearcoats with activator and thinner.
1.4	How to set up spraying equipment and the techniques which are used to apply clear over base finishes.
1.5	The cause of minor surface defects and how to rectify them.

Skills Requirements	
The candidate must demonstrate the ability to:	
2.1	Set up and wear the appropriate personal protective equipment.
2.2	Consult relevant technical information and ensure that ADAS systems are not affected by the refinishing processes.
2.3	Identify the foundation and substrate material.
2.4	Carry out the colour matching process.
2.5	Select the correct colour and shade.
2.6	Prepare and mix colours as stated by the paint manufacturer.
2.7	Set up, adjust and test the spraying equipment.
2.8	Apply the basecoat in accordance with the paint manufacturer's guidelines.
2.9	Mix the clearcoat as stated by the paint manufacturer.
2.10	Apply the clearcoat in accordance with the paint manufacturer's guidelines.
2.11	Check the newly applied coatings for evenness and any surface defects.
2.12	Carry out quality checks to the cured surface, identify any defects and rectify them where applicable.





Accreditation Module Title	Spot/Rapid Repair on a Clear over Base Finish
Module Code	AOM - 222
Practical Assessment Time	2.5 hours
On-line Knowledge Test	K-222
IMI AOM Level	3
Module Overview	This module will enable the candidate to demonstrate their competence in rectifying minor damage, application and preparation of foundation materials, vehicle colour matching and carrying out a complete spot/rapid repair.
Candidate Profile	The technician is expected to be working in the accident repair sector of the motor industry and must have at least two years' experience, this is to ensure they are familiar with the skills, knowledge and techniques which are required to successfully complete the module.
Links with Accreditation Routes and Modules	This module features in:
IMI Accreditation Route	IMI Accreditation Level
Paint	Technician reaccreditation
	Senior Technician

Knowledge Requirements	
The candidate must know and understand:	
1.1	A range of methods and techniques which are used to prepare minor paint damage.
1.2	The application methods and limitations of masking materials.
1.3	The application process for primers which are suitable for spot repairs.
1.4	The curing process for areas which have been spot primed.
1.5	The causes of application defects and the processes which are used to rectify them.
1.6	The methods which are used to match vehicle colours.
1.7	How to accurately mix the colour(s) using the paint manufacturer's formulations.
1.8	How to set up spraying equipment and the techniques which are used to apply topcoats.
1.9	The techniques which are involved in blending basecoats and fading clearcoats.
1.10	The cause of minor surface defects and how to rectify them.

Skills Requirements	
The candidate must demonstrate the ability to:	
2.1	Set up and wear the appropriate personal protective equipment.
2.2	Consult relevant technical information and ensure that ADAS systems are not affected by the refinishing processes.
2.3	Identify the body panel material / substrate prior to undertaking preparation of the surface.
2.4	Remove and store safely any components which are likely to be affected by the preparation process.
2.5	Select and check the materials, consumables, tools and equipment before carrying out the preparation process.
2.6	Consult the Material Technical and Safety Data Sheet(s).
2.7	Mask the vehicle panel
2.8	Prepare the panel surface to accept the foundation materials.
2.9	Clean the surface using the appropriate material and method.
2.10	Remove dust and static from the panel surface.
2.11	Mix the foundation materials in accordance with the technical data sheet.
2.12	Filter the products into spray gun.
2.13	Set up the spraying environment.
2.14	Set up and test the spraying equipment.
2.15	Apply the foundation materials as stated in the technical data sheet.

2.16	Check the applied foundation materials for evenness and any surface defects. If any defects are present, state how to rectify them.
2.17	Set up the force drying equipment and cure the foundation materials as stated in the technical data sheet.
2.18	Carry out quality checks to the cured surface, before progressing to sanding the foundation material.
2.19	Identify the colour and shade of the original colour.
2.20	Prepare and mix the paints and clearcoats as stated by the paint manufacturer.
2.21	Select and use additives where applicable.
2.22	Set up, adjust and test the spraying equipment for topcoat application.
2.23	Apply the colour variants to spray out cards or a test panel.
2.24	Identify the spray out card which matches the vehicle or the supplied panel.
2.25	Blend the colour to the adjacent areas, using the paint manufacturer's guidelines.
2.26	Mix the clearcoat as stated by the paint manufacturer.
2.27	Apply and fade out the clearcoat in accordance with the paint manufacturer's guidelines.
2.28	Check the newly apply coatings for evenness and any surface defects.
2.29	Cure the applied coatings as stated by the paint manufacturer.
2.30	Rectify minor surface defects, for example dirt inclusions.
2.31	Use polishing techniques to disguise the area which has been faded out.
2.32	Dispose of waste materials safely and legally.
2.33	Clean all the equipment.
2.34	Return and store the tools, equipment, products and consumables in their appropriate place.



Accreditation Module Title	Application of a 3 Stage Pearlescent Finish
Module Code	AOM – 223
Practical Assessment Time	2.5 hours
On-line Knowledge Test	K-223
IMI AOM Level	3
Module Overview	
This module will enable the candidate to demonstrate their competence in colour matching and applying a 3 stage pearlescent finish.	
Candidate Profile	
The technician is expected to be working in the accident repair sector of the motor industry and must have at least three years' experience, this is to ensure they are familiar with the skills, knowledge and techniques which are required to successfully complete the module.	
Links with Accreditation Routes and Modules	
This module features in:	
IMI Accreditation Route	IMI Accreditation Level
Paint	Senior Technician

Knowledge Requirements	
The candidate must know and understand:	
1.1	The methods which are used to match and mix a 3 stage pearlescent finish to the correct colour and shade.
1.2	The methods used to identify the number of pearlescent coats which are required to match the original finish.
1.3	How to apply 3 stage pearlescent finishes.
1.4	The application techniques which are used to disguise slight variations in the colour shade and how to fade the clearcoat into the original paintwork.
1.5	The cause of minor surface defects and how to rectify them.

Skills Requirements	
The candidate must demonstrate the ability to:	
2.1	Set up and wear the appropriate personal protective equipment.
2.2	Consult relevant technical information and ensure that ADAS systems are not affected by the refinishing processes.
2.3	Identify the foundation and substrate material.
2.4	Identify the colour and shade of the vehicle or the supplied panel.
2.5	Prepare and mix the paints and clearcoats as stated by the paint manufacturer.
2.6	Set up, adjust and test the spraying equipment.
2.7	Apply the paint products to a set of spray out cards or a 'let down panel'.
2.8	Identify the spray out card which matches the vehicle or the supplied panel.
2.9	Apply the ground coat and mid/second coat using the paint manufacturer's guidelines.
2.10	Mix the clearcoat as stated by the paint manufacturer.
2.11	Apply the clearcoat in accordance with the paint manufacturer's guidelines.
2.12	Check the newly applied coatings for evenness and any surface defects.
2.13	Cure the applied coatings as stated by the paint manufacturer.
2.14	Rectify minor surface defects, for example dirt inclusions.
2.15	Dispose of waste materials safely and legally.
2.16	Clean all the equipment.
2.17	Return and store the tools, equipment, products and consumables in their appropriate place.



Accreditation Module Title	Application and blending of a 3 Stage Pearlescent Finish
Module Code	AOM – 226
Practical Assessment Time	4 hours
On-line Knowledge Test	K-226
IMI AOM Level	3
Module Overview	This module will enable the candidate to demonstrate their competence in rectifying a small defect, apply foundation material, colour matching, applying and blending a 3 stage pearlescent finish into adjacent panels.
Candidate Profile	The technician is expected to be working in the accident repair sector of the motor industry and have at least three years' experience, this is to ensure they are familiar with the skills, knowledge and techniques which are required to successfully complete the module.
Links with Accreditation Routes and Modules	This module features in:
IMI Accreditation Route	IMI Accreditation Level
Paint	Senior Technician

Knowledge Requirements	
The candidate must know and understand:	
1.1	The methods which are used to match and mix a 3 stage pearlescent finish to the correct colour and shade.
1.2	The methods used to identify the number of pearlescent coats which are required to match the original finish.
1.3	How to apply 3 stage pearlescent finishes.
1.4	The application techniques which are used to disguise slight variations in the colour shade and applying the clearcoat into the original paintwork.
1.5	The cause of minor surface defects and how to rectify them.

Skills Requirements	
The candidate must demonstrate the ability to:	
2.1	Set up and wear the appropriate personal protective equipment.
2.2	Consult relevant technical information and ensure that ADAS systems are not affected by the refinishing processes.
2.3	Identify the damaged area and prepare for foundation material.
2.4	Apply the foundation materials using the paint manufacturer's methods.
2.5	Prepare panels to accept topcoat material.
2.6	Identify the colour and shade of the vehicle or the supplied panels.
2.7	Prepare and mix the basecoats and clearcoats as stated by the paint manufacturer.
2.8	Set up, adjust and test the spraying equipment.
2.9	Apply the paint products to a set of spray out cards or a 'let down panel'.
2.10	Identify the spray out card which matches the vehicle or the supplied panel.
2.11	Apply the ground coat and mid/second coat and blend them into adjacent areas, using the paint manufacturer's guidelines.
2.12	Mix the clearcoat as stated by the paint manufacturer.
2.13	Apply the clearcoat in accordance with the paint manufacturer's guidelines.
2.14	Check the newly applied coatings for evenness and any surface defects.
2.15	Cure the applied coatings as stated by the paint manufacturer.
2.16	Rectify minor surface defects, for example dirt inclusions.
2.17	Dispose of waste materials safely and legally.
2.18	Clean all the equipment.