

Table of Contents

REVISION HISTORY	2
INTRODUCTION	4
SCOPE.....	4
PRODUCT IDENTIFICATION AND APPLICABLE STANDARD/NORMATIVE REFERENCE	5
DEFINITION OF TERMS	5
REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFICATION	6
GRANTING OF THE DCL CERTIFICATION AND FEES	13

Approved/Authorized by CQPSM	OPEN DATA / بيانات مفتوحة : Level of Confidentiality/درجة السرية
Date of Issue: 04/12/2012	Rev. No.: 24
Date of update: 10/09/2026	Page 1 of 13

Issue Date	Rev. No.	Summary Of Amendments
06/11/2012	0	First draft for comments
19/11/2012	0	Final draft
04/12/2012	1	Issue for use
18/06/2014	2	Amended for typographical error clause [2.2.2]
08/09/2015	3	Updated the reference to DMS 020: 2015 and incorporating the pass-fail criteria as Annex A. Use of the term "license" and "licensee" is avoided.
29/03/2016	4	Scope is changed to Low Emitting Materials (paints, coatings, adhesives, sealants). Added Table 1 for Required Tests; Added formaldehyde [2.4.1.2] as a required test for paints and coatings;
17/07/2016	5	Provision for the selecting samples and sample size [2.4]
21/08/2016	6	Table 1 is revised to differentiate external & internal coatings and to add test requirements for external coating. Some Test Methods were updated in [2.4.1].
16/05/2017	7	Updated Table 1; Annex B added; removed Table A.2 from Annex A
30/05/2018	8	Updated to align with Al Sa'fat – Dubai Green Building Evaluation System; added category of coating applied on hardscapes in Table 1; Format updated in accordance with DM unified template
27/06/2018	9	Minor amendment of terminology related to Al Sa'fat; Adding coating for hardscapes in Annex B.
01/07/2018	10	Additional amendments addressing the requirements for coatings used for hardscapes.
05/09/2018	11	Clarification for the tests to be done. Amend the percentage for sampling.
06/09/2020	12	Add the options for initial audit by the approved CAB and remotely by PCAS. Adding definition for authorized auditor. Update for the new numbering system and followed terminologies. Correction of numbering. Add provision for accepting valid test reports
06/09/2021	13	Revised to reflect the 2020 version of Al Sa'fat – Dubai Green Building System; to reflect the Formaldehyde requirements for coatings in Table 1; to reflect the correct reference clause for the test requirement as per Table 1. Removal of the documents in clause 2.1.2, in addition to further amendment in the provision for accepting valid test reports (clause 2.4.1.4), in line with DM 30% reduction of requirements (both service and specialized).
26/09/2021	14	Modifications in the auditing part for the factories already certified against ISO 9001 to opt for auditing only the areas of production and monitoring stages of product realization, quality control and final product testing and evaluation.
18/07/2022	15	Note is added under the Table A.1 for product type declared as Solvent Free
11/08/2022	16	Added the provisions for the application for extension of brand name owned by a private brand owner to DCL certified manufacturer(s).
04/10/2022	17	Changing section name as per the new organizational structure, and replace HOU by CQPSM (Section's Manager). Adding surveillance under 2.4.1.4

Approved/Authorized by CQPSM	OPEN DATA / بيانات مفتوحة : Level of Confidentiality/درجة السرية
Date of Issue: 04/12/2012	Rev. No.: 24
Date of update: 10/09/2026	Page 2 of 13

Issue Date	Rev. No.	Summary Of Amendments
27/03/2023	18	Full re-structuring and transfer of common provisions to the general rule. Clauses are re-numbered and document title has been revised accordingly. Revised to align with the 2 nd edition of AL SA'FAT 2023 and related clauses of 2021 edition of Dubai Building Code... Removing of LRV and replace it by SRI in table under 5.6.2 for different product applications. Removing the Annexures in addition to the provisions related to classification of SRI. Revision of clause 5.3 (allowing brand additions to more than 2 factories and including traders). Use of New DM Logo.
13/02/2024	19	Revised to add products which are not covered and cannot be categorized as low emitting products. Provide additional information on the table under clause 5.6.2, brought back the Table 1 extracted from DMS 020 under clause 5.6.3, added the value for formaldehyde in clause 5.6.4, added table for heavy metals in clause 5.6.5 and added SRI requirements in clause 5.6.6, among other minor changes in terminology.
31/07/2024	20	Changing the logo of the Government of Dubai with the latest design.
16/09/2024	21	Revised due to changing the name of the reference standard specification from Dubai Municipality Standard (DMS) 020 to Technical Guide (TG) 04 and reviewed as per the new version and added clauses 5.7 and 6.2.
19/06/2025	22	Restructured to align with the new internal formatting of all documents.
01/08/2025	23	Change the document numbering format.
10/09/2026	24	Change the document numbering format (CQPS & DP21 to CQP). Addition and revision of products which are not covered and cannot be categorized as low emitting products in clause 2.3 and the rule to submit the TDS to DCL, also added clause 5.9 related to product marking. Removed fireproofing in item 6 of the table in clause 5.7.2. Added a "Note" in the Table in clause 5.7.2. Among other minor revisions in terminology.

Approved/Authorized by CQPSM	OPEN DATA / بيانات مفتوحة : Level of Confidentiality/السرية
Date of Issue: 04/12/2012	Rev. No.: 24
Date of update: 10/09/2026	Page 3 of 13



--	--	--

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document prescribes the specific rule for certification of the product(s) as identified herein, in accordance with the requirements of DM Third Party Product Certification Scheme Through Factory Assessment, taking into consideration the applicable normative references and standard specification, in addition to the requirements for conformity evaluation, as stated below.
- 1.2 The applicant/client shall comply with this specific rule, and to all provisions under the “**General Rules for DM Third Party Product Certification Scheme Through Factory Assessment “DM-DCLD-RD-CQP-2001.**
- 1.3 This specific rule **is an integral part of the general rules**, and both shall always be read together.

2. SCOPE

- 2.1 This specific rule applies to Low Emitting Materials (paints, coatings, adhesives, sealants) in accordance with the related requirements and specifications in the 2023 Al Sa'fat Dubai Green Building System-2nd edition and related clauses in Dubai Building Code.
- 2.2 This specific rule does not-by itself- permit the use of the below products on the construction sites. However, it does provide the necessary general conformity assessment criteria, which are required for the evaluation and issuance of the certification and the authorization of the use of the DCLD Conformity Mark. Other relevant requirements issued by the regulatory bodies, if any, shall always be fulfilled.
- 2.3 The below products **are outside the scope of certification under this Specific Rule** and manufacturer/s can apply separately to any applicable specific rules *(if already available, otherwise, can be requested subject to availability of standard specifications and their approval)*:
- 2.3.1 All types of Concrete Admixtures
- 2.3.2 All repair materials like (concrete repair, crack repair, grouting and anchoring materials)
- 2.3.3 Rendering and Plastering Mortar
- 2.3.4 Masonry Mortars
- 2.3.5 Self-leveling Materials
- 2.3.6 Fire-retardant, fire-resistant, fireproofing and other fire protection products/coatings
- 2.3.7 Water proofing bitumen membrane (self-adhesive or torch applied) and damping proof course and protection board.

Approved/Authorized by CQPSM	OPEN DATA / بيانات مفتوحة : Level of Confidentiality/درجة السرية
Date of Issue: 04/12/2012	Rev. No.: 24
Date of update: 10/09/2026	Page 4 of 13



- 2.3.8 Liquid/powder applied coating for water proofing membrane with more than 2mm thickness in single application
- 2.3.9 Systems (i.e. combo roofing)
- 2.3.10 Water Stop
- 2.3.11 PVC water proofing membrane
- 2.3.12 Geotextile sheet
- 2.3.13 Pile head treatments
- 2.3.14 Polyurethane (PU) foam and chemicals for spray PU applications
- 2.3.15 Paints for automobile applications
- 2.3.16 All types of screeds (e.g. cementitious, sand cement, calcium sulphate, anhydrite (gypsum based), resin/synthetic, among others)
- 2.3.17 Any other products applied with thickness exceeding 2mm in single application
- 2.3.18 Any other products requiring specialized application equipment were controlled parameters such as mixing ratio, temperature, pressure, flow rate, etc., which may materially affect the final product characteristics or performance
- 2.3.19 Other similar products not mentioned above and not included in the Table under clause 5.7.2

3 PRODUCT IDENTIFICATION AND APPLICABLE STANDARD/NORMATIVE REFERENCE

- 3.1 Product name: Low Emitting Materials (Paints, Coatings, Adhesives, Sealants)
- 3.2 Applicable standard/Normative reference: 2023 Al Sa'fat Dubai Green Building System-2nd edition clauses [404.01] and/or [404.02], [304.01], [304.04] [304.07], [701.04] and related clauses in 2021- Dubai Building Code.
- 3.3 Additional reference:
ISO 9001 Quality Management System – Requirements
ISO 19011 Guidelines for Auditing Management Systems
TG 04 – 2024 Technical Guide for paints and varnishes for interior and exterior of buildings and vehicle refinishing products

4 DEFINITION OF TERMS

Approved/Authorized by CQPSM	OPEN DATA / بيانات مفتوحة : Level of Confidentiality/درجة السرية
Date of Issue: 04/12/2012	Rev. No.: 24
Date of update: 10/09/2026	Page 5 of 13

4.1 In addition to the definitions given in Al Sa'fat Dubai Green Building System, Dubai Building Code and the General Rule of the scheme [DM-DCLD-RD-CQP-2001], the following shall apply:-

4.1.1 Standard Specification – 2023 Al Sa'fat Dubai Green Building System-2nd edition clauses [404.01] and/or [404.02], [304.01], [304.04] [304.07], [701.04] And Dubai Building Code - Parts H and K (as applicable).

5 REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFICATION

5.1 The process of application, factory assessment and product sampling shall be in line with the related provisions in the general rule and the standard specifications.

5.2 The Manufacturer shall submit to DCL the Technical Data Sheet (TDS) of the product(s) for certification related to this specific rule for review and the TDS shall have the main description of the product(s) in-line with Low Emitting Materials (Paints, Coatings, Adhesives, Sealants, Primers).

5.3 The manufacturer shall have a quality assurance laboratory to carry out factory production control testing.

5.4 In some special cases, where the applicant (certified manufacturer) wishes to extend its scope of certification to include the brand name(s) of other traders or already certified manufacturer (s); then DCLD-CQPS may allow it provided it is officially requested in the application for extension of the scope of certification. The brand name(s) being applied for extension must be authorized by its owner. DCLD-CQPS may opt to collect new samples for testing to verify that the products are meeting the requirements of standard specification. In such case, the label or product packaging may have the statement **"Manufactured for [name of the owner of the brand name (Trader or DCLD-CQPS certified manufacturer)]"** or any similar statement. However, the **"Manufactured by (client code or project number, CF-XX of the main certified client or the name of the certified client, if agreed with the brand owner)"**, shall be mentioned for identification and traceability."

5.5 For the provision mentioned under clause 5.4 above, a contract copy of manufacturing authorization (or any authorization letter) shall be mutually signed by the owner of the brand name and the certified manufacturer and shall be submitted to DCLD-CQPS during the request for scope extension.

5.6 For the product which is similar to the certified one or already within the scope, product verification shall be carried out either by product testing or recipe evaluation by verifying the production report from the factory, or both.

5.7 Product Evaluation and testing

Approved/Authorized by CQPSM	OPEN DATA / بيانات مفتوحة : Level of Confidentiality/درجة السرية
Date of Issue: 04/12/2012	Rev. No.: 24
Date of update: 10/09/2026	Page 6 of 13

5.7.1 Sampling for testing and evaluation by DCLD-CQPS shall be at least one sample or 10% of the number of products per subcategory (whichever is higher).

5.7.2 The required test to be carried out on different types of low-emitting material is as per the table below:

S/N	LOW EMITTING MATERIAL	REQUIRED TESTS	PRODUCT TYPES AND APPLICATION/S
1	Roof Paint	Solar Reflective Index (SRI) Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) Formaldehyde (Water Based only) Heavy Metals (Hexavalent Chromium not applicable for clear/transparent)	All external paint products applied on roof of buildings
2	Paint (Wall Exterior/Exposed)	Solar Reflective Index (SRI) Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) Formaldehyde (Water Based only) Heavy Metals (Hexavalent Chromium not applicable for clear/transparent)	All external paint products applied on walls and façade of buildings
3	Paint (Interior /Not Exposed)	Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) Formaldehyde (Water Based only) Heavy Metals (Hexavalent Chromium not applicable for clear/transparent)	All paint products applied inside the buildings
4	Coatings (other than paint) for exterior/exposed wall application	Solar Reflective Index (SRI). Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) Formaldehyde (Water Based only)	All types of coating products applied externally for protection against solar radiation or weather attack or any other purposes: i.e., curing compound, and dust proofers.
5	Roof Coating/Coating Applied to Hardscapes	Solar Reflective Index (SRI) Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) Formaldehyde (Water Based only)	All types of coating products used on hardscapes like: Protective coatings, exposed water proofing coatings, car park or landscape protective coatings Water proofing coating (bitumen, cementitious, acrylic, polyurea, etc.)
6	Coatings (other types not covered by above)	Solar Reflective Index (SRI) (if used in exterior application). Volatile Organic Compound (VOC)	All types of coating used in the buildings (inside and outside):

Approved/Authorized by CQPSM

OPEN DATA / بيانات مفتوحة : Level of Confidentiality/درجة السرية

Date of Issue: 04/12/2012

Rev. No.: 24

Date of update: 10/09/2026

Page 7 of 13



		Formaldehyde (Water Based only)	Protective coatings, metal coatings, industrial floor coatings and water proofing coatings (bitumen, cementitious, acrylic, polyurea, etc.), curing compound
7	Adhesives	Volatile Organic Compound (VOC)	All types of adhesives used in the buildings
8	Sealants	Volatile Organic Compound (VOC)	All types of sealants used in the buildings, including tile grouts
9	Primer / Binding Primer	Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) Solar Reflective Index (SRI) (if used in exterior application as final coat)	All types of primers used in the buildings: Primer for paints, primer for coatings, bonding agents.

Note: The products/categories listed in the table remain subject to the exclusions specified under Clause 2.3

5.7.3 Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC)

5.7.3.1 For Paints, Varnishes and Coatings as per Clause 404.01 (The acceptance limit shall be in accordance with Technical Guide (TG) 04 - 2024 Table 1 as shown in the extracted table below), and tested as per test methods mentioned in the same standard.

- Notes:
1. Equivalent test methods can be accepted based on approval of DCLD-CQPS.
 2. Whenever the client declares the type of product(s) as Solvent Free, the evaluation will be based on the value under the Water Based in Table 1 of TG 04 - 2024, however, the scope of certification will refer to the product as a Solvent Free.

**Table 1: Maximum Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC's) Content Limit
Values for Paints and Varnishes (from TG 04 - 2024)**

Approved/Authorized by CQPSM	OPEN DATA / بيانات مفتوحة : Level of Confidentiality/درجة السرية
Date of Issue: 04/12/2012	Rev. No.: 24
Date of update: 10/09/2026	Page 8 of 13



#	Product subcategory	Type	VOC g/l (*)
1	Interior matt walls and ceilings paint (Gloss < 25@60°C)	WB	30
		SB	30
2	Interior glossy walls and ceilings paint (Gloss > 25@60°C)	WB	100
		SB	100
3	Exterior walls of mineral substrate	WB	40
		SB	430
4	Interior /exterior trim and cladding paints for wood and metal	WB	130
		SB	300
5	Interior /exterior trim varnishes and woodstains, including opaque woodstain	WB	130
		SB	400
6	Interior /exterior minimal build woodstains	WB	130
		SB	700
7	Primers	WB	30
		SB	350
8	Binding Primers	WB	30
		SB	750
9	One-pack performance coatings	WB	140
		SB	500
10	Two pack reactive performance coatings for specific end use such as floors	WB	140
		SB	500
11	Multi colored coatings	WB	100
		SB	100
12	Decorative effect coatings	WB	200
		SB	200
Notes:			
1. WB: water-based; SB: solvent-based			
2. The limit values are as per the EC Directive 2004/42/EC concerning VOC reduction for decorative paints and varnishes			
3. * ready to use			

5.7.3.2 For Adhesive and Sealant as per Clause 404.02 of the standard specification. The acceptable

Approved/Authorized by CQPSM	OPEN DATA / بيانات مفتوحة : Level of Confidentiality/السرية
Date of Issue: 04/12/2012	Rev. No.: 24
Date of update: 10/09/2026	Page 9 of 13

maximum VOC limit shall be in accordance with the table below for each product category.

Maximum VOC Limits - Grams per litre (g/l) less water			
Architectural Applications		Specialty Applications	
Indoor Carpet Adhesives	50	PVC Welding	510
Carpet Pad Adhesives	50	CPVC Welding	490
Wood Flooring Adhesives	100	ABS Welding	325
Rubber Floor Adhesives	60	Plastic Cement Welding	250
Subfloor Adhesives	50	Adhesive Primer for Plastic	550
Ceramic Tile Adhesives	65	Contact Adhesive	80
VCR & Asphalt Adhesives	50	Special Purpose Contact Adhesive	250
Drywall & Panel Adhesives	50	Structural Wood Member Adhesive	140
Cove Base Adhesives	50	Sheet Applied Rubber Lining Operations	850
Multipurpose Construction Adhesives	70	Top & Trim Adhesive	250
Structural Glazing Adhesives	100		
Substrate Specific Applications		Sealants	
Metal to Metal	30	Architectural	250
Plastic Foams	50	Non-Membrane Roof	300
Porous Materials (except wood)	50	Roadway	250
Wood	30	Single-Ply Roof Membrane	450
Fiberglass	80	Other	420
		Sealant Primers	
		Architectural Non-Porous	250
		Architectural Porous	775
		Other	750

Approved/Authorized by CQPSM

OPEN DATA / بيانات مفتوحة : Level of Confidentiality/درجة السرية

Date of Issue: 04/12/2012

Rev. No.: 24

Date of update: 10/09/2026

Page 10 of 13



Note: When exempt compounds (as per US EPA definition) are present in the product being tested, the quantity may be deducted from the reported VOC content subject to the following conditions:

- The reported value (in the test report) did not take into consideration the presence of exempt compounds.*
- The client submits a declaration of the amount of exempt compounds, supported by documented evidence (formulations, test reports, etc.) that has been reviewed and verified by DCLD-CQPS authorized auditors;*

5.7.4 Formaldehyde content of water reducible coatings and emulsion paints shall not exceed the limit (10 mg/kg) as per clause 4.4.5 of TG 04 - 2024.

5.7.5 Heavy Metals as per Clause 701.04 of the standard specification. Heavy metal maximum detected level shall not exceed the limits stated in TG 04 - 2024 Clause 4.3 (as shown in the table below).

S/N	Heavy metal	Maximum detection limit
1	Cadmium	500 mg/kg
2	Lead	100 mg/kg
3	Chromium (VI)	500 mg/kg
4	Mercury	100 mg/kg
5	Arsenic	100 mg/kg

5.7.6 Solar Reflective Index shall comply with the requirements under clause 304.01 & 304.04 & 304.06 and 304.07 of the standard specification (as shown in the below extracted requirements from Al Sa'fat). The acceptance limit shall be as per the values stated in the aforementioned clauses, as applicable for each application of the product. This requirement is applicable to paints and coatings used in roofing surfaces, shading and hardscapes. The paint/coatings shall be applied on a flat substrate such as wood, metal or plastic sheet or concrete surface with a minimum size of 150 x 150 x 8 mm. The thickness of applied paint shall be such that there is no transparency. SRI value in the scope of certification is just for information. The user (owner, contractor, or consultant) shall be fully responsible for ensuring that the correct SRI value is followed according to the requirements of the standard specification and the application of the product.

Approved/Authorized by CQPSM	OPEN DATA / بيانات مفتوحة : Level of Confidentiality/درجة السرية
Date of Issue: 04/12/2012	Rev. No.: 24
Date of update: 10/09/2026	Page 11 of 13



304.01 Urban Heat Island Effect

Opaque building envelope surfaces shall have an SRI value not less than that shown in Table (1) 304.01 - Building envelope SRI value requirements and according to Dubai Building Code Section E.5.7 and K.7.2.7 Heat Island effect reduction, for a minimum of 75% of the roof area and 100% of the external walls.

Table (1) 304.01 -Building envelope SRI value requirement

Element	SRI value
Steep sloped roofs (slopes steeper than 1:6)	≥29
Flat and low sloped roofs (slopes lower than or equal to 1:6)	≥78
External walls	≥29

304.04 Colors on the Outside of Buildings

For all new buildings, opaque building envelope surfaces shall follow the solar reflectance index (SRI) requirements stated in part E of Dubai Building Code, E.5.7 Heat Island effect reduction and part K for villas K.7.2.7 Heat Island effect reduction.

304.06 Hardscape

For all new buildings, the hardscape of the development must achieve the requirements stated in Part B in Dubai Building Code, B.10.5.3 Heat Island effect reduction -surfaces shading.

For Villas, the requirements in Part K, K.5.12.1 Surfaces shading must be met.

304.07 Shading of Public Access Areas

For all new buildings, all pedestrian linkages within the plot area must be shaded using materials having a Solar Reflectance Index (SRI) equal to or greater than those specified in Table 304.01 (1).

5.8 Factory Production Control System (Internal Product Quality Assurance Plan)

- 5.8.1 The client shall prepare and submit to DCLD-CQPS for approval of an internal product quality assurance plan.
- 5.8.2 The plan shall take into consideration the production process, the volume of production, the criticality of the test to be specified, and other relevant factors; it shall consist of and comply with the minimum requirement.
- 5.8.3 This will include as a minimum, the following details: (1) location of sampling; (2) frequency of sampling; (3) quantities of samples; (4) tests to be carried out; (5) results acceptance criteria; and (6) responsible person to carry out the activity. The plan shall cover all inspections carried out throughout the whole manufacturing process,

Approved/Authorized by CQPSM	OPEN DATA / بيانات مفتوحة : Level of Confidentiality/درجة السرية
Date of Issue: 04/12/2012	Rev. No.: 24
Date of update: 10/09/2026	Page 12 of 13

i.e. (raw materials – production lines- finished product testing and evaluation as per standard specifications – final packing).

5.9 Product marking

5.9.1 Upon approval, the manufacturer's product marking shall bear the DCL mark in accordance with the requirements specified in DM-DCLD-RD-CQP-2069.

5.9.2 The product marking description shall accurately reflect the specific type of Low Emitting Material (e.g., paints, coatings, adhesives, sealants, primers) to prevent any risk of misrepresentation or misunderstanding.

5.9.3 In accordance with Clause 5.4, the trader or manufacturer may incorporate the product packaging statement into their own design, provided that all minimum requirements outlined in both Clause 5.4 and this clause are fully satisfied.

6. GRANTING OF THE DCLD CERTIFICATION

6.1 The DCLD product conformity certificate and the authorization to use the DCLD conformity mark shall be granted upon conformance with all related provisions in the general rule.

6.2 Use of the DCL Conformity Mark shall be as per DM-DCLD-RD-CQP-2069.

6.3 Fees shall be as per DM-DCLD-RD-CQP-2097 and other relevant provisions in the general rule.

6.4 DCLD-CQPS shall carry out surveillance of certified clients based on the approved periodic plans and related provisions in the general rule.

6.5 Appeals, disputes, and complaints shall be in line with the relevant provisions in the General Rule.

Approved/Authorized by CQPSM	OPEN DATA / بيانات مفتوحة : Level of Confidentiality/درجة السرية
Date of Issue: 04/12/2012	Rev. No.: 24
Date of update: 10/09/2026	Page 13 of 13