



JOINT ACCREDITATION SYSTEM OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND
HELPING MARKETS WORK BETTER

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CERTMARK INTERNATIONAL SUSPENSION

JAS-ANZ has issued a notice of suspension against CertMark International for the following certification schemes:

- CodeMark Australia
- CodeMark New Zealand
- WaterMark
- CertMark’s proprietary Product Certification Scheme

The suspension is effective from 10 July 2019 subject to forensic audit of certificates for Aluminium Composite Panels

CertMark has previously been given a Direction to withdraw eight certificates that, in JAS-ANZ opinion, failed to meet the evidence requirements for sound product certification or the CodeMark Scheme.

About CertMark International

CMI is a specialist certification body operating in the areas of CodeMark Australia, CodeMark New Zealand, Watermark and a general proprietary product certification scheme. CertMark has approximately 240 certifications and these are generally ‘high-value’ certificates covering products in the Building and Plumbing sectors.

CMI operates from premises at 14/74 Wisers Road, Buderim, QLD 4556.

Scope of CMI’s ABCB scheme association	
CodeMark Scheme v2009.1	There are 28 active certificates of which 13 are held by CMI (≈46%).
CodeMark Australia Scheme v2016.1	There are 145 active certificates of which 99 are held by CMI (≈68%).
WaterMark Scheme and Rules v2016	CMI has 10 certificates (0.5% of certificates) covering 206 products (0.16% of products)
CodeMark New Zealand	CMI holds 67 certificates or approximately 40% of CodeMark NZ certificates

What is suspension of accreditation?

Accreditation is a process of assessment of an applicant body's policies, procedures and practices which aims to establish their fitness to certify a product or process. Accreditation determines whether or not an applicant will be likely to deliver a reliable certification where they apply the policies, procedures and practices which have been observed by JAS-ANZ.

The Conditions of Accreditation provide for the possibility that a certifier may be subject to suspension where they do not perform as required.

In general, suspension of accreditation involves limiting the scope of activity that an accredited certification body can undertake. When under suspension a certification body must:

- provide service to existing clients; and
- follow the conditions associated with the suspension; **but may not**
- pursue new clients.

Failure to follow these conditions can lead to withdrawal of accreditation which involves the termination of all dealings with the certifier.

Normally a suspension would go unnoticed. In the present case it is expected that the suspension will attract some attention since the suspension includes CodeMark New Zealand and will invoke a regulatory response by Ministry of Business Industry and Environment.

Specific provisions under the NZ CodeMark Scheme mean that a product certifier under suspension cannot exercise any powers or functions of a product certification body.

What are the terms of the suspension?

For the suspension to be lifted, CMI must satisfy the following conditions:

1. provide enough evidence to demonstrate that the findings identified by JAS-ANZ have been addressed for all schemes covered by the JAS-ANZ scope of accreditation, and
2. undergo a reassessment, which will include a document review and on-site assessment.

CertMark is entitled to appeal the decision to suspend their accreditation.

How does the suspension affect existing certificates?

In Australia:

In Australia there is a presumption in favour of the holder of the certificates which means their certificates will be maintained on the JAS-ANZ certificate register. There will be no impact unless CMI fails to meet the terms of the suspension, when they may then face having their accreditation withdrawn. In that case certificate holders could transfer to an alternate certifier.

In New Zealand:

The Scheme serves a specific regulatory purpose and the management of certificates is under the direction of MBIE.

Under the provisions of the New Zealand Building Act 2004, while suspended as a Product Certification Body under CodeMark New Zealand, CMI cannot exercise any powers or functions of a product certification body. While suspended, CMI cannot undertake surveillance obligations or undertake audits of any CodeMark New Zealand product certificates.

Are all CMI certificates unsafe or unreliable?

That has not been shown to be the case. The basis for suspension is evidence of ineffective conformity assessment practice and not any direct evidence about the characteristics of the products.

The **direction to withdraw** was issued because the evidence from the forensic audit led to the conclusion that the certificates in question could not be strictly relied upon as a guide to conformity.

The products evaluated in the forensic audit were shown to meet the 30% maximum polyethylene content.

The same view has informed the decision to suspend.

What does the suspension of CMI mean for CodeMark?

For existing clients of CMI:

In general, a suspension does not put existing certificates at risk. However, holders of New Zealand Certificates should be alert to any follow up actions that MBIE may take.

For anyone seeking a new certification:

CertMark may not undertake any further certifications so anyone seeking a CodeMark certification should consider an alternative certifier.

Should you require any further information please contact:

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