

## Frequently Asked Questions Regarding the Guarantee & Inspection Service

### 1. What does GIS stand for?

GIS is the abbreviated name of the AWMAC Guarantee and Inspection Service Program.

### 2. When does GIS come into effect?

The GIS program comes into effect as soon as the tender documents specify the requirements for a Guarantee and Inspection Service.

### 3. What assurance does a client/owner have that an AWMAC manufacturer member has supplied and/or installed the architectural woodwork on a project in accordance with the AWMAC Architectural Woodwork Standards (AWS) manual?

AWMAC, through its Chapters will issue for their manufacturer members in good standing a two year Certificate of Guarantee on projects which have passed the final GIS inspection. The final inspection will not be passed until all deficient items have been rectified and the project brought up to the standards for the grade specified on the project.

### 4. Who operates the GIS program?

The GIS program is operated and managed by the AWMAC Chapters on a per project basis.

### 5. How are AWMAC Inspectors certified?

Potential AWMAC inspectors must have significant experience and knowledge in building construction and specifically architectural woodwork. However, potential inspectors can no longer be actively involved in the architectural woodwork industry. Once a suitable candidate has been chosen, they must pass the AWS Inspection Certification Questionnaire with a minimum of 95%. Upon completion of the exam, the interim inspector will complete a set of 4 GIS inspections under the supervision of a certified inspector. Once the interim inspector has completed 4 inspections, he or she will become a Certified AWMAC GIS Inspector capable of conducting GIS Inspections on their own.

### 6. Which AWMAC grade should I specify?

There are 3 AWMAC grades that apply to millwork quality. All 3 may occur within a single project.

**Economy** – minimum expectation of quality, workmanship, materials and installation. Ideal for woodwork that is not in public view such as in mechanical or utility areas.

**Custom** – typically specified for and adequately covers most high quality architectural woodwork. Provides a well defined degree of control over a project's quality of material, workmanship or installation.

**Premium** – selectively used in the most visible and high profile areas of a project such as reception counters, boardrooms and executive areas. Provides the highest level of quality in materials, workmanship or installation.

### 7. What happens when the architectural woodwork proves to be deficient during the two year guarantee?

Subject to all the conditions set forth in the Guarantee, the contractor who signed as the first guarantor shall replace all deficient architectural woodwork on a project, provided that the deficiency of the architectural woodwork is caused wholly as a result of faulty workmanship or defective material supplied by the Contractor.

### 8. What precautions has AWMAC considered when the onus is passed on to the next guarantors?

AWMAC considers that the strength of the GIS program is based on the fact that it will not issue a Certificate of Guarantee unless the supply and/or install of the completed architectural woodwork on a project is built as per the AWS manual.

AWMAC has also considered that it and the Chapters can become the second and first guarantor and that there could be a remote chance that the supply and/or installation of an architectural woodwork project may become deficient during the two year Guarantee period. For this reason, in 1995, AWMAC established a National Liability Fund which is solely in place for the unlikely event of a claim.

**9. Who pays the inspection cost?**

The inspection cost, which is based on the architectural millwork contract, is borne by the millwork contractor but is part of the project tender.