TOPAS

Traffic Open Products and Specifications

TOPAS – An Update

Dr Mark Pleydell, TOPAS Management Board

Scope Of Presentation

TOPAS

Traffic Open Products and Specifications

- Objectives
- Background - Type Approval
- TOPAS
  - How it came into being
  - What is does.
  - How it does it.
  - How it applies to you.
- Questions

Objectives

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To convey information on:-

1. TOPAS Product Registration (and what is involved).

2. The range of specifications and standards (and therefore products) covered by TOPAS

Type Approval

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- A Government mandated process for confirming fitness of purpose of equipment against national specifications.

It ended 21/4/16

- Type Approval of new traffic control equipment has now ceased.
- Existing Type Approvals remain valid
- What has happened
  - to specifications
  - to industry liaison – users, manufacturers and government

Type Approval – A mind map

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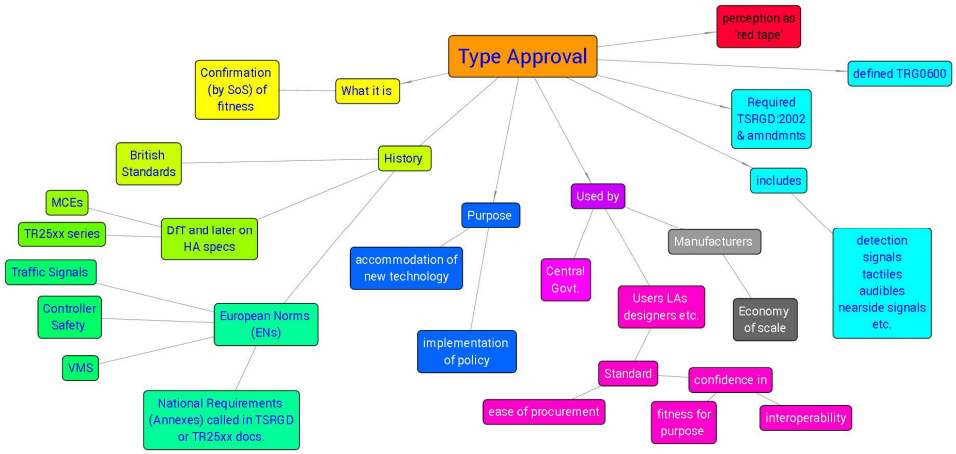
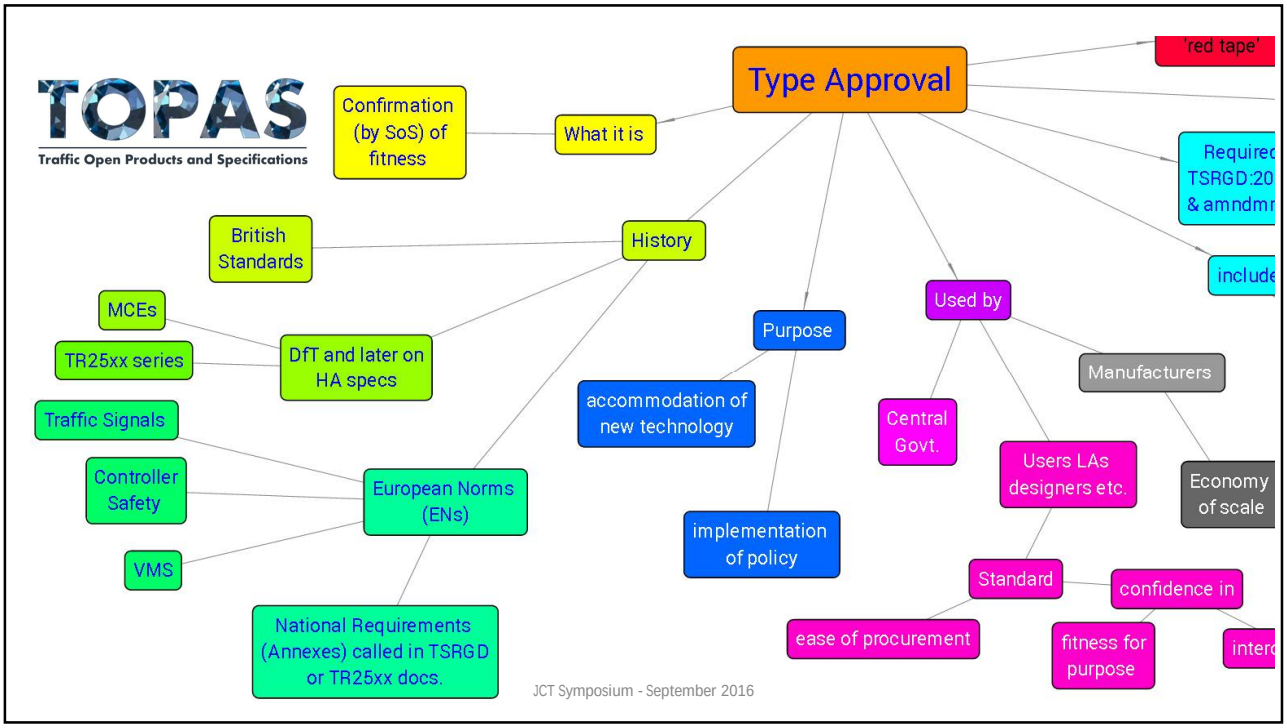


JCT Symposium - September 2016



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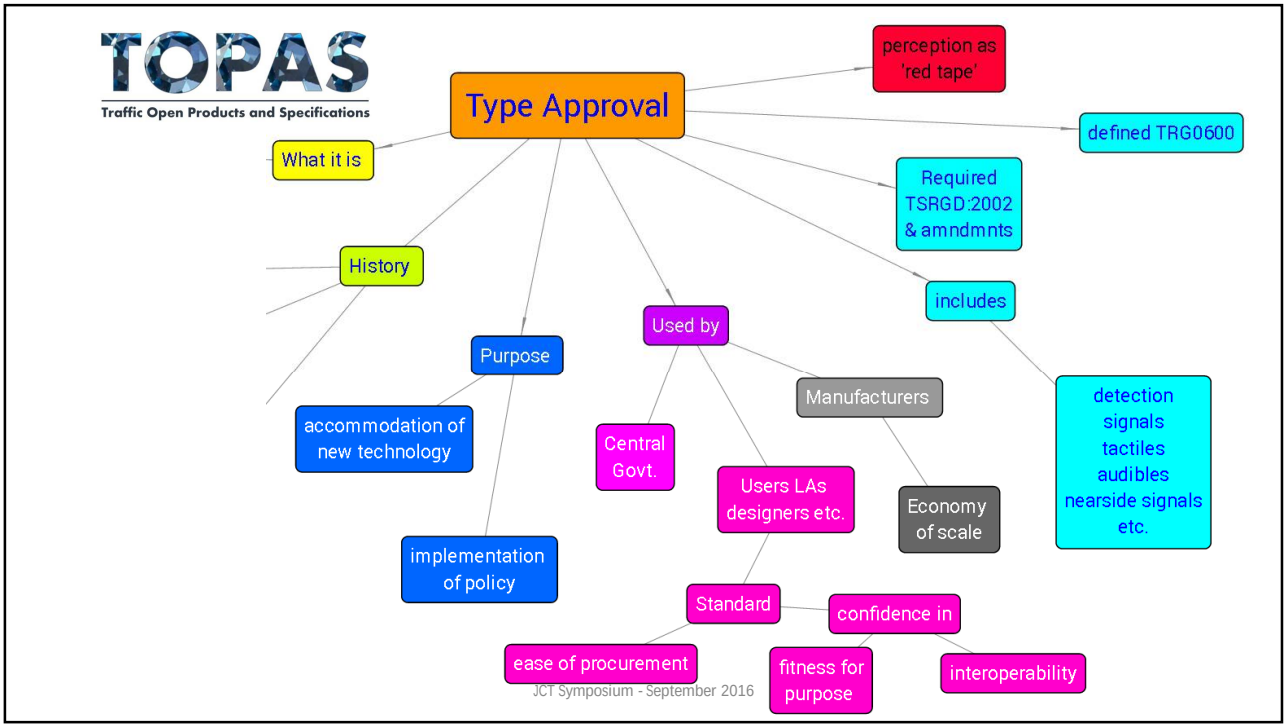

Type Approval

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What did Type Approval mean for users/designers/manufacturers?

- Interoperability – equipment from one manufacturer could reasonably be expected to work with equipment from another
- Confidence in the performance of the equipment.
- Confidence in the function of the equipment.
- A standardised market, with lower prices

Type Approval

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Why have a successor?

For all the reasons just given, and
for continuity with existing Type Approved equipment.

The successor is TOPAS (Traffic Open Products And Specifications)

Local government and industry response

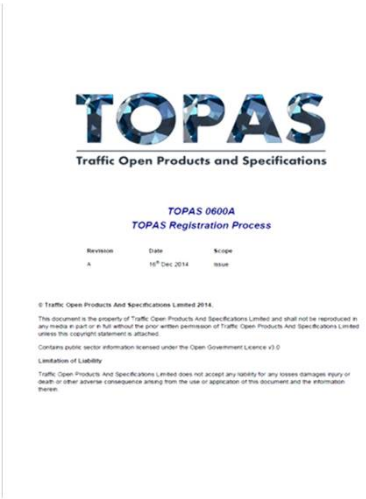
- The Traffic Technology Forum (TTF) was formed in 2012, to represent suppliers and users of traffic control and associated equipment a successor to EITAC.

The TTF has evolved three key aims:

- To identify areas for collaboration
- To provide a joint industry and user response to consultations and to discuss in-service issues
- To specifically shape the consultations with DfT and HA and provide proposals on the future specification and approval landscape

The main TTF proposals have resulted in the formation of TOPAS Ltd

OPEN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TOPAS 0600A
TOPAS Registration Process

Revision	Date	Scope
A	16th Dec 2014	Issue

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- TOPAS is a Not For Profit company which
  - Manages and develops the former HA standards as **procurement specifications**
  - Provide a means for new specifications to be created and refined with End User and Industry input and oversight
  - Provide a (more rigorous) process for manufactures to Register their products against the specifications
- Registers Product: giving purchasers confidence that products comply with nationally used specifications.
- ADEPT mandate (as far as they are able) that Local Authorities require that products used on the highway are TOPAS registered.
- Is as open as possible

TOPAS structure – Three party representation

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Director – Brian Lyus

Management Board

Chair - Rotates Annually

ARTSM
Represented by four Management Board members

ADEPT
Represented by four Management Board members

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT
Represented by four Management Board members
England, Wales, Scotland, N Ireland

Initial funded from
DfT
ARTSM
ADEPT

Running costs funded from product registration fees.

TOPAS Product Registration

- Fundamental to TOPAS is the concept that products are Registered
  - This is not a Type Approval and is not mandatory
- The Registration process is defined in TOPAS 0600A
  - Is intentionally very similar to the former Type Approval process defined in TRG 0600A
- TOPAS Registration still relies on a manufacturer 'self-certifying' compliance with the appropriate TOPAS specifications
- Critically, registration also involves an independent review of a Product Technical File by an independent Technical Assessor
  - More rigorous than the HA Type Approval process it replaces.

What does this registration mean to users?

Like Type Approval it gives users more confidence that :-

- The manufacturer is a responsible member of the traffic control community.
- Their products will meet published and appropriate specifications.
- Their products will work with other manufacturers' products and with former type approved equipment.
- It offsets the risk and effort to users.
- **As Products become Registered they are listed on the TOPAS website**.
- This easily allows users to check what is registered and any conditions associated with that Product

What Products Are Covered By TOPAS?

- Vehicle Detection
- Pedestrian Detection
- Those facilities of permanent traffic signal controllers not in the new TSRGD or in European Specifications, (BSEN12675, BSEN50556)
- Those facilities of portable traffic signal controllers not in the new TSRGD
- Tactiles and Audibles
- Nearside Signals
- Those elements of VMS not in BSEN12966 – including over-height vehicle detection systems.
- Check the website for the full picture

Specifications

- TOPAS has taken ownership of the former Highways England TR25XX specifications
- These have been updated to become **procurement specifications**
  - Now include a new appendix (Z) which defines the Technical File requirements.
  - The current generation are identical in detailed content to the equivalent current HA specification, which will enable Manufactures to simply Register their current approved products with minimal effort
- The HA undertook (2012/13) a review and update of many of their specifications
  - This will be of enormous help to TOPAS as the basis for new specifications versions.

HA Reference	Issue	Date	TOPAS reference
TR2500	A	01/11/2005	TOPAS 2500A
TR2502	B	01/03/2011	TOPAS 2502B
TR2503	B	01/02/2006	TOPAS 2503B
TR2504	A	01/05/2005	TOPAS 2504A
TR2505	A	01/05/2005	TOPAS 2505A
TR2506	A	01/05/2005	TOPAS 2506A
TR2507	A	01/05/2005	TOPAS 2507A
TR2508	A	01/07/2005	TOPAS 2508A
TR2509	A	01/07/2005	TOPAS 2509A
TR2510	A	01/07/2005	TOPAS 2510A
TR2511	A	01/07/2005	TOPAS 2511A
TR2512	A	01/09/2005	TOPAS 2512A
TR2513	A	01/09/2005	TOPAS 2513A
TR2514	A	01/09/2005	TOPAS 2514A
TR2515	A	01/09/2005	TOPAS 2515A
TR2516	B	01/09/2006	TOPAS 2516B
TR2517	A	01/10/2005	TOPAS 2517A
TR2520	A	01/10/2005	TOPAS 2520A
TR2522	A	01/10/2005	TOPAS 2522A
TR2523	A	01/09/2005	TOPAS 2523A
TR2537	A	01/03/2011	TOPAS 2537A
TR2538	A	01/03/2011	TOPAS 2538A
TR2581	A	01/08/2011	TOPAS 2581A
TRG0600	A	01/05/2005	TOPAS 0600A

What Is NOT Covered By TOPAS?

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- The core safety functions of permanent traffic signal controllers and junctions – see European Specifications, (BSEN12675, BSEN50556)
- Traffic Signals (BSEN12368 defines these)
- Roadside Bicycle Signals (TSRGD specifies these by reference to BSEN12368)
- VMS Light output and related characteristics. (BSEN12966)

- Anything else for which there is not a TOPAS specification

How to Access TOPAS

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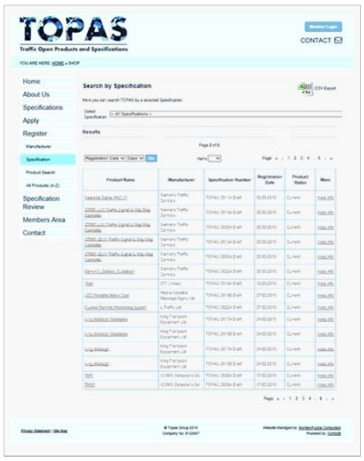
- TOPAS specifications, procedures and other useful material is published on the organisation's web site at:-
- www.topasgroup.org.uk
- New specifications for review will be published here
  - The aim of TOPAS is to be as open as possible
  - Manufactures and Users are encouraged to take an active part in the specification updates. (TR2582 is now open for consultation.)



TOPAS – Current Position

TSRGD 2016 came into effect on 22nd April 2016

No new Type Approvals can now be submitted

Unless subjected to a substantial change in their design all products with existing Type Approvals remain in force and may be used on the Highway.

TOPAS is the preferred process for managing:-

UK specifications

A UK wide product register

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- Acknowledgments
- Setting up and running of TOPAS has and continues to place substantial demands on all of the Management Board members and many others from within Central and Local Government and Industry.
- Without this support the future of the Traffic Sector in the UK would be considerably less certain.

Thank you for your attention

www.topasgroup.org.uk enquiries@topasgroup.org.uk

QUESTIONS?