

MRC RESEARCH BROADCAST

MRC Paint Material Cost Database



Thank you for reading this MRC Research Broadcast Issue #03/2026/006. If you have any questions regarding the content, or suggestion for improvement, please contact MRC Malaysia via

 No.7, Jalan Pelukis U1/46A, Kawasan Perindustrian Temasya, 40150, Shah Alam, Selangor  03-5568 1888  www.mrc.com.my  ardd@mrc.com.my



Steve Miller
Chief Executive Officer,
MRC Malaysia

INTRODUCTION

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We are pleased to present another edition of the MRC Research Broadcast, designed to keep you informed of the latest research, technical guidelines, and technological developments from MRC's research team, our global research partners and counterparts, as well as other relevant industry stakeholders.

In this edition, we introduce the Paint Material Cost Database, a significant enhancement to the estimating system that provides a more structured, consistent, and transparent approach to calculating paint material costs. Introduced in July 2026, this new feature applies paint material costs based on vehicle surface panels and colour groupings, while supporting both water-based and solvent-based paint coating systems.

Developed to improve the accuracy and consistency of claims estimation, the database helps minimise subjectivity in paint material cost assessments and promotes greater transparency throughout the claims evaluation process. To facilitate implementation, users are encouraged to refer to the user guide provided by the software house.

In conjunction with this inaugural database release, we have attached the Paint Material Cost Guide summary for your quick reference. We have also included sample estimate reports to demonstrate how to apply the database to real-world estimating scenarios.

Through this initiative, we aim to equip industry stakeholders with practical tools and valuable insights that enhance service quality, improve decision-making, and promote greater consistency and transparency in claims assessment. Thank you for taking the time to read this edition of the MRC Research Broadcast. We hope you find it informative, insightful, and beneficial to your daily operations.

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Executive Summary



Introduction

MRC Malaysia has taken the initiative to provide Paint Material Cost data within the claims estimating system as a standard reference point for all parties involved in the motor claims process. This initiative aims to establish greater consistency, transparency, and accuracy in the assessment of paint-related repair costs.

Under the previous practice, paintwork material costs were submitted through the miscellaneous section of the claims estimating system by manually entering the sum amount under the Paintwork Material category.

In the absence of a standardised industry reference, paint material costs were determined based on individual repairer pricing structures and assessment practices. Consequently, variations in assessments could arise among repairers, insurers, and assessors, requiring additional review, clarification, and reconciliation during the claims evaluation process.

Recognising the need for greater consistency and transparency, MRC Malaysia took this initiative to engage with automotive refinish paint manufacturers

and suppliers to obtain their support in developing a standardised Paint Material Cost database. Through close collaboration with industry participants, the database was successfully integrated into the claims estimating system and is now available for use since July 2026.

The database supports the application of paint material costs based on established colour groupings and vehicle surface panels, enabling a more structured and systematic approach to claims estimation. It covers both water-based and solvent-based paint coating systems, ensuring that the database reflects commonly used refinish technologies within the automotive repair industry.



The implementation of the Paint Material Cost database provides a standardised benchmark for stakeholders involved in the claims estimation process. While minor differences between repairer cost submissions and insurer assessments may remain, the database serves to reduce assessment variances and support a more consistent and equitable approach to paint material cost evaluation.

Objectives

- To assist end users the recommended paintwork material cost based on the actual usage on selected panel surface area.
- To give an option for end users in preparing accident claim estimates.
- To reduce variations in paint material cost assessments between repairers, insurers, and assessors by providing a common industry benchmark.
- To improve the accuracy and transparency of paintwork material cost calculations during the claims estimation process.

Project Development



Data Acquisition



MRC Data Specification & Application



Software House System Development



Database "Go Live" : July 2026



Future Update : Q3 2026

- Inner Panel
- Direct Gloss



Future Update : Q4 2026



Future Update : Q1 2027

Paint Material Cost Guide

The Paintwork Material option menu within the claim system is designed to facilitate the selection of paint materials required for repair and refinishing work.

This process enables users to accurately identify and record the type of paint products and specification used during the repair process, ensuring consistency and proper cost calculation.

From the Paintwork Material option menu in the claim system, once selected, the system will come up with sub items as below;

- i. Paint Manufacturer
- ii. Paint Base
- iii. Paint Type
- iv. Paint Range (Colour Group)
- v. Panel to be painted
- vi. Paint Consumables



Paintwork Materials	Price (RM/Unit)
1 Paintwork Materials i. Paint Manufacturer  ii. Paint Base  iii. Paint Type  iv. Paint Range (Colour Group)  v. Panel to be painted  vi. Paint Consumables ☐	

Paint Material Cost Guide

Paint Manufacturer

In this item, user should able to select Paint Manufacturer or Paint Brand. Available paint manufacturers will be listed in the drop down menu. If the brand used is not listed, user may select "Other".

Paintwork Materials

Price (RM/Unit)

1 Paintwork Materials

i. Paint Manufacturer

Manufacturer Brand A

Manufacturer Brand A
Manufacturer Brand B
Manufacturer Brand C
Manufacturer Brand D
Manufacturer Brand E
Manufacturer Brand F
Other

ii. Paint Base

iii. Paint Type

iv. Paint Range (Colour Group)

v. Panel to be painted

vi. Paint Consumables

If Paint Manufacturer "Other" is selected, user will be able to key-in any Paint Brand in the free text box. This field is compulsory if "Other" is selected. Then the user can enter the total price of the Paintwork Materials. Other fields i.e. Paint Base, Paint Type, Paint Range (Colour Group), Panel to be painted and Paint Consumables will be disabled (greyed) for this option.

Paintwork Materials

Price (RM/Unit)

1 Paintwork Materials

i. Paint Manufacturer

Other

Manufacturer Brand xxx

ii. Paint Base

iii. Paint Type

iv. Paint Range (Colour Group)

v. Panel to be painted

vi. Paint Consumables

Paint Manufacturer - Disclaimer

The disclaimer dialog box will be prompted once user choose the manufacturer. The disclaimer for each paint manufacturer is unique and may be different. For example, below is Paintwork Material Cost Disclaimer from Manufacturer Brand A:

Paintwork Material Cost Disclaimer

"The paintwork material cost that will be calculated are based on the selected panels' surface areas and the recommended usage of paintwork materials by Manufacturer Brand A. The calculation is inclusive of primer/under coats, main/base coats (inclusive of tinter) and clear/top coats for the single panel without blending. The paint consumables such as sandpaper, tape, body wrap, filler, body sealer, etc. are not included. However, the paint wastage and fair profit margin are already taken into account. This paintwork material cost is only for reference in the claim estimate preparation."

Paintwork Materials

Price (RM/Unit)

1 Paintwork Materials

i. Paint Manufacturer

Manufacturer Brand A

ii. Paint Base

iii. Paint Type

iv. Paint Range

v. Panel to be painted

vi. Paint Consumables

DISCLAIMER

The paintwork material cost that will be calculated are based on the selected panels' surface areas and the recommended usage of paintwork materials by Manufacturer Brand A. The calculation is inclusive of primer/under coats, main/base coats (inclusive of tinter) and clear/top coats for single panel without blending. The paint consumables such as sandpaper, tape, body wrap, filler, body sealer, etc. are not included. However, the paint wastage and fair profit margin are already taken into account. This paintwork material cost is only for reference in the claim estimate preparation.

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Paint Material Cost Guide

Paint Base

Each manufacturer has a different option of Paint Base. User will able to select the paint base available according to the manufacturer. For example:

Manufacturer Brand A

- Water-Based
- Solvent-Based

Sample for Manufacturer Brand A

Paintwork Materials	Price (RM/Unit)
1 Paintwork Materials	
i. Paint Manufacturer  Manufacturer Brand A	
ii. Paint Base  Water-Based	Water-Based Solvent-Based
iii. Paint Type 	
iv. Paint Range (Colour Group) 	
v. Panel to be painted 	
vi. Paint Consumables ☐	

In Paint Type, the user will able to select three types of paint i.e.:

- Mica / Pearl COB
- Metallic COB
- Solid COB

Paintwork Materials	Price (RM/Unit)
1 Paintwork Materials	
i. Paint Manufacturer  Manufacturer Brand A	
ii. Paint Base  Water-Based	
iii. Paint Type  Mica / Pearl COB	Mica / Pearl COB Metallic COB Solid COB
iv. Paint Range (Colour Group) 	
v. Panel to be painted 	
vi. Paint Consumables ☐	



Paint Material Cost Guide

Paint Range

In Paint Range (Colour Group), the user will able to select one of the three groups i.e.:

- High
- Medium
- Low

Each manufacturer brand will have its own colour group. A guide to define these groups will appear in the balloon text message when the user pointing over the icon.

Paintwork Materials

Price (RM/Unit)

1 Paintwork Materials

i. Paint Manufacturer

Manufacturer Brand A

ii. Paint Base

Water-Based

iii. Paint Type

Mica / Pearl COB

iv. Paint Range (Colour Group)

High

Medium

Low

vi. Paint Consumables

Blue

Beige

Brown

Green

Gold

Yellow

Orange

The exact colour displayed here may be slightly different due to the screen contrast and colour temperature. If the colour you want to select is not available in the list, please select the closest match.

Another example is shown below, where a different manufacturer uses “Other Colour” for its Medium paint range option.

Paintwork Materials

Price (RM/Unit)

1 Paintwork Materials

i. Paint Manufacturer

Manufacturer Brand B

ii. Paint Base

Water-Based

iii. Paint Type

Metallic COB

iv. Paint Range (Colour Group)

High

Medium

Low

vi. Paint Consumables

Other Colours

Select "Medium" for colours that are not in the "High" or "Low" colour ranges.

Example

Please refer to the examples illustrated below in Table 1 or Table 2 depending on the manufacturer brand selected for the colour palettes of High, Medium and Low.

Table 1

MANUFACTURER A - PAINT RANGE (COLOUR GROUP)			
	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW
MICA / PEARL COB	RED	BLUE	BLACK
METALLIC COB	ORANGE	GREEN	SILVER
SOLID COB	RED	YELLOW	BLACK

Table 2

MANUFACTURER B - PAINT RANGE (COLOUR GROUP)			
	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW
MICA / PEARL COB	SPECIAL EFFECT	OTHER COLOURS	BLACK
METALLIC COB	YELLOW	OTHER COLOURS	SILVER
SOLID COB	RED	OTHER COLOURS	WHITE

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Paint Material Cost Guide

Panel to be Painted

In Panel to be painted section, the user should be able to select the required panel from the drop-down menu for claim estimations. Please note that only the panel associated with parts that has been selected during the parts selection process will appear in this drop down menu.

Paintwork Materials

Price (RM/Unit)

1 Paintwork Materials

i. Paint Manufacturer

Manufacturer Brand A

ii. Paint Base

Water-Based

iii. Paint Type

Mica / Pearl COB

iv. Paint Range (Colour Group)

Medium

v. Panel to be painted

Bumper Front Cover

Bumper Rear Cover

Fender Front RH

Fender Front LH

Bonnet

Other

vi. Paint Consumables

Once the panels have been selected, the cost of the paint material will be displayed in the price column.

Paintwork Materials

Price (RM/Unit)

1 Paintwork Materials

i. Paint Manufacturer

Manufacturer Brand A

ii. Paint Base

Water-Based

iii. Paint Type

Mica / Pearl COB

iv. Paint Range (Colour Group)

Medium

v. Panel to be painted

Bumper Front Cover

Fender Front RH

Bonnet

vi. Paint Consumables

MRC

User

xxx.xx

xxx.xx

xxx.xx

xxx.xx

xxx.xx

xxx.xx

The price displayed in the MRC price box is fixed and cannot be changed. However, users have the option to manually input a different price in the provided free text boxes if they differ from the recommended price. User can also include any additional material cost for paint blending in these text boxes. Any price entered manually will appear in red font.

Once user has manually keyed-in the price in the free text box, the system will use that price instead of the MRC price in the claim estimate. However, the adjusted price is subject to review by insurer and/or loss adjuster.

For panels that are not listed in the drop-down menu, user can either select the parts in the parts selection menu or select “Other” to add panels to be painted.

“Add” button will visible once user select “Other”. Free text box for parts description and price will appear once user click the “Add” button. User can add an unlimited number of this free text box. However, the keyed-in price is subject to review by insurer and/or loss adjuster.

Paintwork Materials

Price (RM/Unit)

1 Paintwork Materials

i. Paint Manufacturer

Manufacturer Brand A

ii. Paint Base

Water-Based

iii. Paint Type

Mica / Pearl COB

iv. Paint Range (Colour Group)

Medium

v. Panel to be painted

Quarter Panel RH

Quarter Panel LH

Other

Add

Rear Panel

Chassis Member Rear RH

Chassis Member Rear LH

vi. Paint Consumables

MRC

User

xxx.xx

xxx.xx

xxx.xx

xxx.xx

xxx.xx

xxx.xx

Paint Consumables

The calculated Paint Material Cost does not include the cost of paint consumables. The amount of paint consumables such as sandpaper, tape, body wrap, filler, body sealer, etc. that are required to perform this claim paintwork only. If the consumables are reusable, please take some portion of the cost only.

User can input the cost of paint consumables by ticking the checkbox and the free text box for price will appear. However, the keyed-in price is subject to review by insurer and/or loss adjuster.

Paintwork Materials

Price (RM/Unit)

1 Paintwork Materials

i. Paint Manufacturer

Manufacturer Brand A

ii. Paint Base

Water-Based

iii. Paint Type

Mica / Pearl COB

iv. Paint Range (Colour Group)

Medium

v. Panel to be painted

Bumper Front Cover

Fender Front RH

Bonnet

vi. Paint Consumables

MRC

User

xxx.xx

xxx.xx

xxx.xx

xxx.xx

xxx.xx

xxx.xx

Example 1

For panel to be painted that used MRC reference price, the system will copy and carry over the price into the amount column and maintaining it in black font. However, if user input a manual price, the amount column will be displayed in red font.

Sample report:

Estimates on Miscellaneous Items			
Materials			
Paintwork Materials			
Item			
Paint Manufacturer	Manufacturer Brand A		
Paint Base	Water-Based		
Paint Type	Mica/Pearl COB		
Paint Range (Colour Group)	Medium		
		Ref (MRC)	Amount (MRC/User)
Panel to be painted	Bumper Front Cover	275.88	275.88
	Tailgate	180.22	180.22
	Door Rear RH	144.17	144.17
	Door Handle Rear Release RH		30.00
	Quarter Panel RH	196.60	196.60
	Quarter Panel LH	196.60	196.60
			80.00
Paint Consumables			
Subtotal (RM)			1,103.47



Example 2

Estimates on Miscellaneous Items

Materials			
Paintwork Materials			
Item			
Paint Manufacturer	Manufacturer Brand B		
Paint Base	Solvent-Based		
Paint Type	Solid COB		
Paint Range (Colour Group)	High		
		Ref (MRC)	Amount (MRC/User)
Paint to be painted	Bumper Front Cover	124.61	124.61
	Bonnet	181.72	181.72
	Fender Front RH	48.03	48.03
	Fender Front LH	48.03	48.03
	Chassis Member Front End Closing RH		35.00
	Chassis Member Front End Closing LH		35.00
Paint Consumables			70.00
Subtotal (RM)			542.39

