

Coating Alternatives Guide (CAGE)

User's Guide

by

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Foreword

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This publication has been produced as part of the Laboratory's strategic long-term research plan. It is published and made available by EPA's Office of Research and Development to assist the user community and to link researchers with their clients.

E. Timothy Oppelt, Director
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Abstract

This guide provides instructions for using the Coating Alternatives GuidE (CAGE) software program, Version 1.0. The guide assumes that the user is familiar with the fundamentals of operating an IBM-compatible personal computer (PC) under the Microsoft disk operating system (MS-DOS).

CAGE is designed to provide alternative coating chemistry recommendations for paint and coating operations. The initial focus of the program is on coatings for metal substrates. Additional modules will be developed for plastic, wood, and other substrates. The CAGE program leads the user through a question-and-answer session. Based on the user's response to each question, a list of relatively ranked low-emitting coating technologies is generated. The user may then review brief descriptions of the alternatives on the computer screen. If any of the alternatives are of interest, the user may request a detailed report. The report includes sections on general information, substrate and surface preparation, application techniques, curing methods, performance properties, safety/environmental concerns, industrial case studies for the selected alternative, and information references. The program also provides information on contacts for state technical assistance of the user's geographical location.

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This guide covers work performed from April to July 1996, which was based on the beta version 1.0b, released in March of 1996. CAGE version 1.0 was completed as of July 3, 1996.

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