

TELEPHONE NOTES

Subject: Testing of Reprocessed/consolidated Latex Paints
Date: May 19, 1997
Contact: Sue Drozd, Army Corps of Engineers
By: Dana Arnold, U.S. EPA, Office of Solid Waste

- ! The Army Green Buildings Program provided funding to the Army Corps to assist with identifying “green” products that can be used by the Army. The Army did not request testing of paints.
- ! Ms. Drozd chose to test reprocessed/consolidated latex paints because she noticed that the requirements in the GSA specification for “recycled” latex paints, TT-P-2846, differed slightly from the requirements in the other GSA specifications for interior and exterior latex paints. The Army uses GSA specifications for building paints.
- ! Contrary to what is stated in the public comments from the National Paint & Coatings Association, neither the Army nor the Army Corps has particular concerns about reprocessed/consolidated latex paints.
- ! Paints were tested against GSA specification TT-P-2846 to determine if what GSA had on schedule met the specification. The paints met this specification.
- ! Paints also were tested against the GSA specifications for virgin interior latex paints, TT-P-29 and exterior latex paints, TT-P-1984(?). The paints performed satisfactorily against the interior paint specification. Testing against the exterior paint specification is not completed; a weatherization test is about to begin and will take a couple of months to complete. The paints performed satisfactorily against the other exterior paint tests.
 - Ms. Drozd indicated that she was pleasantly surprised by the performance of the paints and would not have any concerns about using them for interior applications.
- ! Ms. Drozd cited two concerns. First, the Army uses acrylic latex paints over primed metals. She is not certain that reprocessed/consolidated latex paints are available containing 100% acrylic. Second, all of the Defense Department is moving away from government specifications to commercial products, and there currently is not a commercial item description (CID) for reprocessed/consolidated latex paints. I pointed out that if EPA designates reprocessed/consolidated latex paints, the Army can either continue to use the GSA specification or develop a CID.
- ! We also discussed narrowing the designation to reflect the applications listed in the GSA specification (i.e., interior and exterior wall and trim for wallboard, masonry, etc.) Ms. Drozd did not have an opinion.