



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
NATIONAL RISK MANAGEMENT RESEARCH LABORATORY
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45268
December 10, 2002

Ranjit Sen
International Chemical Products, Inc.
1209 Meadow Park drive
Huntsville, AL 35803

Subject : Status of Picklex™ Work

Dear Mr Sen,

As you are aware, EPA has conducted extensive testing using Picklex™ as a pretreatment to many metal finishing operations as well as a conversion coating. The latest tests were conducted on aluminum panels which were powder coated. In this test eight Aluminum panels were degreased and rinsed. Then dipped in Picklex™ for 4 minutes and rinsed for one minute with regular water. The panels went immediately to an oven for complete drying, then were powder coated with Sherwin Williams Hybrid high color white powder paint (Item # HWS8 - 90026 - C50) and cured.

The panels passed the initial cross hatch test (adhesion testing). Then it was submitted for salt spray test. All eight panels passed 4,000 hrs of salt spray, 4 of the eight panels exceeded 5,000 hours. The four that did not pass had small spots where the paint bubbled.

In other tests, panels coated with a low grade powder coating or paint failed prior to 3,000 hours. The top coat appears to be important for longevity, however these panels did not go to the powder coat process immediately after treatment. After Picklex™ treatment they sat for about a week, prior to powder coating. All testing to date shows that Picklex™ pretreated panels begin with excellent adhesion and the process has significant environmental benefits.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "T. David Ferguson".

T. David Ferguson