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BUREAU OF STANDARDS

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RECOMMENDED SPECIFICATION FOR WATER-
RESISTING SPAR VARNISH

PREPARED AND RECOMMENDED BY THE U. S. INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON PAINT SPECIFICATION STANDARDIZATION, SEPTEMBER 12, 1921, P. H. WALKER, BUREAU OF STANDARDS, CHAIRMAN; J. W. GINDER, TREASURY DEPARTMENT, SECRETARY.

This committee was appointed at the suggestion of the Secretary of Commerce, and consisted of representatives of the War, Navy, Agriculture, Interior, Post Office, Treasury, and Commerce Departments, the Panama Canal, the U. S. Shipping Board, and the Educational Bureau of the Paint Manufacturers' Association of the United States. The committee submitted a preliminary draft of the specification to a large number of representatives of the paint and varnish manufacturers, and gave careful consideration to the replies received.

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1. GENERAL

The varnish shall be suitable for use on both outside and inside surfaces of vessels, buildings, etc., and must be resistant to air, light, and water. The manufacturer is given wide latitude in the selection of raw materials and processes of manufacture, so that

he may produce a varnish of the highest quality. It must meet the following requirements:

APPEARANCE.—Clear and transparent.

COLOR.—Not darker than a solution of 3 g of potassium dichromate in 100 cc of pure sulphuric acid, specific gravity 1.84.

FLASH POINT (CLOSED-CUP).—Not below 30° C (85° F).

NONVOLATILE MATTER.—Not less than 40 per cent by weight.

SET TO TOUCH.—In not more than 5 hours.

DRY HARD AND TOUGH.—In not more than 24 hours.

WORKING PROPERTIES.—Varnish must have good brushing, flowing, covering, and leveling properties.

SAFETY OF WORKING.—Varnish must pass the draft test.

WATER RESISTANCE.—Dried film must withstand cold water for 18 hours and boiling water for 15 minutes without whitening or dulling.

TOUGHNESS.—Varnish must pass a 50 per cent Kauri reduction test at 24° C. (75° F.).

NOTE.—Deliveries will, in general, be sampled and tested by the following methods, but the purchaser reserves the right to use any additional available information to ascertain whether the material meets the specification.

2. SAMPLING

It is mutually agreed by buyer and seller that a single package out of each lot of not more than 1000 packages be taken as representative of the whole. Whenever possible an original unopened container shall be sent to the laboratory, and when for any reason this is not done, the inspector shall thoroughly mix the contents of the container sampled, transfer not less than 1 quart to a clean dry glass bottle or tin can which must be nearly filled with the sample, securely stoppered with a new clean cork or well-fitting cover or cap, sealed, and distinctly labeled by the inspector.

The inspector should take a duplicate from the container sampled to be held for check in case of dispute, and, when requested, should take a sample for the seller.

3. LABORATORY EXAMINATION

Samples will, in general, be tested by the following methods: The tin panels used in the following tests shall all be cut from bright tin plate weighing not more than 25 grams nor less than 19 grams per square decimeter (0.51 to 0.39 pound per square foot). (Commercial No. 31 gage bright tin plate should weigh

about 0.44 pound per square foot; it is important that the tin plate used shall be within the limits set.) The panels shall be about 7.5 by 13 cm (3 by 5 inches) and must be thoroughly cleaned with benzol immediately before using.

(a) APPEARANCE.—Pour some of the thoroughly mixed sample into a clear glass bottle or test tube and examine by transmitted light. The varnish must be clear and transparent.

(b) COLOR.—Prepare a standard color solution by dissolving 3 g of pure powdered potassium dichromate in 100 cc of pure concentrated sulphuric acid of specific gravity 1.84. Gentle heat may be used if necessary to perfect the solution of the dichromate. The standard color solution and a sample of the varnish to be tested shall be placed in clear thin-walled glass tubes of the same diameter. The color comparison shall be made by placing the tubes close together and looking through them by transmitted light. The tubes used for this test should be 1.5 to 2.0 cm ($\frac{5}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch) in diameter and shall be filled to a depth of at least 2.5 cm (1 inch). (Since the potassium dichromate-sulphuric acid must be freshly made for this color comparison, it is frequently more convenient to compare samples with a permanently sealed tube of varnish which has previously been found to be slightly lighter in color than the standard solution of 3 g dichromate in sulphuric acid. When samples are found to be darker than this standard tube of varnish, the dichromate standard should be made up for final decision.)

(c) FLASH POINT.—Determine with either the Tag or Elliott closed-cup tester. The former is preferred, and directions for its use are found in A. S. T. M. Standards D 56-19. For method of determining with the Elliott cup see Proceedings A. S. T. M., 1917, part 1, p. 414.

(d) NONVOLATILE MATTER.—Place a portion of the sample in a stoppered bottle or weighing pipette. Weigh container and sample. Transfer about 1.5 g of the sample to a weighed flat-bottomed metal dish about 8 cm in diameter (a friction-top can plug). Weigh container again and by difference calculate the exact weight of the portion of sample transferred to the weighed dish. Heat dish and contents in an oven maintained at 105 to 110° C (221 to 230° F) for three hours. Cool and weigh. From the weight of the residue left in the dish and weight of the sample taken, calculate the percentage of nonvolatile residue.

(e) **DRYING TIME.**—Pour the varnish on one of the tin panels described above. Place the panel in a nearly vertical position in a well-ventilated room but not in the direct rays of the sun. The atmosphere of this room must be free from products of combustion or laboratory fumes. The temperature of the room should be from 21 to 32° C (70 to 90° F). The film is tested at points not less than 2.5 cm (1 inch) from the edges of the film by touching lightly with the finger. The varnish is considered to have set to touch when gentle pressure of the finger shows a tacky condition but none of the varnish adheres to the finger. The varnish is considered to have dried hard when the pressure that can be exerted between the thumb and finger does not move the film or leave a mark which remains noticeable after the spot is lightly polished. If rapid light rubbing breaks the surface, the sample is considered not to have satisfactorily dried hard. In case the test shows time of setting to touch or drying hard more than 5 and 24 hours, respectively, two additional tests shall be run on different days, and if the varnish does not meet the above drying and hardening requirements on both of these additional tests, it shall be considered unsatisfactory.

(f) **DRAFT TEST.**—Flow the varnish on one of the standard tin panels and immediately place the panel in the direct draft of a small (8 or 10 inch) electric fan running at full speed. The panel should be placed approximately 2 feet from the fan in a nearly vertical position and at an angle of 45° to the line of the air current. Allow the panel to remain in this position for five hours, remove, and allow to harden overnight. The varnish shall show no dulling, crow's footing, or frosting. (NOTE.—This test shall be made under the same room and temperature condition noted under Drying Time.)

(g) **WATER RESISTANCE.**—Pour the varnish on two of the tin panels described above and allow to dry under the conditions described in paragraph (e) for 48 hours. Place one of these panels in a beaker containing about 2.5 inches of distilled water at room temperature (immersing the end of the panel which was uppermost during the drying period) and leave in water for 18 hours. The varnish shall show no whitening and no more than very slight dulling either when observed immediately after removing from the water or after drying for 2 hours. Place the other panel in a beaker containing about 2.5 inches of boiling distilled water (immersing the end of the panel which was uppermost during the

drying period) and allow to remain in the boiling water for 15 minutes. The varnish shall show no whitening and no more than a very slight dulling either when observed immediately after removing from the water or after drying for 2 hours.

(h) TOUGHNESS.—The toughness of the varnish is determined by the Kauri reduction test as follows: By proportionately reducing its toughness by the addition of a standard solution of “run-Kauri” gum in pure spirits of turpentine.

(1) *Preparation of the “Run Kauri.”*—Arrange a distillation flask, water-cooled condenser, and a tared receiver on a balance. Place in the flask about one-third of its volumetric capacity of clear bright hard pieces of Kauri gum broken to pea size. Carefully melt and distill until 25 per cent by weight of the gum taken is collected in the tared receiver. (At the end of the distillation the thermometer in the distillation flask with the bulb at the level of the discharging point of the flask should register about 316° C (600° F).) Pour the residue into a clean pan, and when cold break up into small pieces.

(2) *Preparation of Standard “Run-Kauri” Solution.*—Place a quantity of the small broken pieces of run Kauri together with twice its weight of freshly redistilled spirits of turpentine, using only that portion distilling over between 153° and 170° C (308° and 338° F) in a carefully tared beaker. Dissolve by heating to a temperature of about 149° C (300° F) and bring back to correct weight when cold by the addition of the amount of redistilled spirits of turpentine necessary to replace the loss by evaporation during the dissolving of the gum.

(3) *Reduction of the Varnish.*—Having carefully determined the nonvolatile content of the varnish according to the method under paragraph (c) of this specification, take 100 g of the varnish and add to it an amount of the standard run-Kauri solution equivalent to 50 per cent, by weight, of the nonvolatile matter in the varnish. Mix the varnish and the solution thoroughly.

(4) *Application of the Varnish.*—Flow a coat of the varnish thus reduced on one of the tin panels described above and let stand in a nearly vertical position at room temperature for one hour. Next place the panel in a horizontal position in a properly ventilated oven and bake for five hours at 95° to 100° C. Remove the panel from the oven and allow to cool at room temperature, preferably 24° C (75° F) for one hour.

(5) *Bending the Panel.*—Place the panel with the varnished side uppermost over a 3 mm. ($\frac{1}{8}$ -inch) rod, held firmly by suitable supports, at a point equally distant from the top and bottom edges of the panel and bend the panel double rapidly. The varnish must show no cracking whatsoever at the point of bending. For accurate results the bending of the panel should always be done at 24° C (75° F) for a lowering of the temperature will lower the percentage of reduction that the varnish will stand without cracking, while an increase in the temperature increases the percentage of reduction that the varnish will stand.

4. BASIS OF PURCHASE

Varnish shall be purchased by volume, the unit being a gallon of 231 cubic inches at 15.5° C (60° F). The volume may be determined by measure or, in case of large deliveries, it may be easier to determine the net weight and specific gravity at 15.5/15.5° C (60/60° F) of the delivery. The weight per gallon in pounds can then be determined by multiplying the specific gravity by 8.33. The net weight in pounds divided by the weight per gallon gives the number of gallons.

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