



TECHNICAL BULLETIN #8

USDA INSPECTED FACILITY GUIDE

Approval procedures for the use of paints and coatings in official establishments operating under USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) FSIS (Food Safety and Inspection Service) guidelines for locations subject to incidental food contact have undergone substantial changes over the past few years. Until August 11, 1994, paint and coatings manufacturers were required by USDA to submit product samples, formulation data and raw material information for official approval and issue of a USDA certification letter before a product could be used in those facilities. After August 11, 1994, that procedure was replaced by one (FSIS Directive 11,000.4) requiring manufacturers to either write their own certification letter, following very specific guidelines, for products submitted on each project; or to provide a complete listing of the chemical composition of each component of the coating with a performance statement noting that the paint or coating will meet required performance. This Directive was in force through November 23, 1995.

On November 24, 1995, a new FSIS Directive, No. 11,000.4, Rev. 1, superseded the earlier Directive and is currently in force. The new procedure requires:

- A. “Effective immediately, prior approval letters, letters of certification, or complete listings of chemical composition are no longer required before the paint or coating may be used in the establishment.
- B. “However, all paints and coatings applied in the establishment must be listed, using the generic terms “paint” or “coating”, on the room finish schedule of meat, import and combination meat and poultry establishments and either on the room finish schedule or in the specifications of poultry establishments.
- C. “The Inspector in Charge will submit this information along with the establishment blueprints to the Facilities Equipment and Sanitation Division at the time of blueprint review.”

Essentially, manufacturers may now provide their customers with products which the parties believe best satisfy the project requirements. There are no longer procedures by which USDA will approve or certify such paints or coatings. Therefore, for specific product recommendations, please contact a Porter Paints Sales Representative, Porter Paints Distribution Center, or the Porter Paints Technical Services Department.

For any required additional information or supporting documentation, please contact the Porter Paints Technical Services Department at the Corporate Offices in Louisville, KY, or visit our website at www.porterpaints.com.