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US ARMY RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND ENGINEERING COMMAND
ARMY RESEARCH LABORATORY
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Weapons and Materials Research Directorate
RDRL-WMM-C

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To All Suppliers on the Qualified Products Database MIL-DTL-53039 and 64159: The elimination of talc, silica and diatomaceous silica based flattened Chemical Agent Resistant Coatings (CARC) topcoats.

The Organic Coatings Team of the US Army Research Laboratory (ARL) is the research and development lead for the Army as well as the approving and validating authority for the Department of Defense (DOD) with regard to chemical agent resistant coatings, primers, ammunition coatings and organic pretreatments. This responsibility includes specification preparation and the management of each associated Qualified Products Database (QPD) as stated in AR750-1.

Effective immediately the ARL Organic Coatings Team will no longer accept talc, silica or diatomaceous silica flattened CARC topcoats for QPD testing. ARL will continue supporting the batch validation of materials currently approved. This support will continue until 1 November 2010. During this time ARL will support all vendors and end-users to convert to using polymeric based flattened topcoats in both the MIL-DTL-53039 and 64159 systems. After 1 November 2010 ARL will no longer issue batch approvals for the non-polymeric based flattened CARC topcoats. ARL fully supports and request that all inventories be used and depleted through daily use to eliminate any waste or unnecessary disposal throughout this process.

The justifications to eliminate the non-polymeric base flattening topcoats from the DOD inventory are significant. The elimination will reduce our inventory to only the best products. Polymer based flattened topcoats mar less, impart greater flexibility and in the MIL-DTL-64159 water based topcoat the polymeric agents are chemically bonded within the matrix of the coating system providing improved weathering properties. The results will ensure a greater life cycle and longer retention of color and gloss, critical variables for survivability.

Additionally, a joint collaboration of ARL and AMCOM personnel evaluated Blackhawks and Chinooks at several depots and facilities. The data collected clearly indicated the necessity to move forward and eliminate silica based flattened CARC topcoats. The findings were presented to the commanding general of AMCOM. The commanding general is in direct support of this effort and directed initiatives to eliminate the use of silica based flattened CARC topcoats for all rotorcraft.

Currently the QPD is fully supported with coatings flattened with polymeric agents with multiple approved suppliers. ARL in the November time frame will eliminate all silica type coatings from MIL-DTL-53039C and MIL-DTL-64159A. Any references in the CARC application and quality control document referenced throughout DOD (MIL-DTL-53072) will also be revised to

incorporate these changes. Through coordination with AMCOM, TACOM and the Defense Standardization Office we will issue the revisions in our specifications. Additionally, we are currently working with suppliers of MIL-DTL-53039 and 64159 to ensure a smooth and systematic transition to support our soldiers, their assets and our end users.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me at 410-306-0693 Office, 410-306-0829 FAX and email: john.a.escarse@us.army.mil or Mr. Fred L. Lafferman at 410-306-1520 and e-mail fred.l.lafferman@us.army.mil.

Sincerely,
//S// John A. Escarsega

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