

National Tree Marking Paint Committee
Meeting Minutes
Colorado Springs, CO
May 4-6, 2010

Attendees:

Gerald Ryszka	R-2	Richard Fitzgerald	WO – FM
Kim Newbauer	R-3	Kim Jones	LEI – R-2
Jim McRae	R-4	Roger Pigeon	WO – Health and Safety
Dan Merritt	R-5	Kolby Hirth	FPL
Frank Duran	R-6	Bill Hensley	BLM
Mary Yonce	R-8	Steve Niles	BLM
Bill Nightingale	R-9	John Thompson	LHB
Ken Dinsmore	R-10	Mark Epstein	LHB
Ted Sandhofer	NFFE	Mark Adams	LHB
Dave Haston	SDTDC	Sherman Drew	NCP Coatings, Inc.
Bob Simonson	SDTDC	Randy Terrill	NCP Coatings, Inc
Ruben Amiragov	SDTDC		

Introductions

Dave Haston of the San Dimas Technology and Development Center (SDTDC) introduced RE Vann who gave a warm welcome to the committee and thanked Jerry Ryszka for coordinating the meeting and the field trip.

Role of SDTDC - Bob Simonson: Bob reminded everyone that SDTDC is accepting proposals for projects to support forest management in the field. Recent SDTDC projects include electronic paint inventory forms, a log scaling safety video, and several online training courses. He also encouraged everyone to visit the T&D website and view documents that explain the role of the technology and development centers (<http://fsweb.sdtc.wo.fs.fed.us/>).

Historical Perspective on Tree Marking Paint – Dick Fitzgerald: Timber sale preparation has changed greatly over time. Tree marking paint (TMP) was not readily used until the 1970's. Several different companies previously supplied tree marking paint. Concerns over health and safety in the 1980's resulted in specification and product changes. The priority for the new formulation was employee health and safety, both while spraying paint and also when cleaning paint guns. Based on input from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), a formulation was developed whereby paint guns could be cleaned with water instead of solvents and was a versatile paint that could be used in varied environmental conditions. NCP Coatings was the only company that was willing to develop a product and ultimately developed a viable solution. NIOSH previously performed worker exposure studies on the new paint formulation (both water cleanup and rain resistant) as well as the older oil based paints. The FS now has a product that works well in field but more importantly is considered safe.

The volume that is being harvested from National Forest lands has decreased over time while the price of tree marking paint has increased. The FS has methods of designating trees for cutting that reduces or does not require the use of tree marking paint. The Forest Service Chief would like to increase the use of stewardship contracting and is investigating a combined version of the integrated resource contract that would include aspects of both the Integrated Resource Service and the Integrated Resource Timber Contracts.

Company Presentations

LHB Industries:

LHB and NCP are proud to be partners with the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and have been working together since the 80's. LHB has learned about FS needs regarding paint from attending the annual meetings. LHB is a not-for-profit company with the purpose of providing employment for sight-impaired people. LHB currently employs a total of 106 employees and approximately 70 of those are sight-impaired. LHB averages approximately \$45 million in annual sales of which \$4 million is TMP. Water cleanup quarts are the biggest selling item followed by aerosols. Orange is the highest selling color for aerosol. The citrus-based paints are the lowest sellers. Most paint orders are shipped within three days. There is a note to the carrier on all orders requiring the carrier to call 24 hours prior to delivery.

NCP Coatings:

Randy gave an overview of NCP including paint development, testing, quality assurance, and production. Orange, blue and green are the highest volume colors respectively. Randy noted that desired product performance is highly dependent on selecting the appropriate product for the environment and will be developing a document to help the end user select the proper product for the application. Design goals include maintaining a user-safe product, maintaining long term stability, improving product performance, and providing lower cost options.

NCP has developed a hybrid tree marking paint – water clean-up with rain resistant (RR) properties that should provide better durability in high UV environments. NCP does not anticipate an increased price for the hybrid. The hybrid paint has been applied on all of the test sites.

TMP Specification Revision Process:

Dave Haston gave a brief history regarding TMP testing. Refer to the following document for background information: letter dated 11/05/2009 to the Regional Forester, R-5 with subject 'Updated Information Regarding the Status of Tree Marking Paint (TMP) Testing (which is attached to the 2009 annual meeting minutes)

http://www.fs.fed.us/forestmanagement/paint/documents/2009_TMP_Meeting_minutes_Chicago.pdf

The paint specification subcommittee met in March 2010 to review and begin development of a health-based specification for TMP. The specification subcommittee consists of Dave Haston (TMP committee chair), Kim Newbauer (representing the regional reps), Ted Sandhofer (representing NFFE), Tim Radtke, DOI industrial hygienist, and Kolby Hirth from the Forest Products Laboratory.

The TMP committee agreed that occupational exposure limits for the metals and solvents listed in the specification should be based on the most conservative requirements from either OSHA, NIOSH or ACGIH.

In lieu of analytical testing which cannot be correlated with employee exposures or health and safety (and which NIOSH identified as problematic), employee exposure testing would be performed when there is a new paint formulation, a new supplier, or a change in paint formulation that could affect employee health or safety, or as determined by the TMP committee. Another proposed addition to the specification includes a requirement that the manufacturer annually certify that the formulation has not changed.

Proposed specification changes will be presented to labor for discussion when the draft changes are complete. A detailed specification discussion was scheduled for the afternoon of May 6 (day two of the meeting).

TMP Acquisitions Management and Ordering

Overall the committee indicated that the new ordering system is performing well and no major complaints have been received.

Region 5 is still having problems with deliveries being dropped off without prior notification (and left unattended). Mark Adams indicated that LHB could automate an email to confirm shipping. The email would not have exact delivery information but would put the district on notice that the paint has left the LHB warehouse.

Kelly Koeppe is still updating cardholders and activity address codes (AAC) on a monthly basis. Changes are effective real time compared to the previous (GSA) system where changes were only effective once the following month. Requests for changes to the cardholder or AAC lists should come from the respective regional representative.

A suggestion was made to put a note on the SDTDC ordering portal to explain the AAC is for the *delivery address* – not the location where the order was placed from. Another suggestion was to add an AAC search feature on the login page but subsequent discussion determined that this would reduce security since the AAC basically serves as a password. Note: if someone attempting to place an order does not know the correct AAC number they need to contact their regional representative.

If the ordering system is down there is a provision for faxing orders. All faxed orders are verified for validity by either Dave Haston or Kelly Koeppe. A suggestion was made that once the faxed order is being processed that an email be sent verifying that the order is being processed.

Large orders or infrequently bought products can take longer to process because the paint may not be in inventory. Since credit cards can only legally be charged at the time of shipment, it is recommended that LHB notify the person placing the order that the shipment will be delayed and that the order can be cancelled if necessary to avoid having pending credit card charges for undelivered products.

Test Site Status

Region 3 (Kim Newbauer): At the time of the meeting the site was not accessible due to snow.

Region 6 (Frank Duran):

- Hybrid – after the paint was applied there was a big storm. The paint has not faded so far.
- Rain resistant – applied seven years ago. All colors will pass the 8 year specification requirement except pink. White is fading but is satisfactory.

The original test site is located on the Willamette NF. The hybrid test site is located on the Mt. Hood NF. Since the paint applied on the Willamette is nearing the 8 year specification requirement (applied in 2003), Frank recommends moving the Region 6 site to the Mt. Hood which is closer to the regional office. In addition, the Willamette site is cluttered with painted trees and the trees for testing are difficult to locate.

Region 5 Hybrid Paint Test Site (Dan Merritt):

- Hybrid – yellow, orange, blue, pink on trees about 1½ years. Tracer tests OK, no fading issues.
- Butterscotch yellow and fire orange look good – need tissue blot on fire orange.
- Type A blue and orange look faint.

Region 8 (Mary Yonce):

- Hybrid – color looks good; tracer very weak on hardwood trees.

- Type C and D (RR) are generally performing well.
- Mary will send bark samples to NCP and SCTDC for additional testing on hardwood species.

Region 9 (Bill Nightengale):

- Hybrid looks good
- Aerosol type D looks good
- Type A – color fade unsatisfactory on smooth bark like aspen; type A on paper birch good; yellow, orange, white color and pink tracer fail on yellow birch and sugar maple
- Bill will send bark samples to NCP and SDTDC for additional testing on smooth bark species.

Other notes regarding paint performance

- Frank recommended that the technical sub-committee visit each test site annually to ensure inspection consistency.
- It was also noted that no issues regarding tracer or color fade have been associated with rain resistant paint.
- Randy will be sending out the hybrid paint samples to several regions for field / production testing on timber sales.
- Randy will work on a draft user guide to paint/ product selection.

Health and Safety

There were no reports from any of the regions regarding employee health and safety concerns.

Technical Subcommittee

Kim Newbauer and Steve Niles will continue to serve on the subcommittee. Bill Nightingale and Mary Yonce will replace Frank Duran (retiring) and Jacob Somerset.

Law Enforcement

No law enforcement issues were identified.

TMP Website

An interactive timber sale administration study guide is on the SDTDC website.

Detailed specification review discussion

The committee discussed the list of metals and solvents (“limited substances” in the TMP specifications). Copper, magnesium, titanium and zirconium were proposed additions to the list of metals. The solvent list was proposed to include benzene, toluene, (m-, o-, p-) xylenes, ethyl benzene, trimethyl benzene (TMB), methyl ethyl ketone (MEK), MEK oxime, methyl isobutyl ketone (MIBK), butyl acetate, naphthalene, n-hexane (C6) and n-nonane (C9) (inclusive list). These changes were based on thorough subcommittee deliberation and result from either laboratory testing, employee monitoring, and/or paint formulations.

In addition to the manufacturer annually certifying that the formulation has not changed, the committee recommended that the manufacturer also certify (annually) that chlorinated solvents, alcohols, cellusolves, and formaldehyde are not added to the formulation.

The committee agreed both with the general specification direction proposed by the subcommittee (as discussed previously during the meeting), as well as the proposed list of metals and solvents subsequently discussed in detail.

Summary of Action Items

- Ordering: Mark Adams indicated that LHB could automate an email to confirm shipping – the email will not identify the exact delivery date but will notify the district that the paint has been shipped by LHB. (**LHB Industries**).
- SDTDC Ordering Portal: Add a note which explains that purchasers must contact their regional representative if they do not know the correct AAC for shipment (**SDTDC**).
- Faxed orders: LHB will send an email to verify to the person that placed the order that the order was received and approved and is being processed (**LHB Industries**).
- Bark samples – **Mary Yonce** and **Bill Nightingale** to send hardwood bark samples to NCP Coatings and SCTDC.

Proposed 2011 Meeting Dates and Locations

Date: Week of June 13, 2011.

Location:

Choice #1: Montana with BLM as host (Billings, Bozeman, Missoula or Kalispell)

Choice #2: Flagstaff, AZ

Acknowledgements

As this was the last TMP for Frank Duran, Bob presented Frank with a plaque for his long term and continual dedication and support to the Forest Service on the tree marking paint committee. The committee also thanked Kolby Hirth for her superior technical support over the last few years.