



ENGINEERED  
POLYMER  
SOLUTIONS

*Science  
Simplified*



CCA

color corporation  
of america

*Bridging the Development Gap with Low VOC DTM  
Emulsions*



*Presented by: Dr. Allen Bulick*

# Agenda

- EPS Overview
- Innovation Drivers in Coatings
- National Volatile Organic Content (VOC) Restrictions
- Challenges of Lowering VOC
- Hardness/Block/Corrosion Performance Survey
- Adhesion/Corrosion Mechanisms & Tradeoffs
- Other Properties
- Summary

# Engineered Polymer Solutions (EPS)

A leading supplier of compliant acrylic emulsion technologies as well as conventional resins to supply the Architectural, Industrial, Construction, Adhesives and Sealants markets.

## Products

Water Based/Acrylic Emulsions

Solvent Based

- Polyester

- Alkyd

- Polyurethanes

- Other resins

Low VOC coalescent

Colorants

## Capabilities

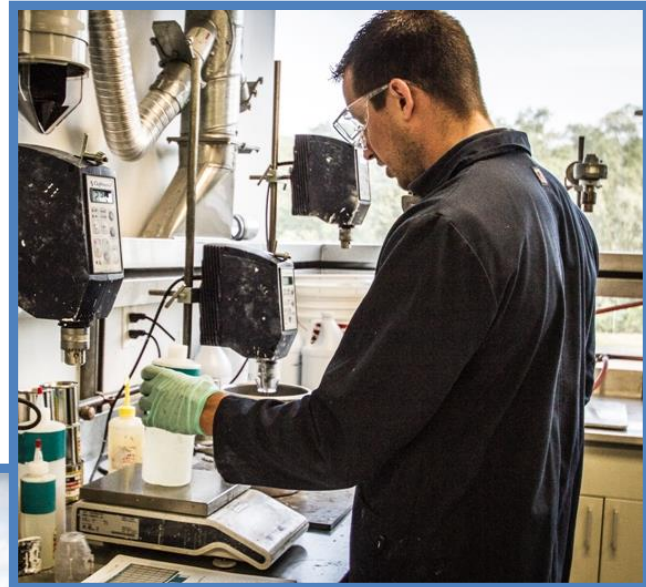
Fully equipped labs in

USA and Netherlands

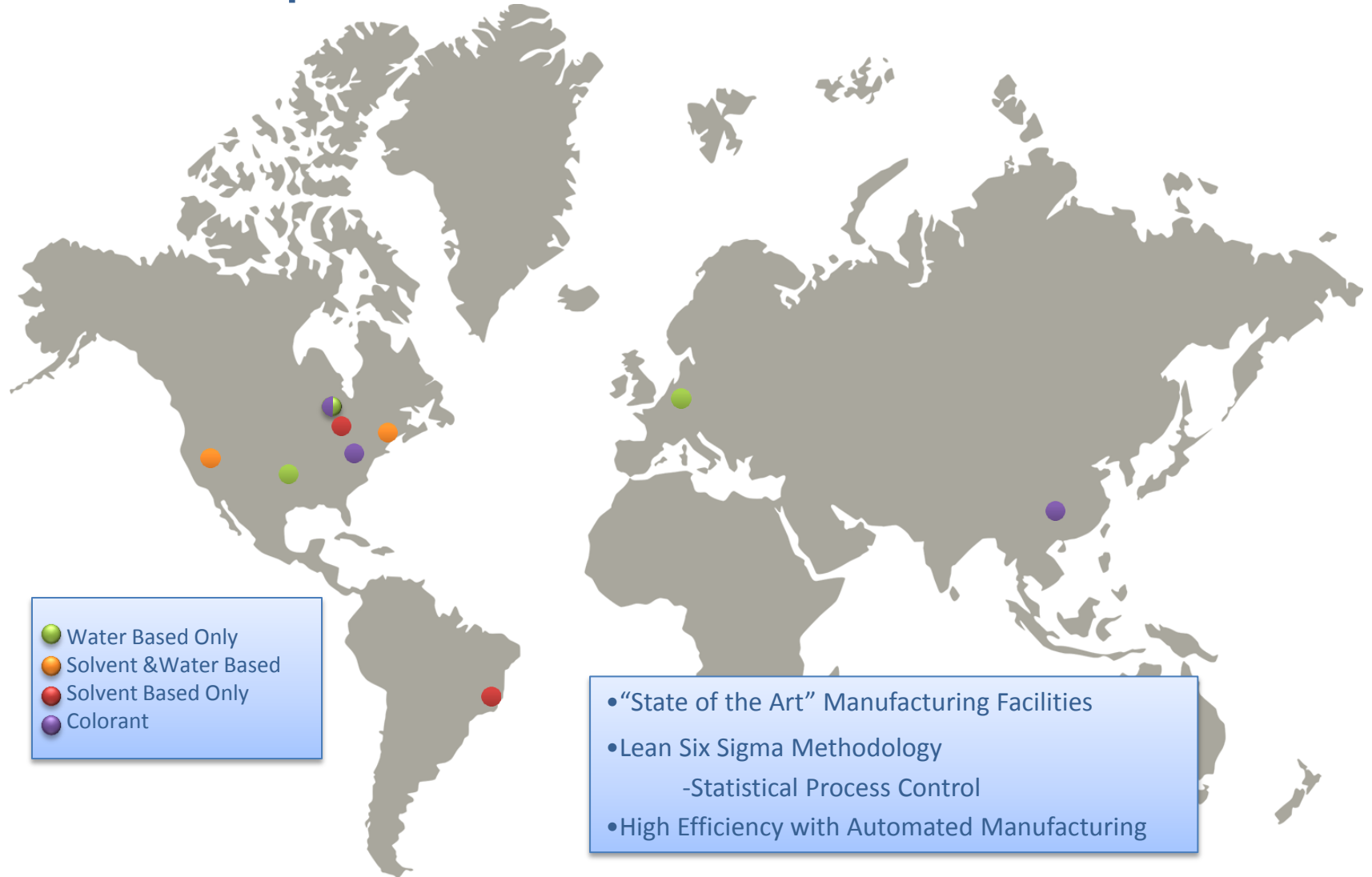
- Synthesis

- Formulation

- Application Support



# Global Operational Excellence



# Technology Offering

**Architectural  
Coatings**

**Industrial  
Coatings**

**Construction**

**Adhesives  
and Sealants**

**Colorants**



# Innovation Drivers

- All about EHS – many examples driving technology changes some by regulation, some by market demand
  - **VOC reduction**
    - Reduction/elimination of coalescing solvents
  - Low maximum incremental reactivity (MIR)
  - Low hazardous air pollutants (HAPs)
  - APEO-free
  - Chromate-free
  - Isocyanate-free
  - BPA-free
  - Other green and sustainability initiatives (eg LEED)

# NA VOC Restrictions

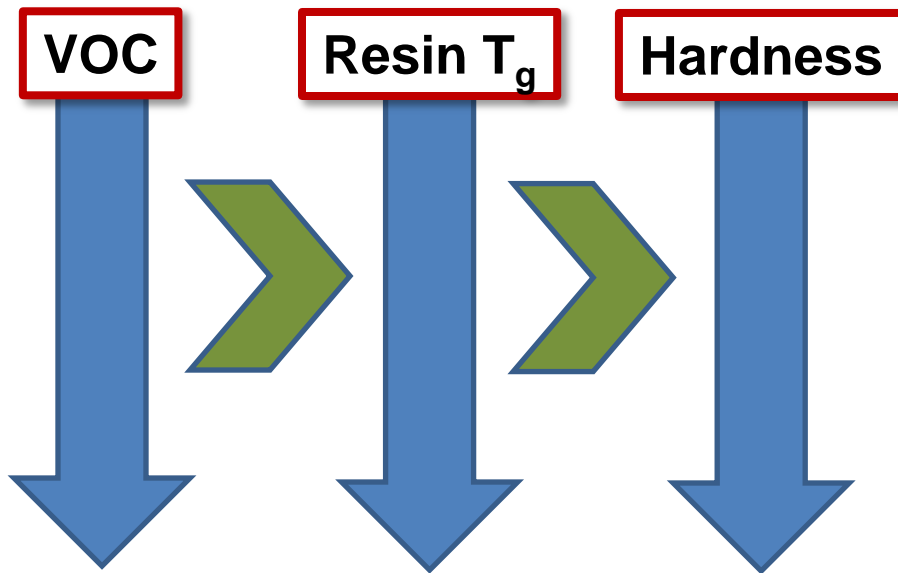
Regulatory Body	Industrial Maintenance VOC Limit (g/L)	Rust Preventive Limit (g/L)
EPA	450	400
CARB	250	150
South Coast (SCAQMD)	100	100
OTC	250	250
Canada	340	400
LADCO	340	400

Elimination of quart exemption may result in the reduction of VOCs of legacy products and SKU reduction for national suppliers.



# Balance of Properties

- Direct to metal (DTM) coatings must balance a larger number of performance properties
  - Corrosion resistance, adhesion, block resistance, gloss, hardness, chemical resistance, early water resistance, weatherability, etc
- Lower VOC demands result in higher technical complexity in an effort to maintain these properties

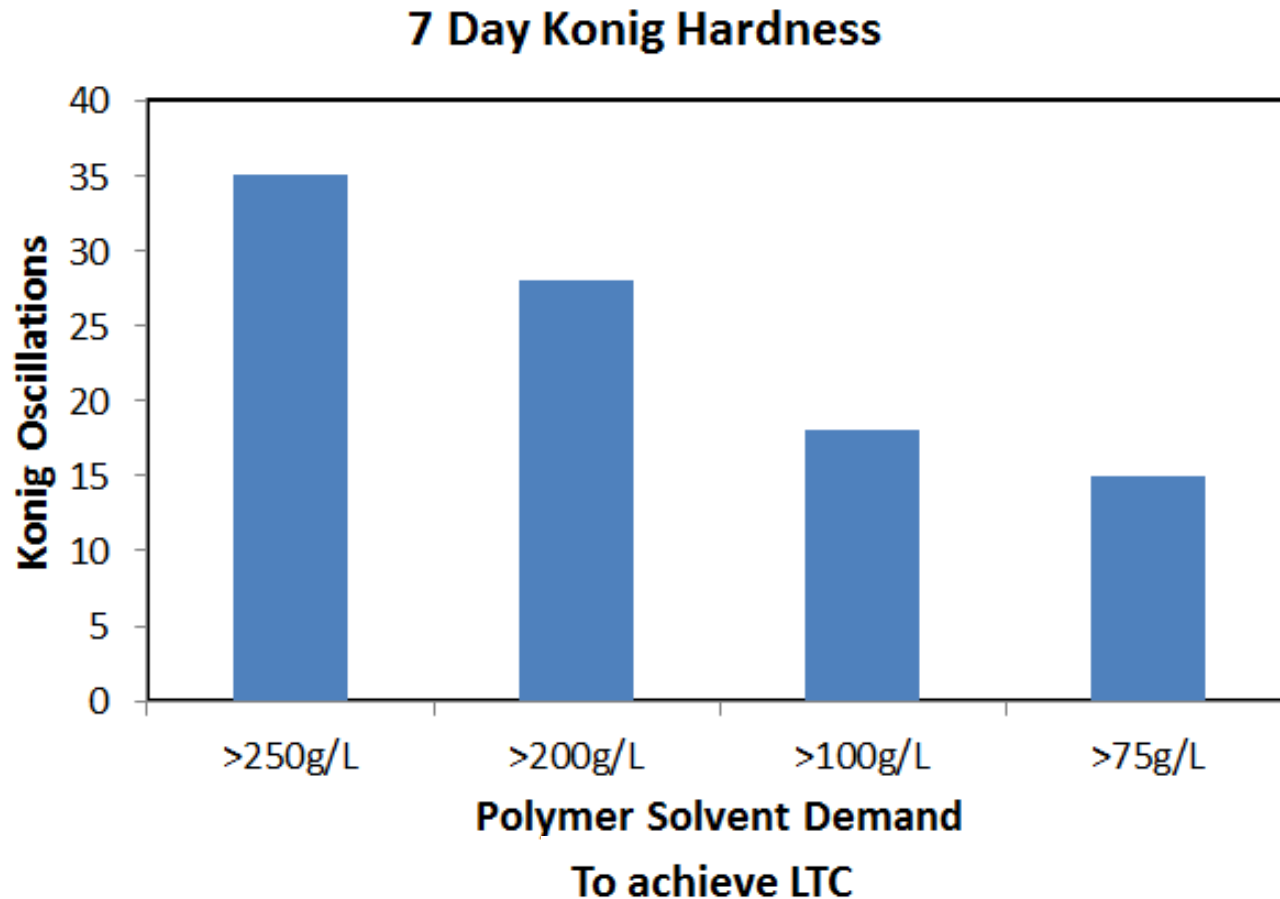


## Performance Tradeoffs

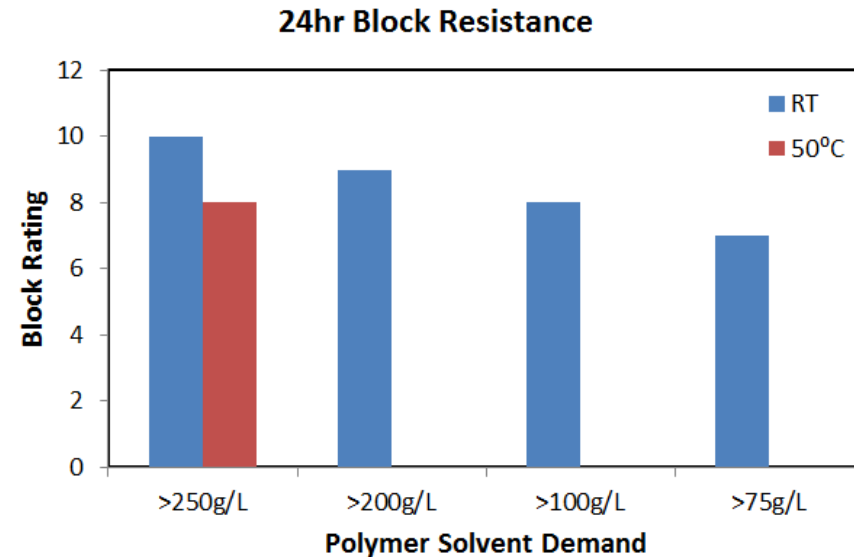
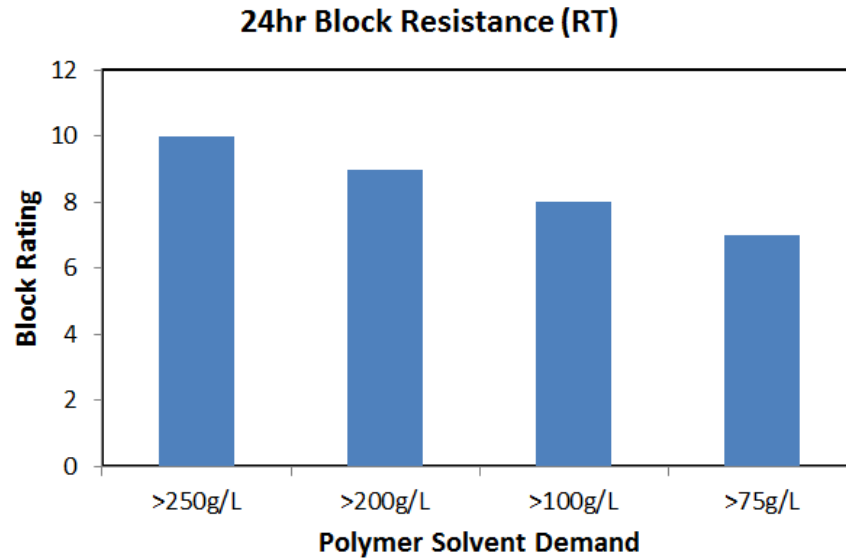
- Lower T<sub>g</sub> (or low VOC plasticizer) to lower VOC reduces hardness and block resistance
- Some formulation mitigations available, but not ideal
  - Fluorosurfactants

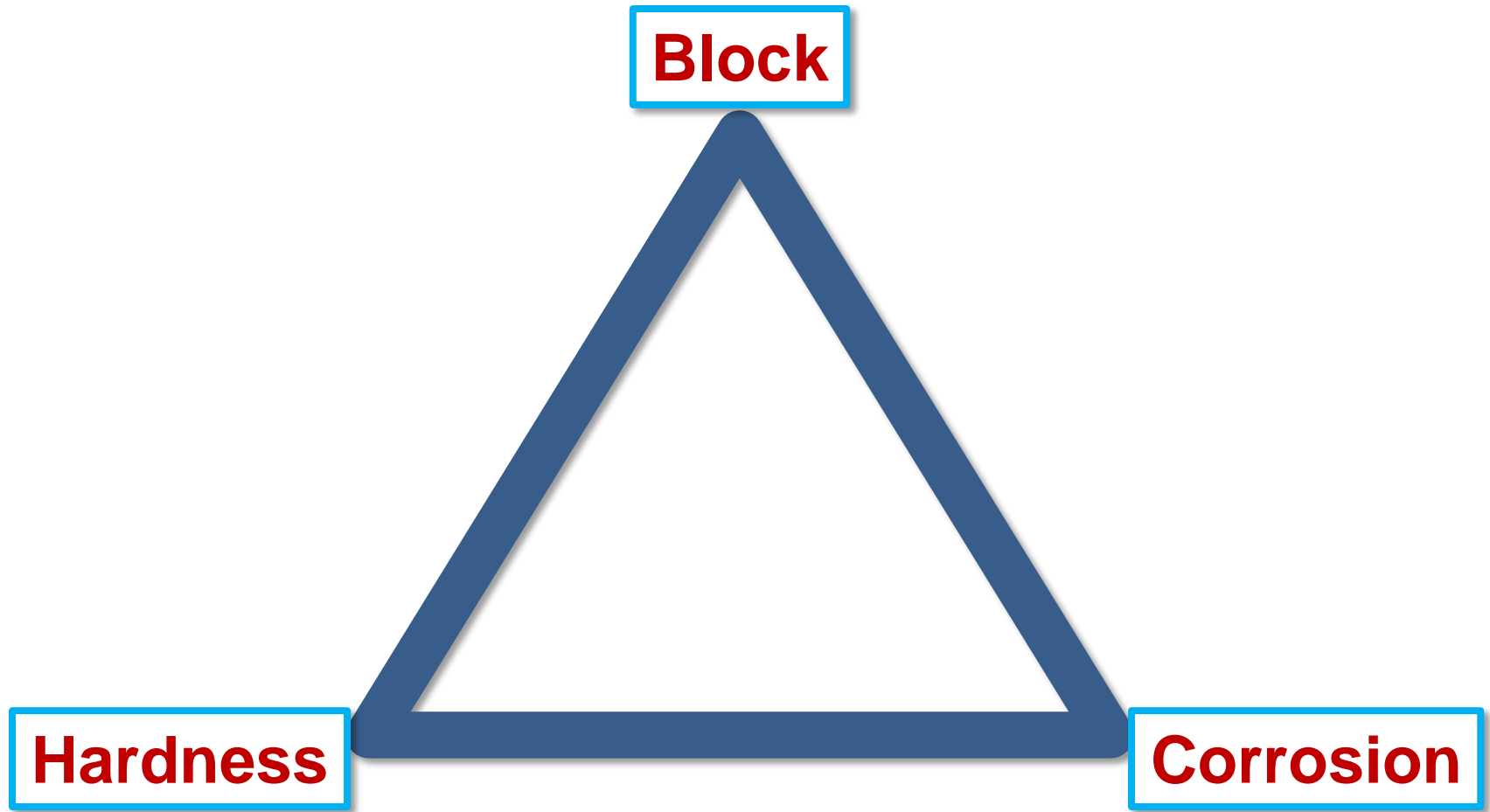


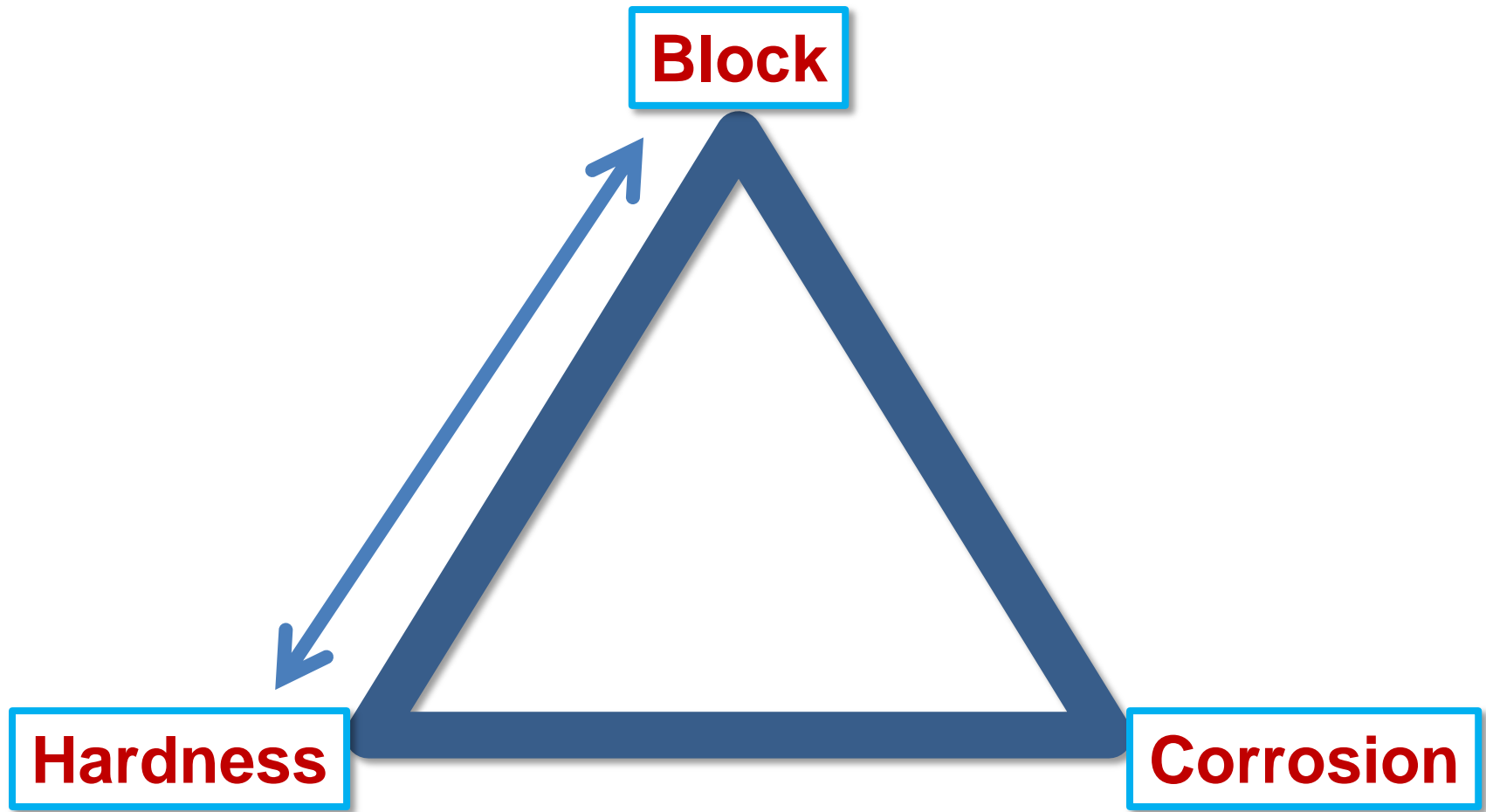
# VOC Performance Tradeoffs



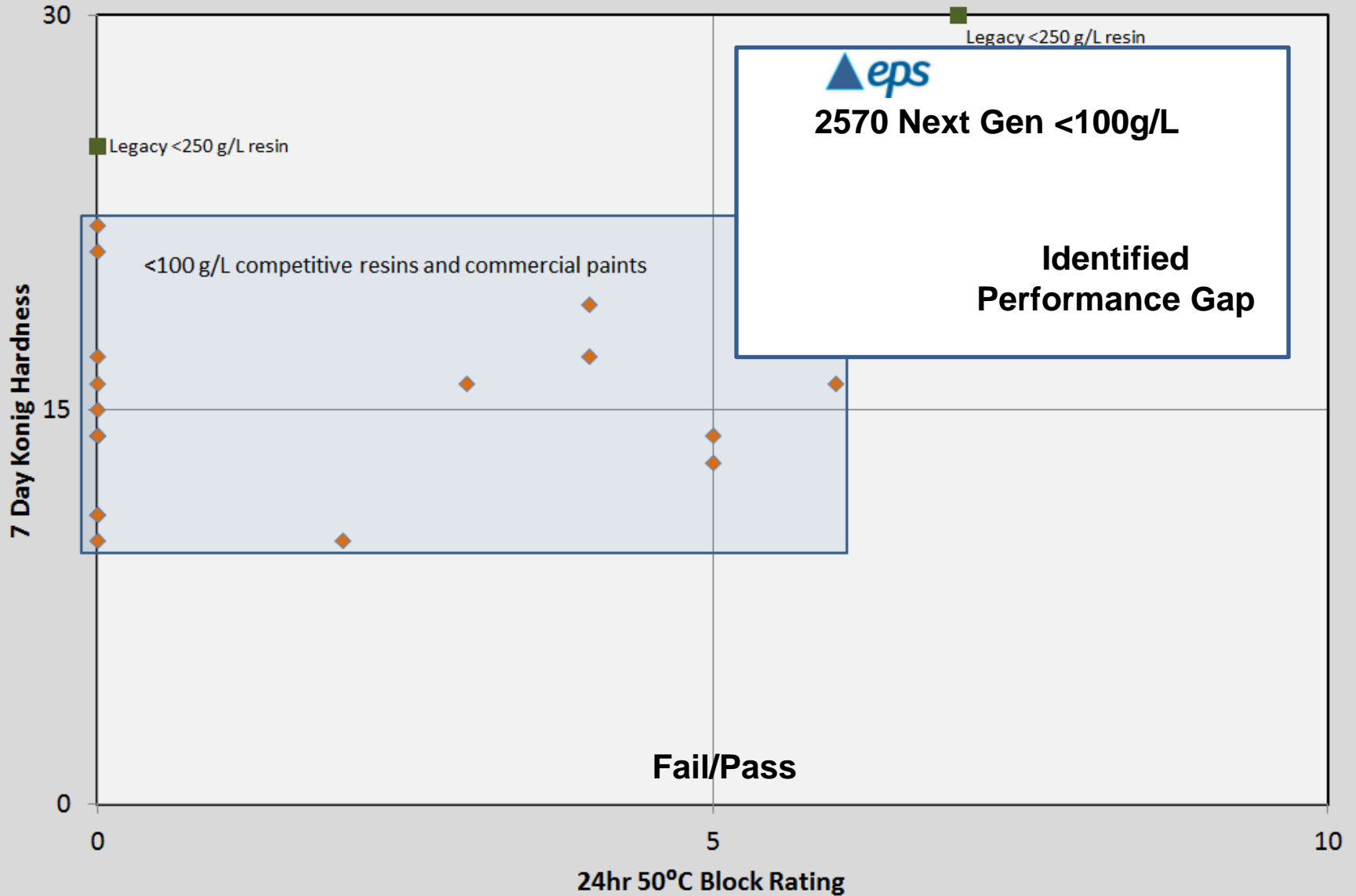
# VOC Performance Tradeoffs



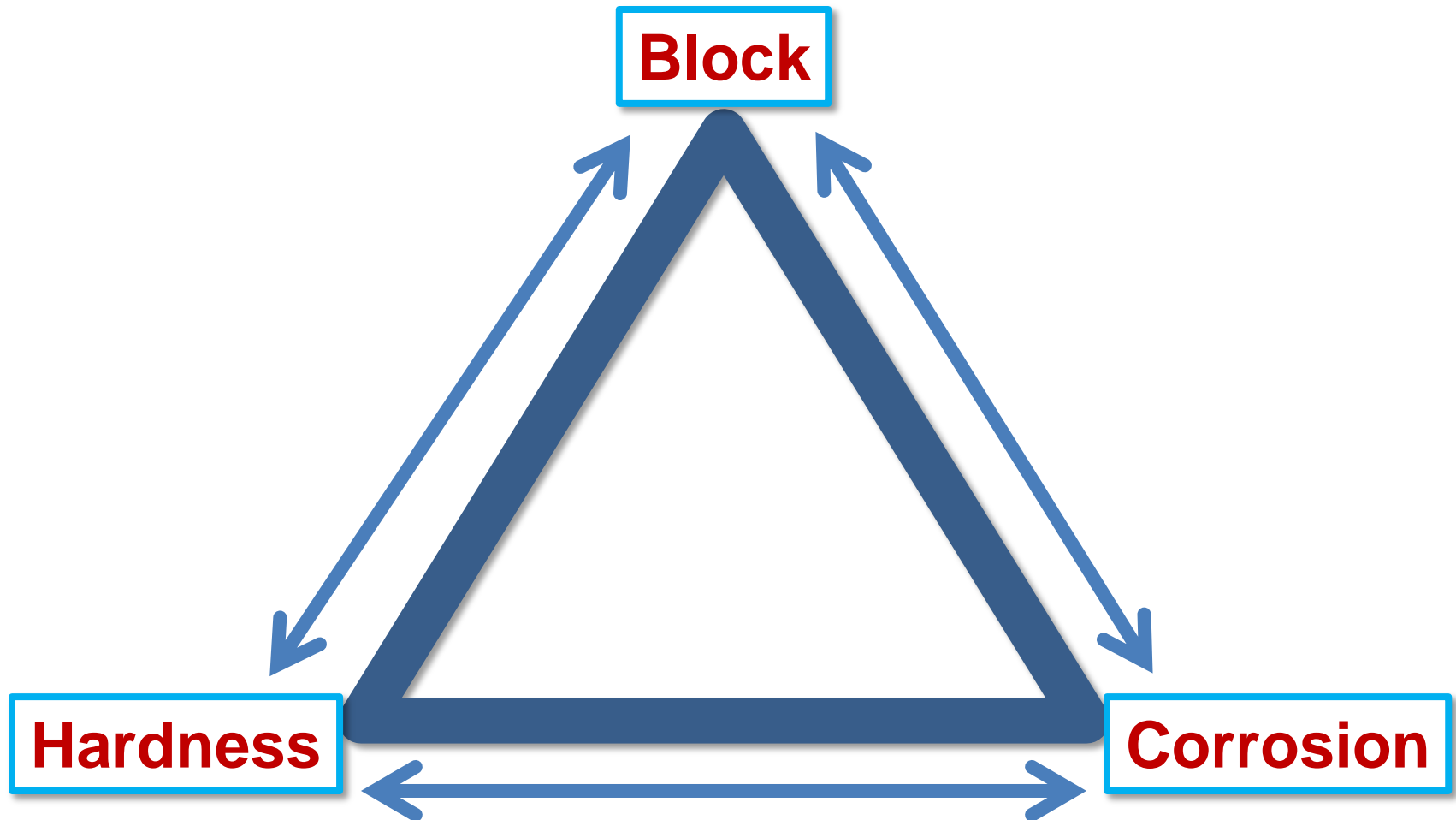




## Hardness/Block Resistance Market Map



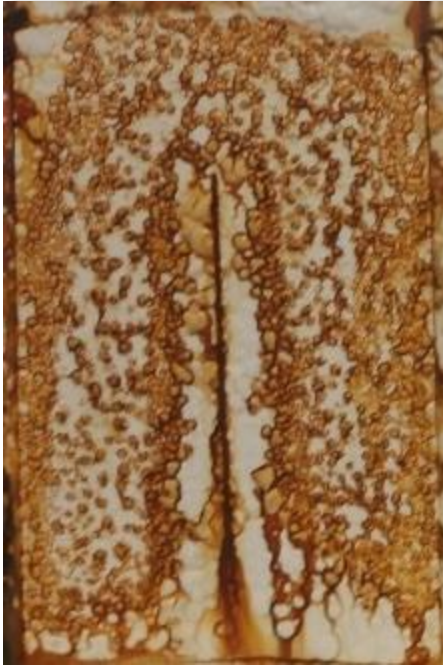
- Market survey (17 resin and paint systems) showed difficulty in achieving >20 Konig and hot block resistance, even in high VOC resins



# Corrosion Performance

B117 Salt Fog, 2-2.3mil DFT, Flat CRS

100g/L Incumbent  
Resin



300 hrs



Initial Prototype



300 hrs



# Adhesion Properties

100g/L  
Incumbent

Initial Prototype

CRS

dry



wet

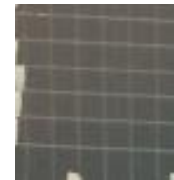


Aluminum

dry



wet



Galvanized

dry



wet



# Adhesion vs. Corrosion Resistance

2-2.5mil DFT, 12PVC High Gloss, 400hr B117

Attempts at improving Al adhesion



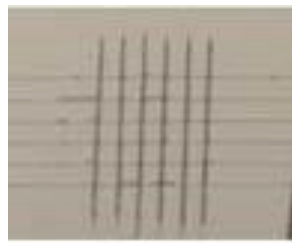
**Incumbent**



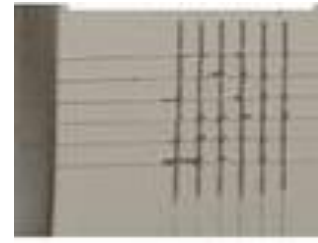
**Prototype A**



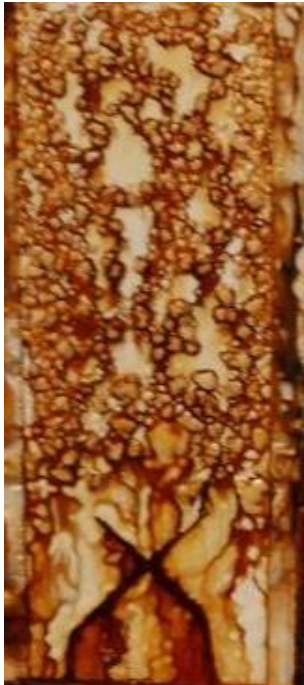
**Prototype B**



**Prototype C**



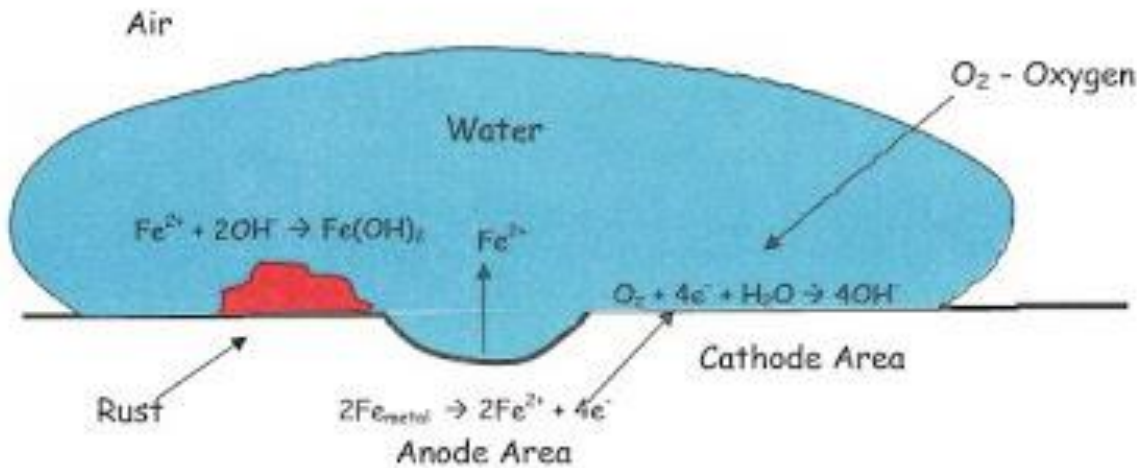
**Prototype D**



# Accelerated Testing Methods

- ASTM B117 Salt Fog
  - 5% NaCl, constant fog
  - Rapid screening tool
  - Excessively harsh vs. exterior exposure
- Cyclic Prohesion
  - Cycles humid/dry cycles in salt fog cabinet with QUV (condensation/UV exposure)
  - Introduces more representative conditions
  - Tests more failure modes
  - Long cycle times vs. B117

# Corrosion on Steel Substrates



<http://acnosite.blogspot.com/2011/11/water-corrosion.html>

## Requires

- Water
- $\text{O}_2$  ( $\text{CO}_2$ , or other reducible species)
- Electrolytic pathway

## Possible mechanisms of corrosion prevention

- Block water penetration
  - $\text{O}_2$  transport inhibition
  - Adhesion – surface passivation, exclusion of water, etc
  - Interference with electrolytic pathway – coating resistance
- Barrier Properties**

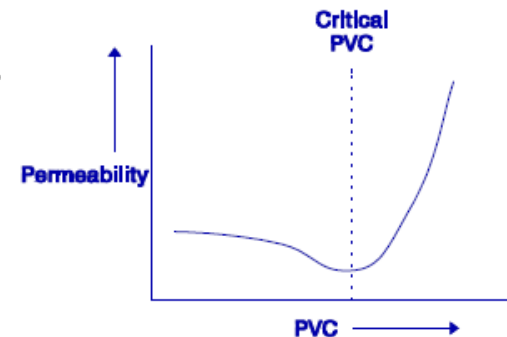
# Barrier Properties

Coating Type	Water Vapor Permeability <sup>1,2</sup> (g/m <sup>2</sup> /25μm/day)	O <sub>2</sub> Permeability <sup>1,2</sup> (cm <sup>3</sup> /m <sup>2</sup> /25μm/day)
Chlorinated rubber	30	50
Coal tar epoxy	75	213
Al epoxy mastic	105	110
Read-lead oil	535	734
Pigmented Alkyd	645	595
Acrylic primer	1800	500

<sup>1</sup>Thomas, NL, *Prog Org Ctgs*, 19, 101, 1991

<sup>2</sup>Thomas, NL *Proc Symp Advances in Corr Prot by Org Ctgs*, Echem Soc, 1989, 451

- What about pigment considerations – ie tortuosity?



# Adhesion in B117 Cabinet



## Styrenated Acrylic Emulsion

### Clear Formulation

Easy film delamination  
out of salt fog cabinet

2k Epoxy Primer

Salt Fog Wet Adhesion (300hrs)



Solventborne Epoxy Ester

Salt Fog Wet Adhesion (300hrs)



## Solventborne Systems

Cross hatch failure

# Corrosion without Adhesion

B117, Clear formulation, ~1mil DFT



**0b – CRS Cross  
Hatch**

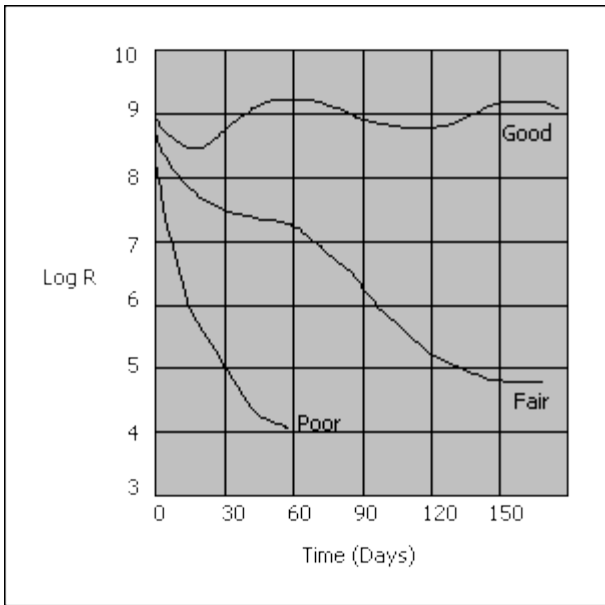


**500hrs**



# Electrolytic Resistance

Likely most important film property in corrosion resistance



*Ind Eng Chem*, 40(1), 1948, 161-167

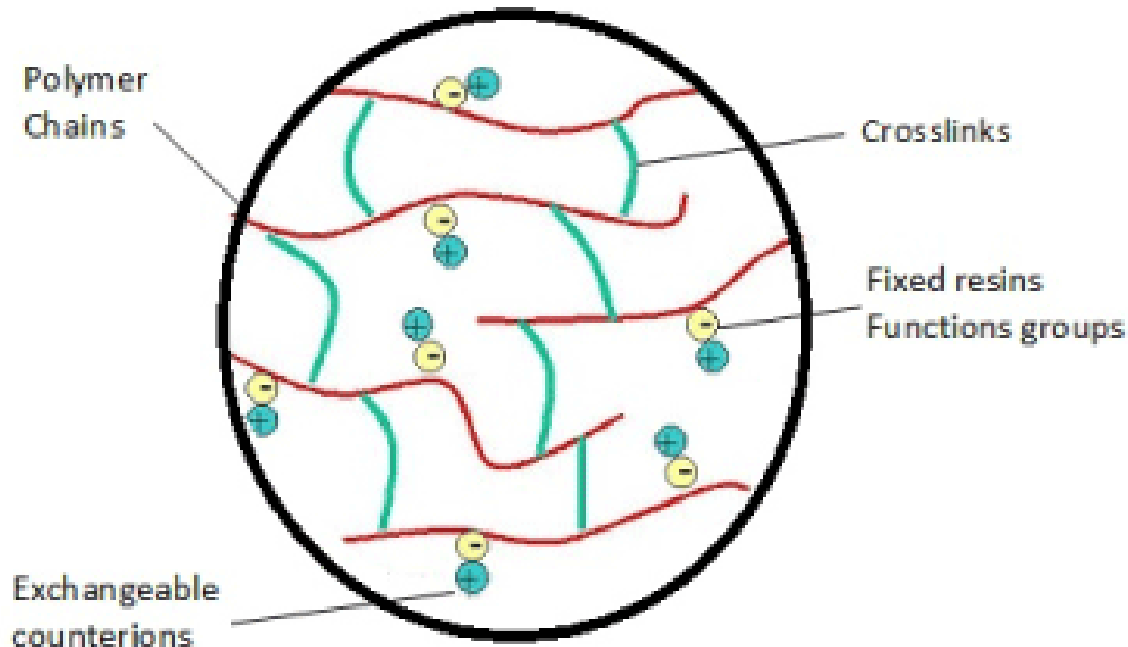
- Study of 300 coatings showed resistance thresholds of  $\sim 10^8$  Ohm for the best coatings and at least  $\sim 10^6$  Ohm for fair performance<sup>1</sup>
- Coating resistance falls with increasing electrolyte concentration

Maitland CC, Mayne JEO, *Official Digest*, Sept 1962

- Inverse study between ion exchange capacity and corrosion resistance of film

Ulfvarson, U and Khullar, M, *JOCCA*, 54, 604, 1971

# Styrenated Acrylic Emulsions as Ion Exchange Systems

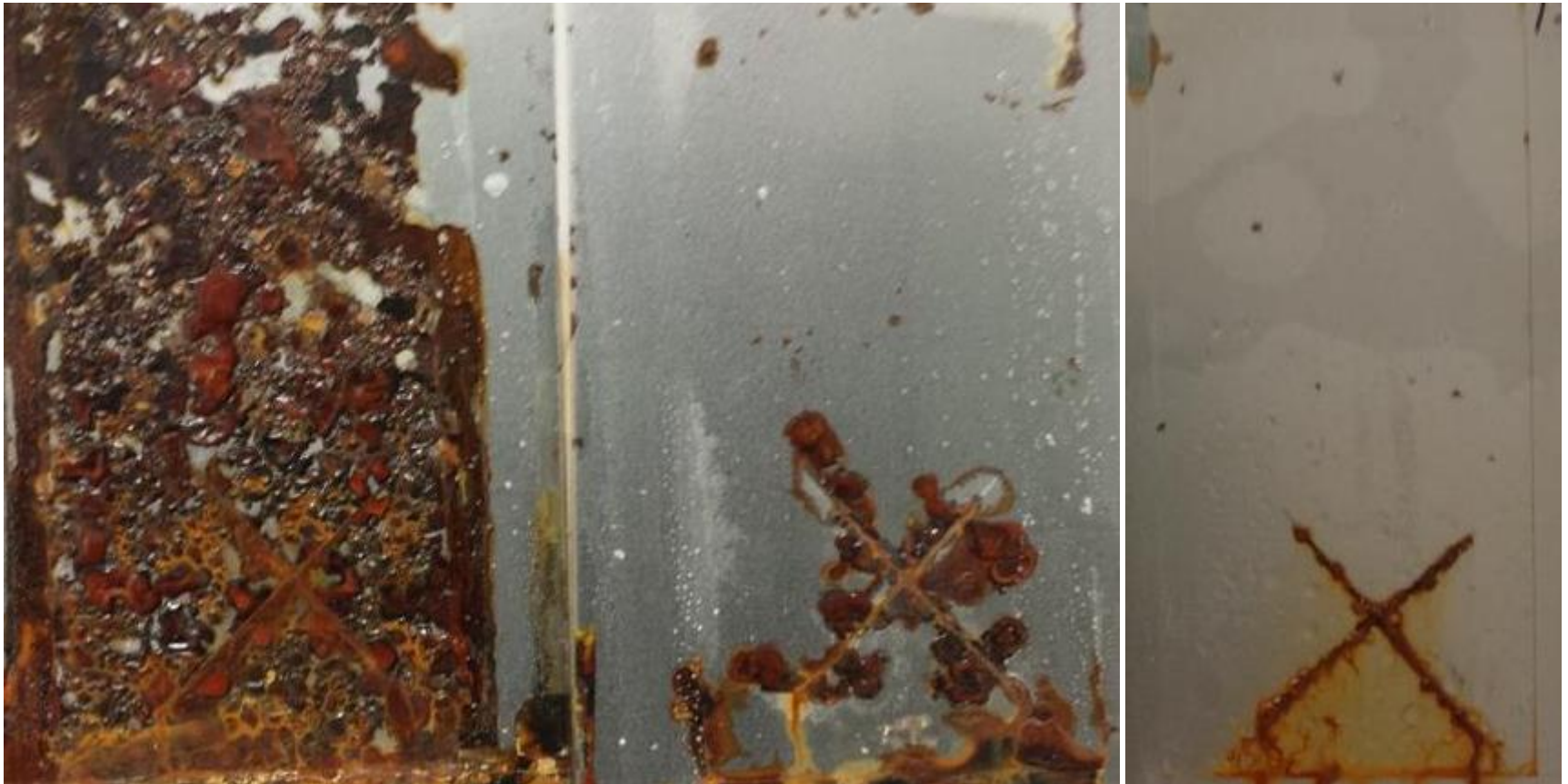


<http://esciencecentral.org/ebooks/advances-in-protein-chemistry/new-protein-approaches.php>











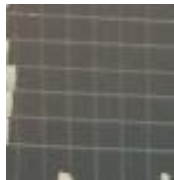
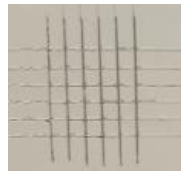






# Corrosion vs. Acid Content

Clear films, 1.2mil DFT, 300hrs B117

Decreasing Acid Content



# Adhesion Properties

		100g/L Incumbent	Initial Prototype	EPS® 2570 Next Gen <100g/L
CRS	dry			
	wet			
Aluminum	dry			
	wet			
Galvanized	dry			
	wet			

# Corrosion Performance – B117

Panel Label:

Resin System  
7day Konig/24hr 50°C Block

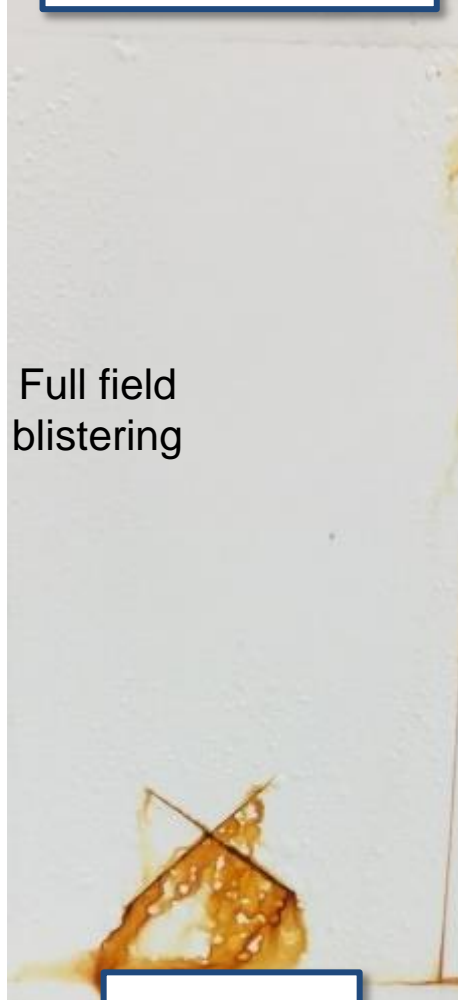
2-2.5mil DFT, Flat CRS

**EPS® 2570**  
**28/6**



**350 hrs**

**Resin A**  
**21/0**



Full field  
blistering

**100 hrs**

**Resin C**  
**15/0**



**48 hrs**



# Corrosion Performance – B117

Panel Label:

Resin System  
7day Konig/24hr 50°C Block

2-2.5mil DFT, Flat CRS

**EPS® 2570**  
**28/6**



**350 hrs**

**Resin A**  
**21/0**



**300 hrs**

**Resin C**  
**15/0**



**300 hrs**

# Corrosion Performance – B117

Panel Label:

Resin System  
7day Konig/24hr 50°C Block

2-2.5mil DFT, Flat CRS

**Resin C**  
**15/0**



**48 hrs**

**Resin D**  
**11/0**



**500 hrs**

**Resin E**  
**11/0**



**500 hrs**



# Corrosion Performance – B117

Panel Label:

Resin System  
7day Konig/24hr 50°C Block

2-2.5mil DFT, Flat CRS

**Resin F  
19/4**



**200 hrs**

**Resin G  
16/0**



**500 hrs**

# Commercial Paints – Corrosion Resistance

2-2.5mil DFT, Flat CRS

**EPS® 2570**  
350hrs



**Paint A**  
<100hrs



**Paint B**  
<100hrs



# Commercial Paints – Corrosion Resistance

2-2.5mil DFT, CRS

**Paint C**  
**<100hrs**



**Paint E**  
**<100hrs**



**Paint F**  
**<100hrs**



# Commercial Paints – Corrosion Resistance

2-2.5mil DFT, CRS

**Paint G**  
**<100hrs**

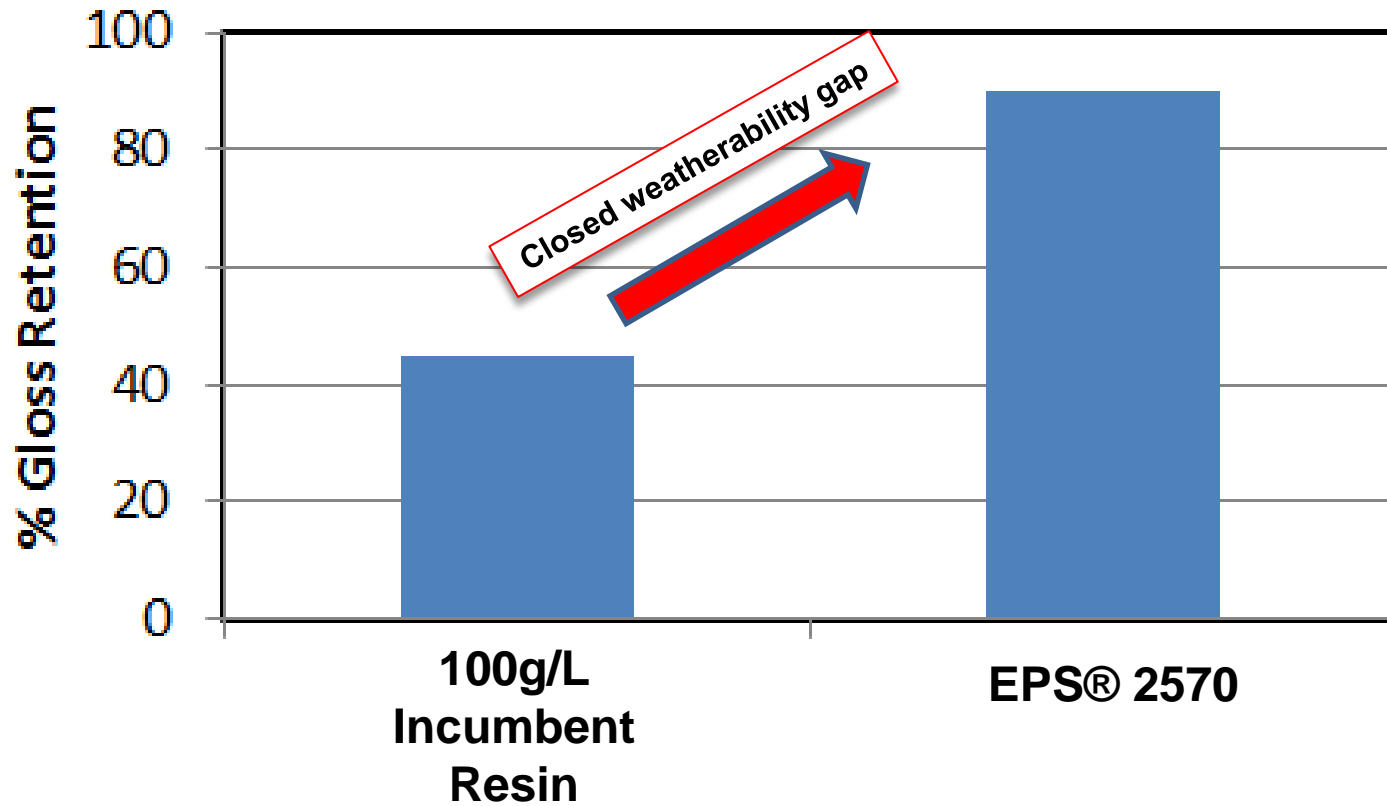


**Paint H**  
**<100hrs**



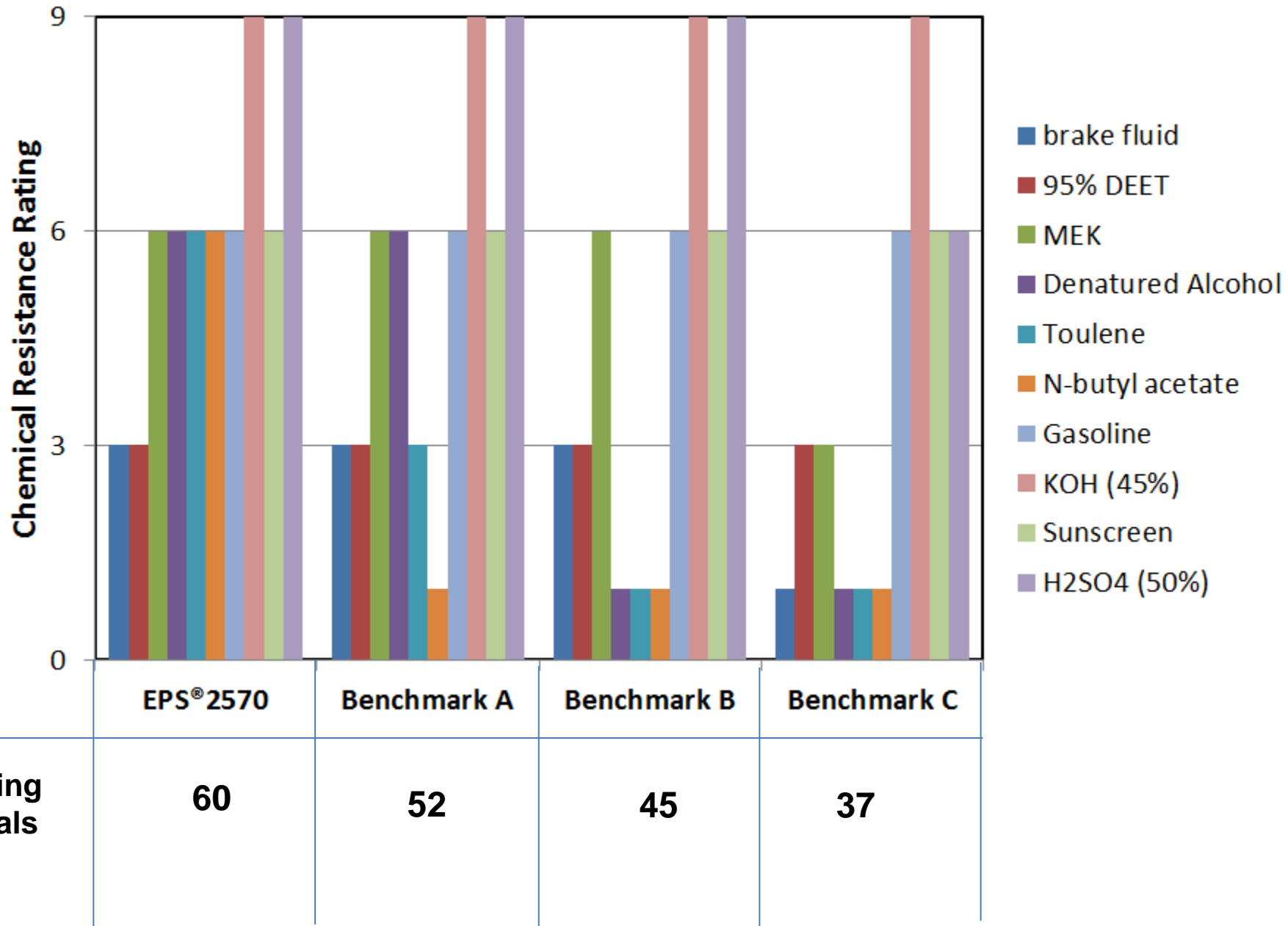
# Weatherability

800hrs QUVA



# Chemical Resistance

9=no change to gloss  
6=reduction in gloss  
3=film softening  
1=delamination





# Chemical Resistance Pictures

**EPS® 2570**

**Benchmark A**

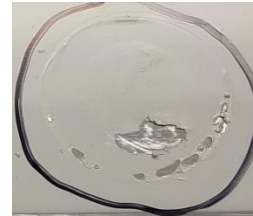
**Benchmark B**

**Benchmark C**

**Sunscreen**



**Denatured Alcohol**



**Toluene**

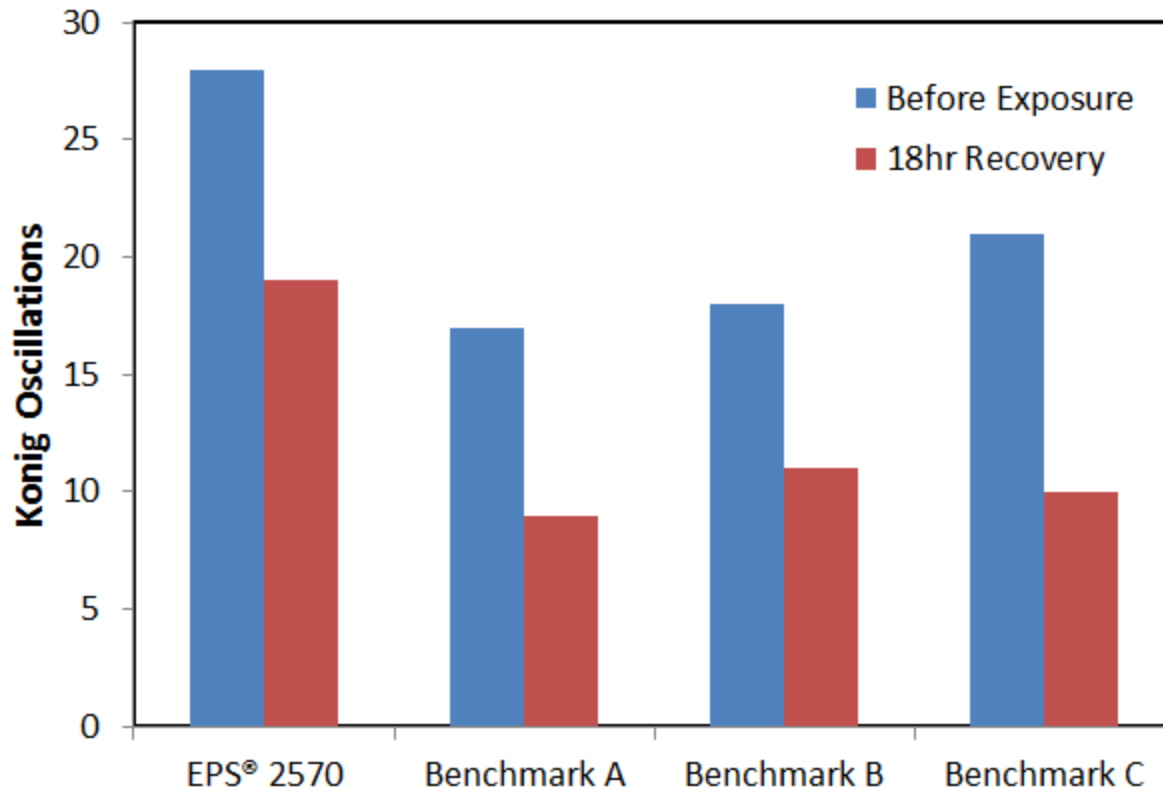


**n-Butyl Acetate**





# Lotion Exposure



- Films exposed 4hrs
- All polymers softened by lotion
- EPS® 2570 maintains hardness advantage on recovery

# Summary

- Market survey of incumbent <100g/L technologies showed a significant performance gap in a balance of hardness/block/corrosion resistance
- Low VOC trends place significant difficulties on resin selection and design
- EPS sought to develop the best overall balanced polymer in the <100g/L DTM category
- A next generation development based on current state of the art polymer understanding fills that performance gap
- Balancing adhesion and corrosion requires special consideration in waterborne styrenated acrylic systems
- Ongoing work to fully understand formulation space/performance of the new polymer

# Acknowledgements

- Chris LeFever – Associate Chemist
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- Matt Mellott – Chemist
- Howard Killilea – Tech Director
- Iain Harvey – Project/Process Director

# Questions?



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[www.epscqa.com](http://www.epscqa.com)

