



October 23, 2006

Clerk of the Board
Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
P.O. Box 2815
Sacramento, California 95812

Subject: Rubber & Vinyl Protectant Definition Change

Dear Clerk of the Board,

Meguiar's is a small family owned California company since 1901. In the beginning Meguiar's polishes and waxes were primarily used by car manufacturers, car dealers, body shops, and detailers. As car shows became prevalent in the 60's the masses of people began to recognize the use of Meguiar's polishes to create the brilliant, high-gloss finishes. Growing numbers of people began pressuring retailers to stock Meguiar's Mirror Glaze products. It wasn't until 1973 that Meguiar's introduced its first product to the consumer marketplace. Since then, Meguiar's mostly by "word-of-mouth" have enjoyed a loyal following of consumers who will use nothing, but Meguiar's products.

For many years, Meguiar's has been in development for a long durable tire shine product to help maintain and beautify the tire's rubber. It wasn't until a couple years ago when Meguiar's research had discovered a coating process that could deliver the superior results. This required an anhydrous airlock system for its shelf life and application delivery. This product is called "Hot Shine Tire Coating" and our consumers love the performance of this unique product. Meguiar's offer premium rubber and vinyl protectants common to the industry standards, but this tire coating with its patented adjustable spray pattern is over the top in performance and easy to use. This is a great product for the car enthusiast and the like to apply a long durable high gloss.

Meguiar's tire coating is compliant with the aerosol coating regulation. Also, in the *"Initial Statement of Reasons For The Proposed Amendments To The California Aerosol Coating Products, Antiperspirants and Deodorants, And Consumer Products Regulations, Test Method 310, and Airborne Toxic Control Measure For Para-Dichlorobenzene Solid Air Fresheners and Toilet/Urinal Care Products"* release date of *May 7, 2004*; under the Footwear or Leather Care Product description, staff states "as previously discussed, resin-containing aerosol products for leather substrates such as "protectant" products that form a sometimes invisible film...", "...are considered separately as "Vinyl/Fabric/Leather/Polycarbonate Coatings, and are already regulated as "aerosol coating products." In addition, under the Footwear or Leather Care product

description, (specifically in the “aerosols” section), I cite the following from the May 7, 2004 document: “...aerosol products containing resin or pigments, such as “protectants” and “color-renew,” are not in this category. This means that aerosol products containing resins or pigments, regardless of whether the product performs the same function, are not subject to the consumer product regulation. **Using this reasoning tire coatings should be given the same treatment as aerosol products in the Footwear or Leather Care product and regulated under the aerosol coating regulation.**

The issue of great concern is that of the process. The current process for making this change has not been staff’s typical open and transparent process driven by data and factual information. Other product categories are being acted upon in November. In those cases, a formal survey was performed; the data was compiled, and released for public review. Furthermore, four public meetings were held to discuss the results of the surveys involving these other product categories. For example, products impacted, companies responding to the survey, VOC emissions released, and companies affected have been key elements of the recent public review. In contrast to this open sharing, no data has been shared publicly for the Rubber and Vinyl Protectant category. To date, there has not been any data released on emissions, a list of the products impacted by this change, or the financial impact to companies that now make these products. CARB has stated that a supplemental survey was done. The supplemental survey results were not publicly noticed nor, as stated above, has any data been released.

In summary our tire dressing should remain regulated by the aerosol coating regulation as has been done for similar products in other categories (i.e. Footwear and Leather Care products). Next the due process of this regulation has not been open and transparent as in other rulemakings. Given the above reasons Meguiars respectfully requests that CARB defer this action until a full and complete assessment of the issues surrounding this change is complete.

Thank you for your time and consideration to this issue.

Sincerely,



Gary Silvers
Vice President Research & Development

cc: Robert D. Fletcher, P.E., Division Chief, Stationary Source Division
Robert D. Barham, Ph.D., Assistant Division Chief, Stationary Source Division
Janette M. Brooks, Chief, Air Quality Measures Branch, Stationary Source Division
David Mallory, Manager, Measures Development, Stationary Source Division