

# NEW ACRYLIC BINDER FOR HIGH PERFORMANCE WATERBORNE LOW VOC DIRECT-TO-METAL COATINGS: RESIN AND COATING FORMULATION INTERACTION

Chris LeFever

[clefever@eps-materials.com](mailto:clefever@eps-materials.com)

815-345-0514



# Agenda

1. Trends and performance challenges in waterborne direct to metal coatings
2. Market gap analysis on performance property balance
3. Performance objectives and experiment outline
4. Results and discussion
5. Conclusions

# Direct to Metal Coatings

## Industry trends

- Transition from solventborne to waterborne systems for light-duty applications
- Addressing new VOC\* regulations to improve environmental and EHS profile
- Minimizing applied costs through 1 coat systems
- Addressing VOC regulations without sacrificing anti-blocking properties
- Balancing multisubstrate adhesion with high corrosion resistance



# Direct to Metal Coatings Trends

## Solventborne transition to Waterborne

### Solventborne Alkyd

#### Pros

1. Thin film corrosion resistance
2. Substrate tolerance
3. Low temperature applications

#### Cons

1. High VOC
2. Highly Flammable
3. High risk for Chemical exposure
4. Slower dry times with high solvent levels

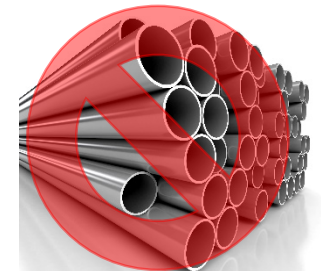
### Waterborne Acrylic

#### Pros

1. Low VOC
2. Low flammability
3. Low risk for chemical exposure
4. Quick Dry with low solvent

#### Cons

1. Lack thin film corrosion resistance
2. Need for substrate prep
3. Incapable of low temperature application
4. Low VOC thermoplastics tend to be soft

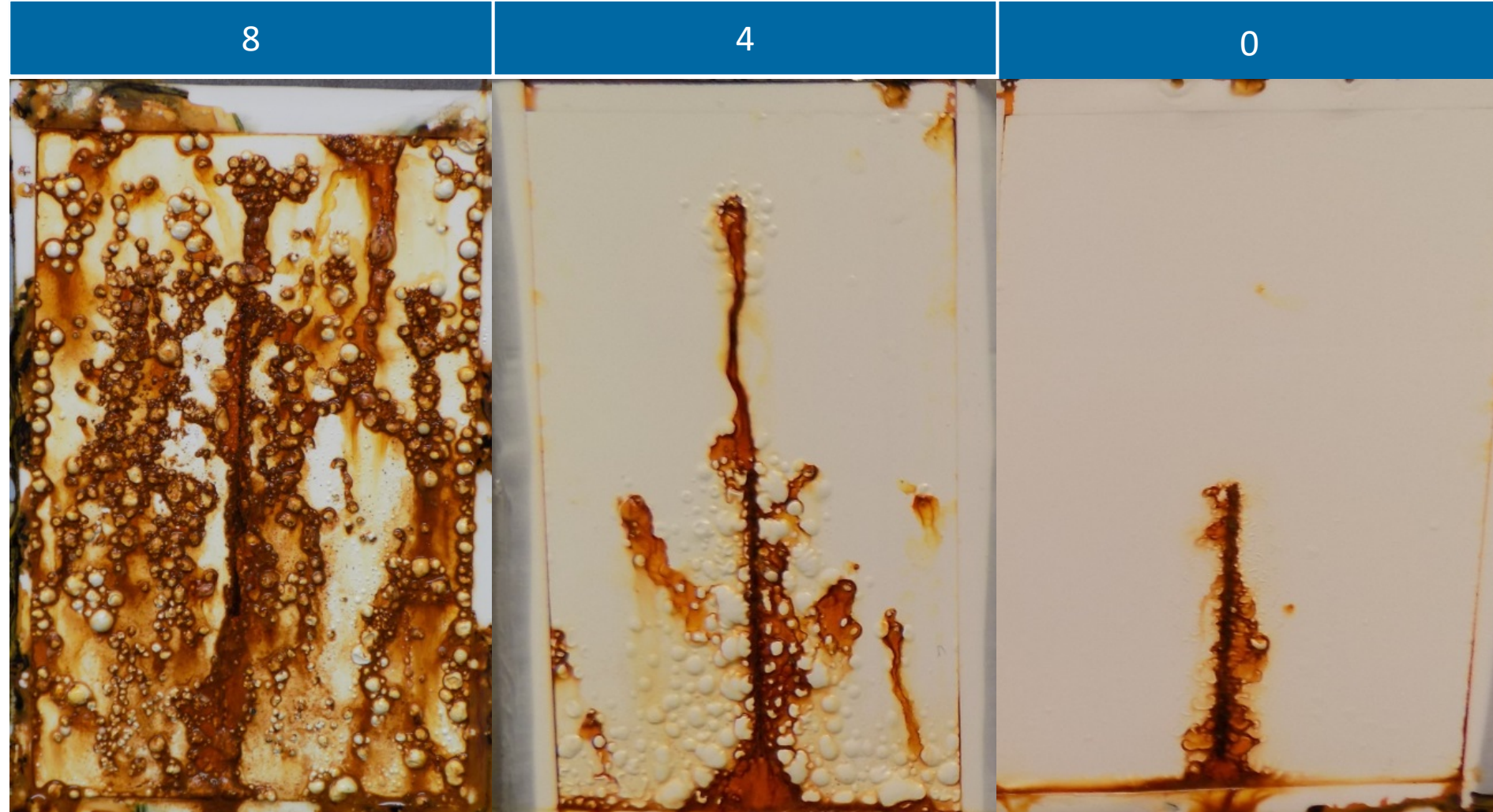


# Direct to Metal Coatings Challenges

## (Corrosion and Block Resistance)

Block Rating  
0-10 where 10  
represents no tack

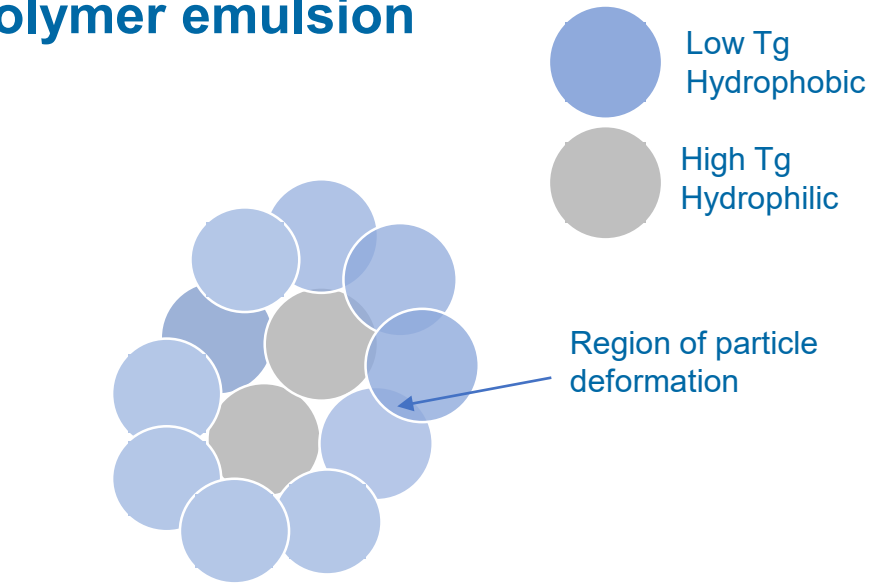
300hr B117 @ 2mil  
DFT



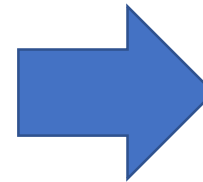
# Direct to Metal Coatings Challenges

## (Film Formation Process)

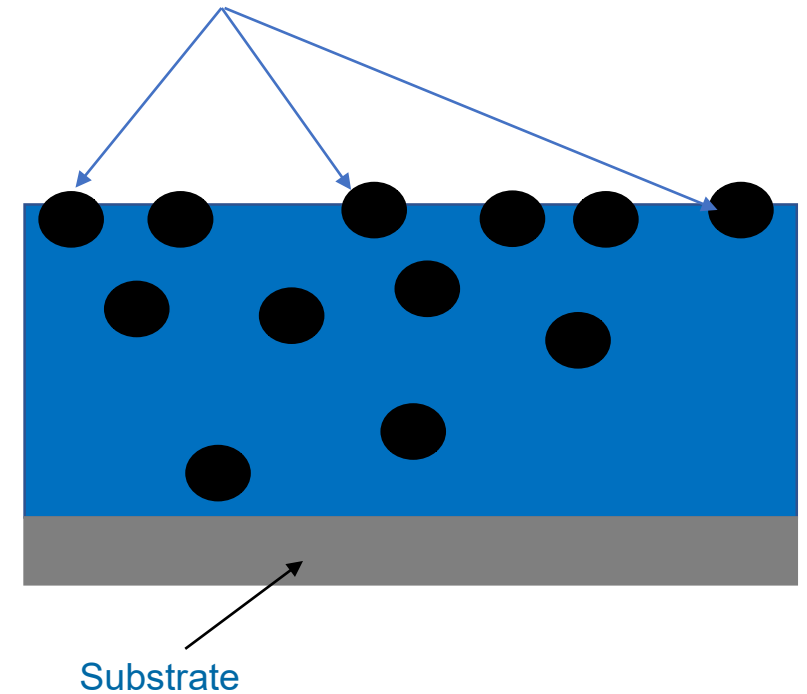
### Multi-Phase polymer emulsion



Stage 2 of latex drying process subsequent to water evaporation coincides with the evolution of high and low Tg domains in film resulting in a heterogenous Tg distribution.

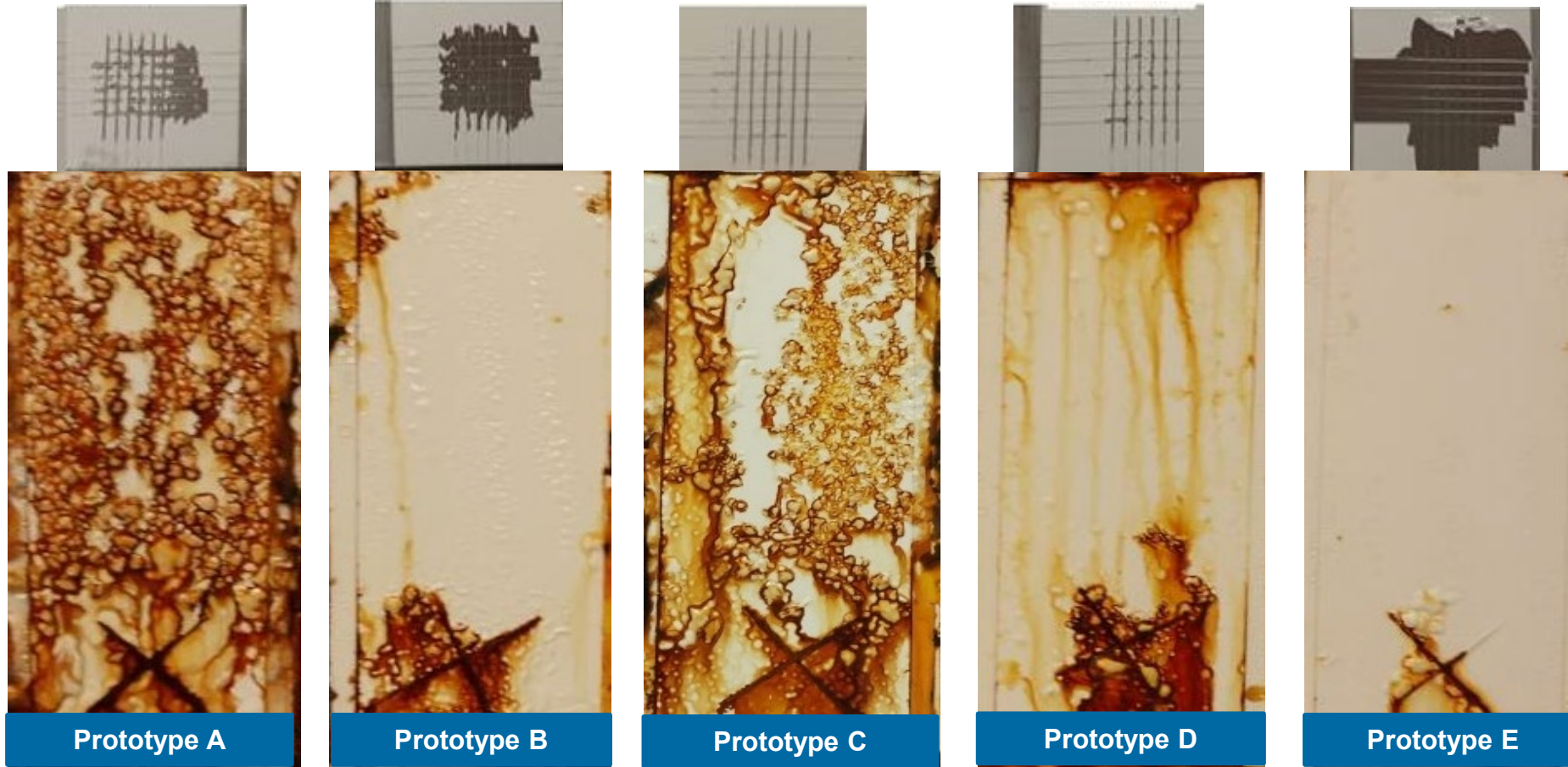


Concentration of High Tg Polymer at Air interface providing anti-blocking



# Direct to Metal Coatings Challenges

(Corrosion and Adhesion)



Prototype A

Prototype B

Prototype C

Prototype D

Prototype E

Aluminum  
adhesion

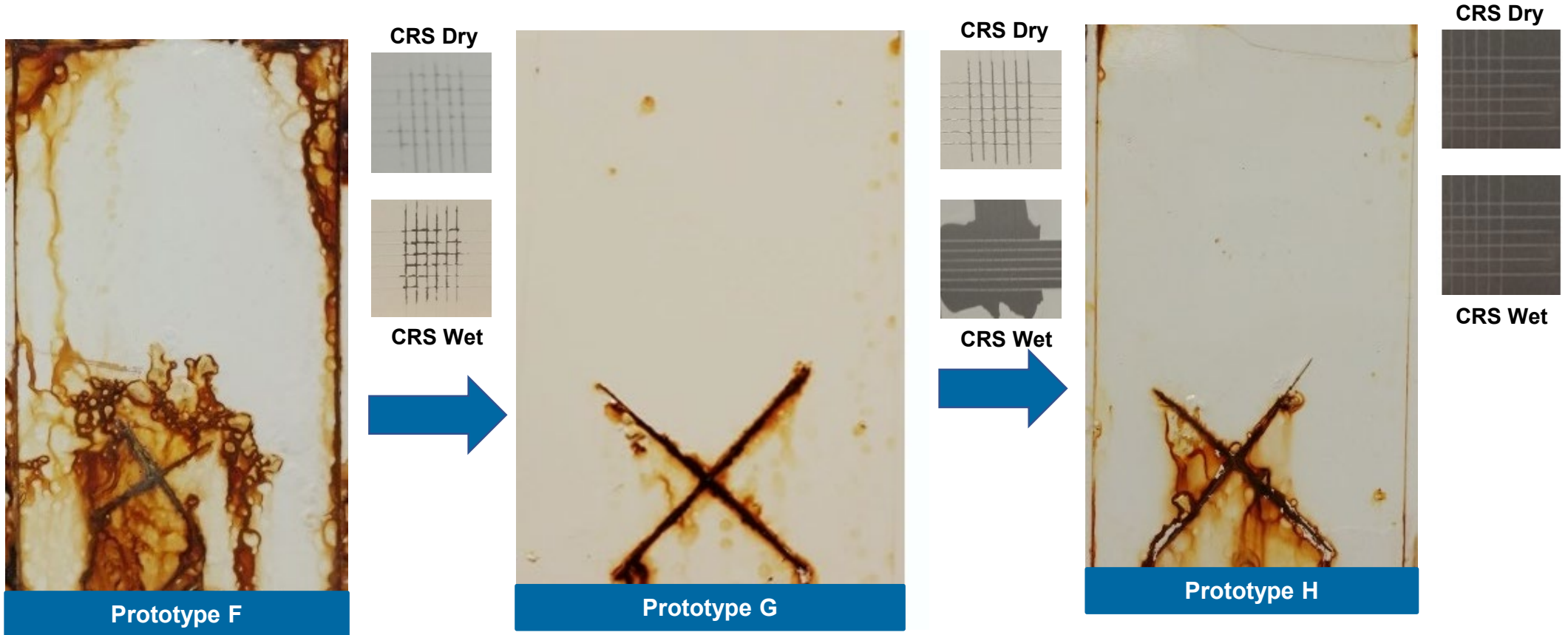
300hr B117

Challenges arise due to surfactant aggregation at interfaces and the need to incorporate specific polymer functional groups

# Direct to Metal Coatings Challenges

## (Corrosion and Wet Adhesion)

300hr B117 @ 2mil DFT



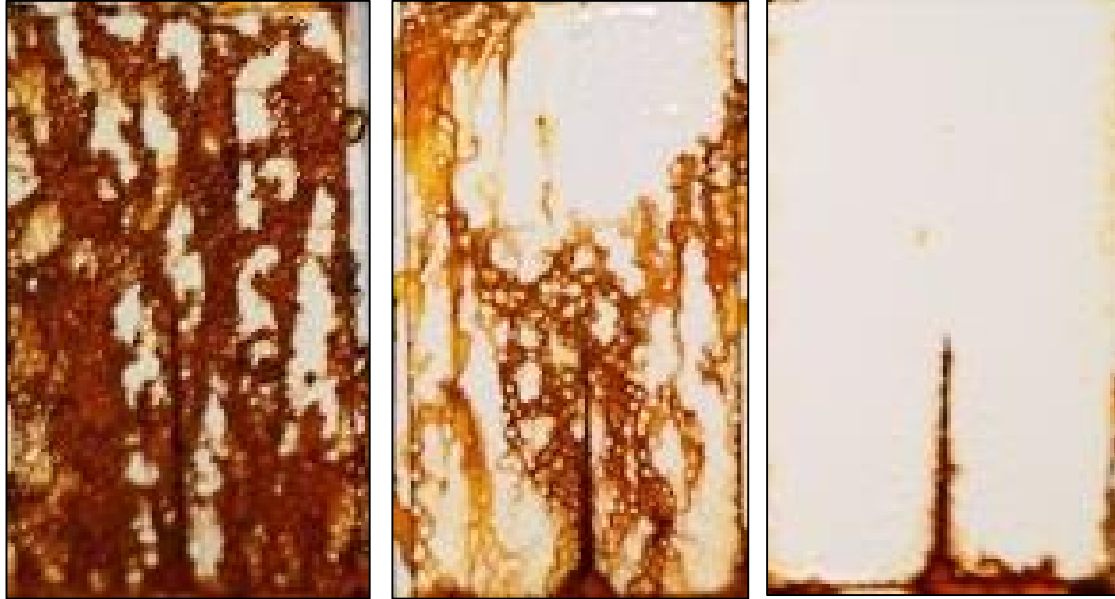


# Direct to Metal Coatings Challenges

## (Thin Film Corrosion)

### Corrosion resistance at 300hrs in B117

Benchmark 50g/L product

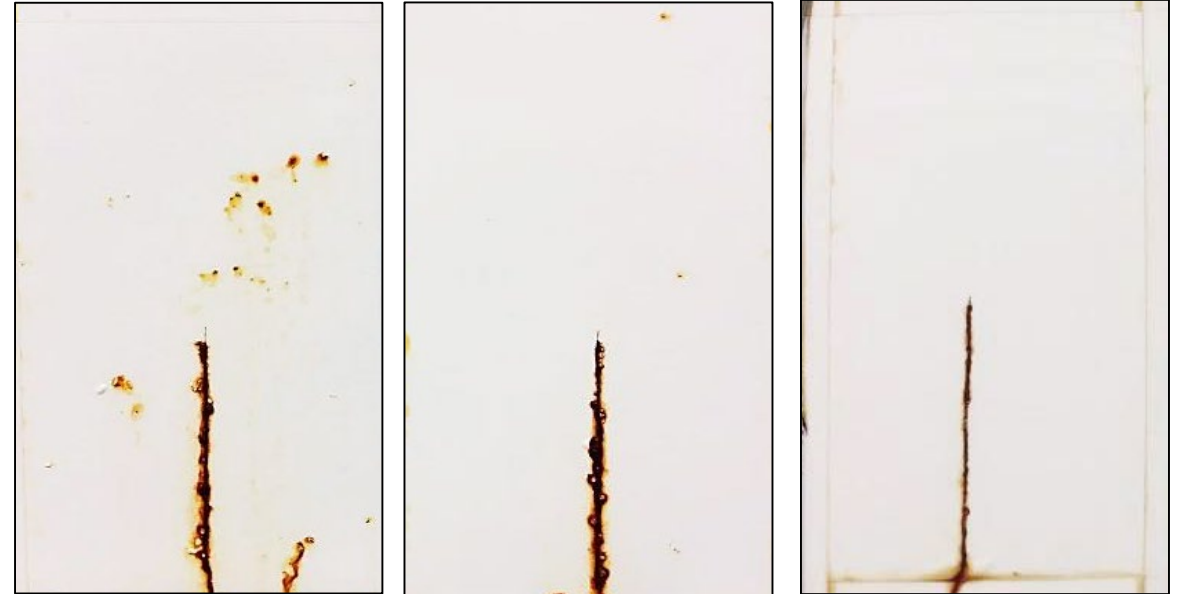


1mil

2mil

3mil

EPS® 2580



1mil

1.5mil

2mil

# Market Gap Analysis

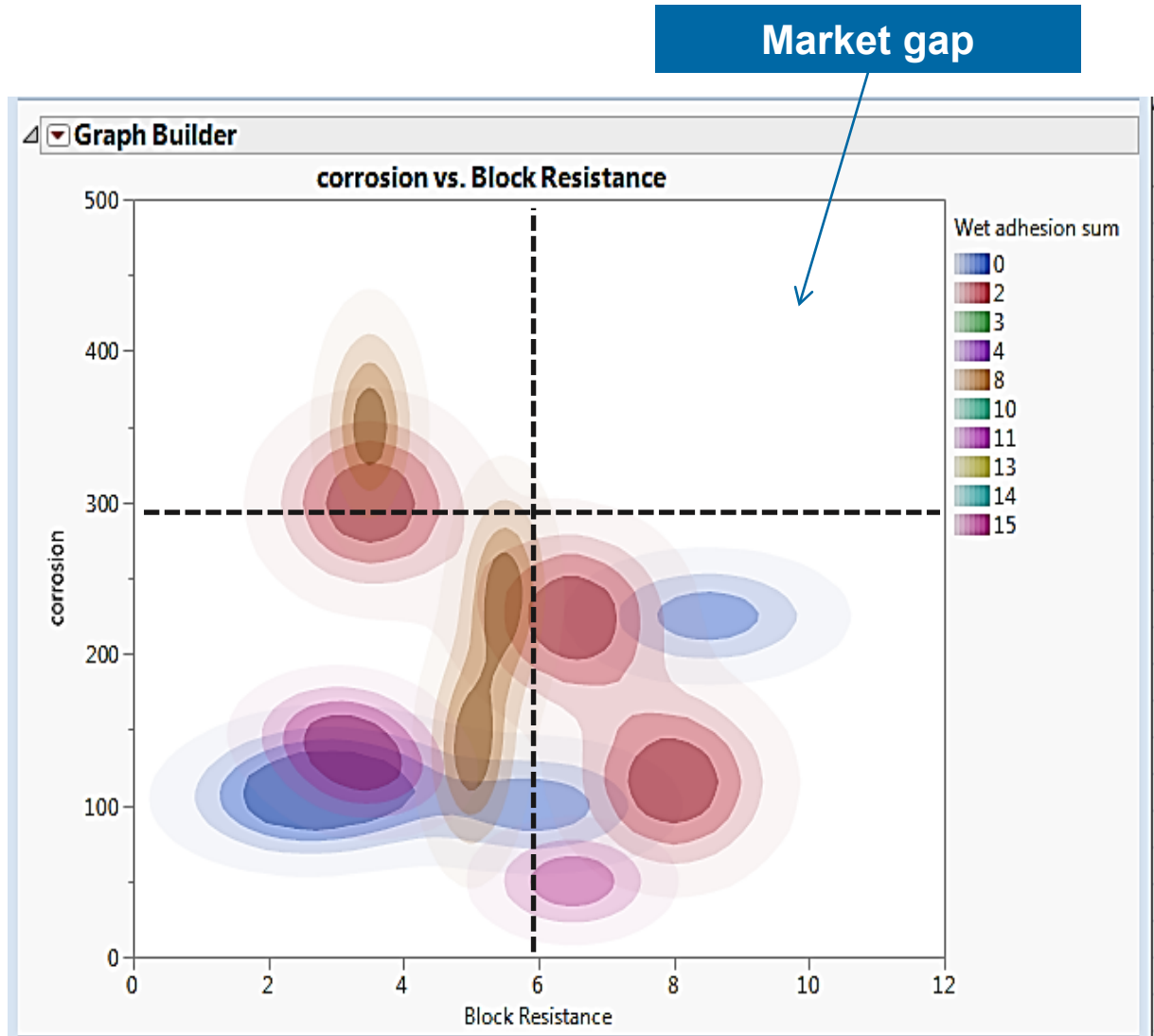
## Performance Attribute Balance Resolution

### Test Protocol

- Block Resistance tested after 24-hr cure at 50°C
- Corrosion tested at 1.5mil DFT after B117hrs
- Colors represent crosshatch wet adhesion on three substrates

### Analysis

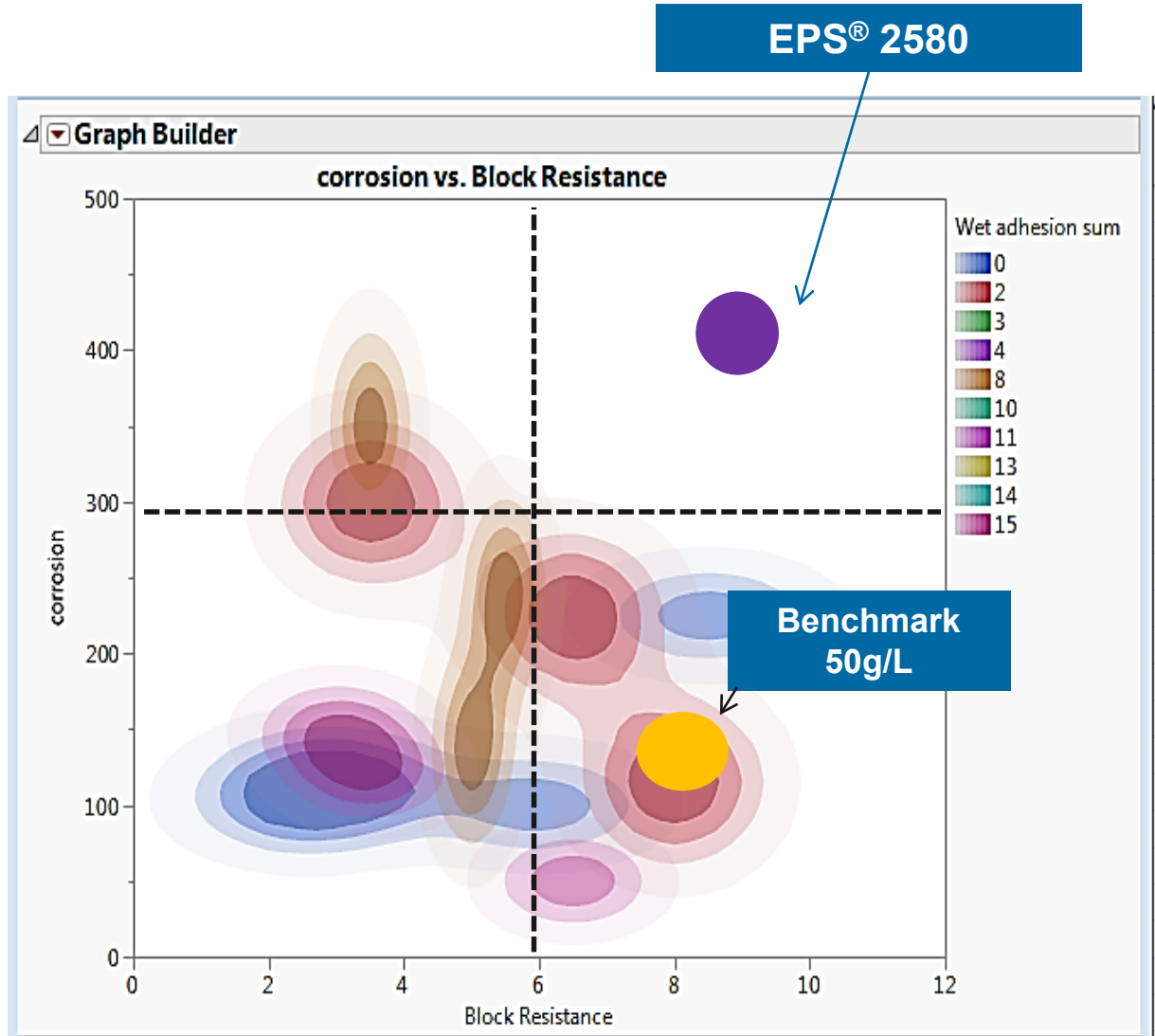
- Benchmarked 21 resins
- No polymer could achieve 300hrs B117 and pass the rapid block development test



# Market Gap Analysis

## Performance Attribute Balance Resolution

Careful polymer design and rigorous formulation work filled the market need for a low VOC, block resistant, and thin film corrosion resistant coating.



# Performance Objectives

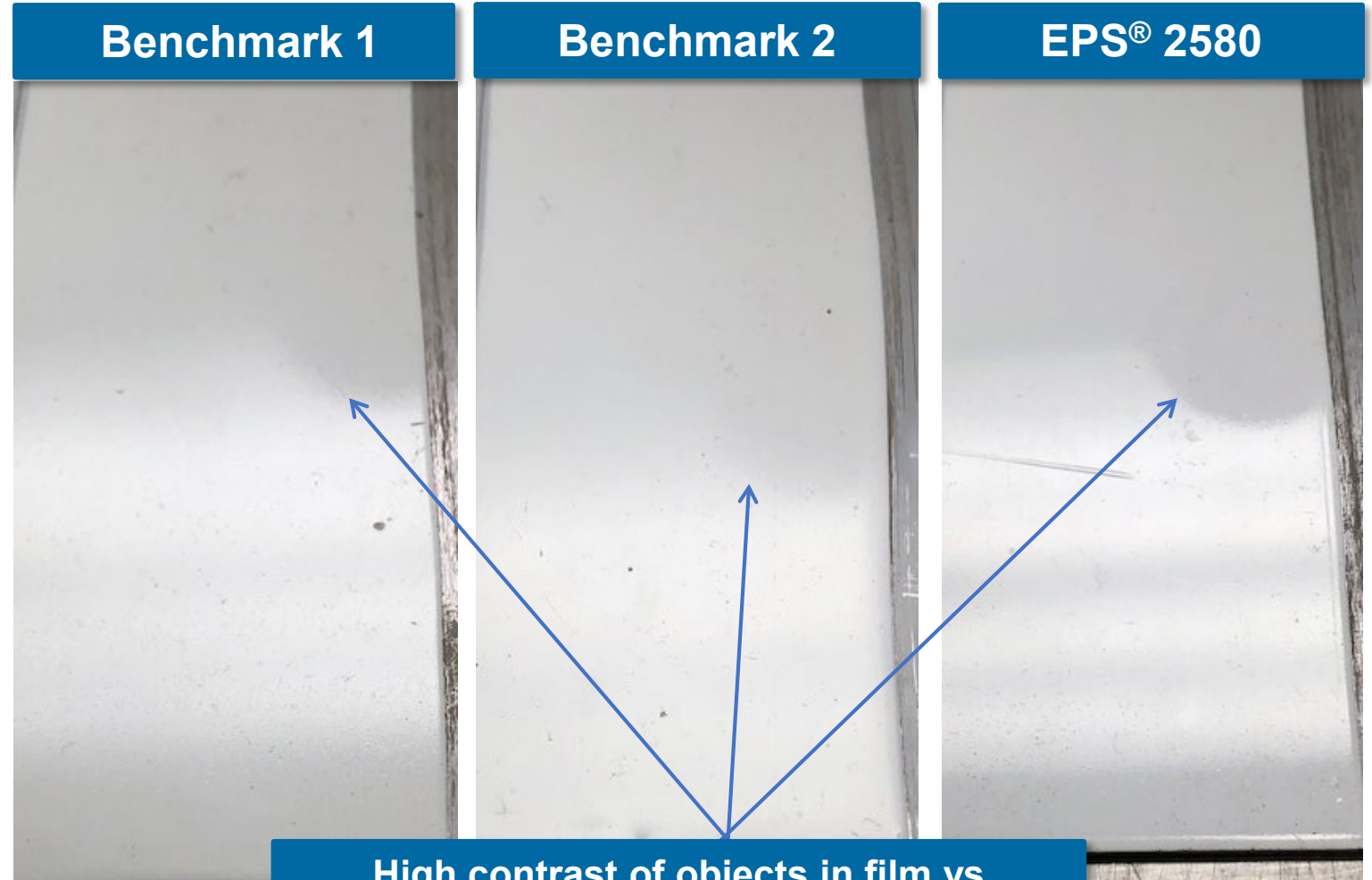
## 16PVC high gloss white direct to metal

Performance Category	Testing Protocol	Target Range	Real World Correlate
Corrosion resistance	B117	500-1000hr with minimal rust/blistering	Substrate Protection
Adhesion composite (aluminum, galvanized, CRS)	Crosshatch 24hr cure	4B – 5B wet/dry on 3 substrates	Long term barrier protection
Block resistance	24hr cure 50°C on a scale of 1-10	6-8	Return to service times and line speed
Gloss Retention	QUV A	1,000-2,000hr 90% gloss retention	Long term aesthetic properties and barrier property retention
Humidity	Cleveland 24hr cure	500-800hr no rusting 50% gloss retention	Long term aesthetic properties and barrier property retention
Hardness	Konig oscillations	15-20	Scratch resistance

# Performance Overview

## *Cleveland humidity*

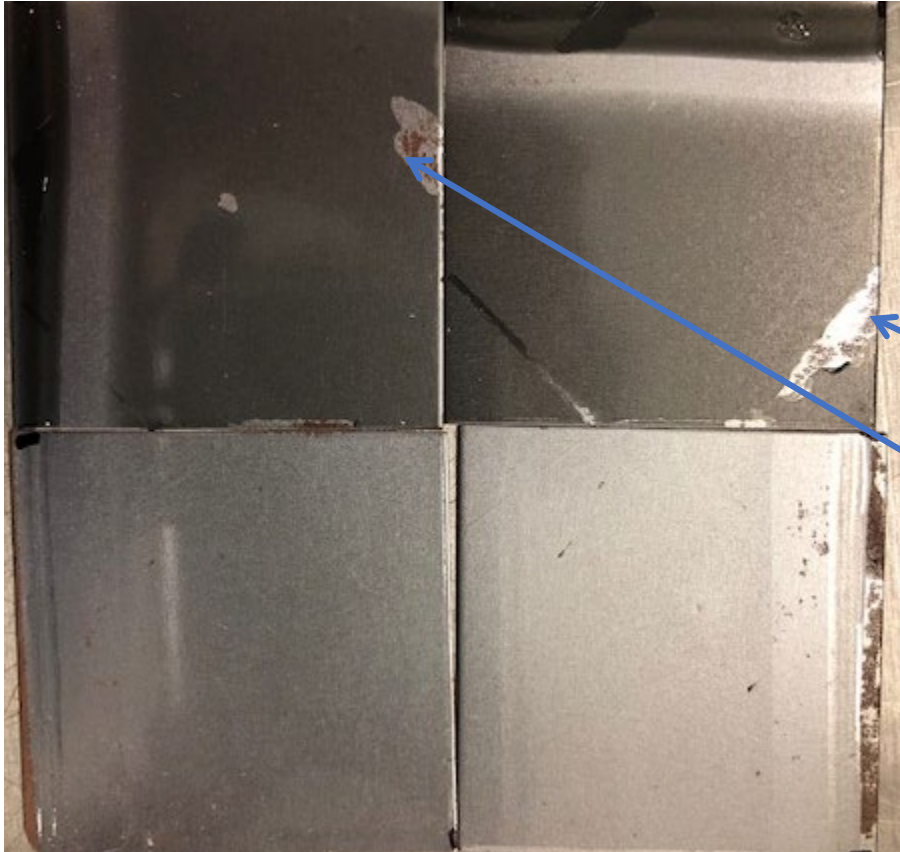
Coatings applied on aluminum and exposed to humidity for 30 days



High contrast of objects in film vs benchmarks illustrates maintenance of depth of image (DOI)

# Performance Overview

## High Temperature Blocking



Benchmark

Delamination indicating  
film failure

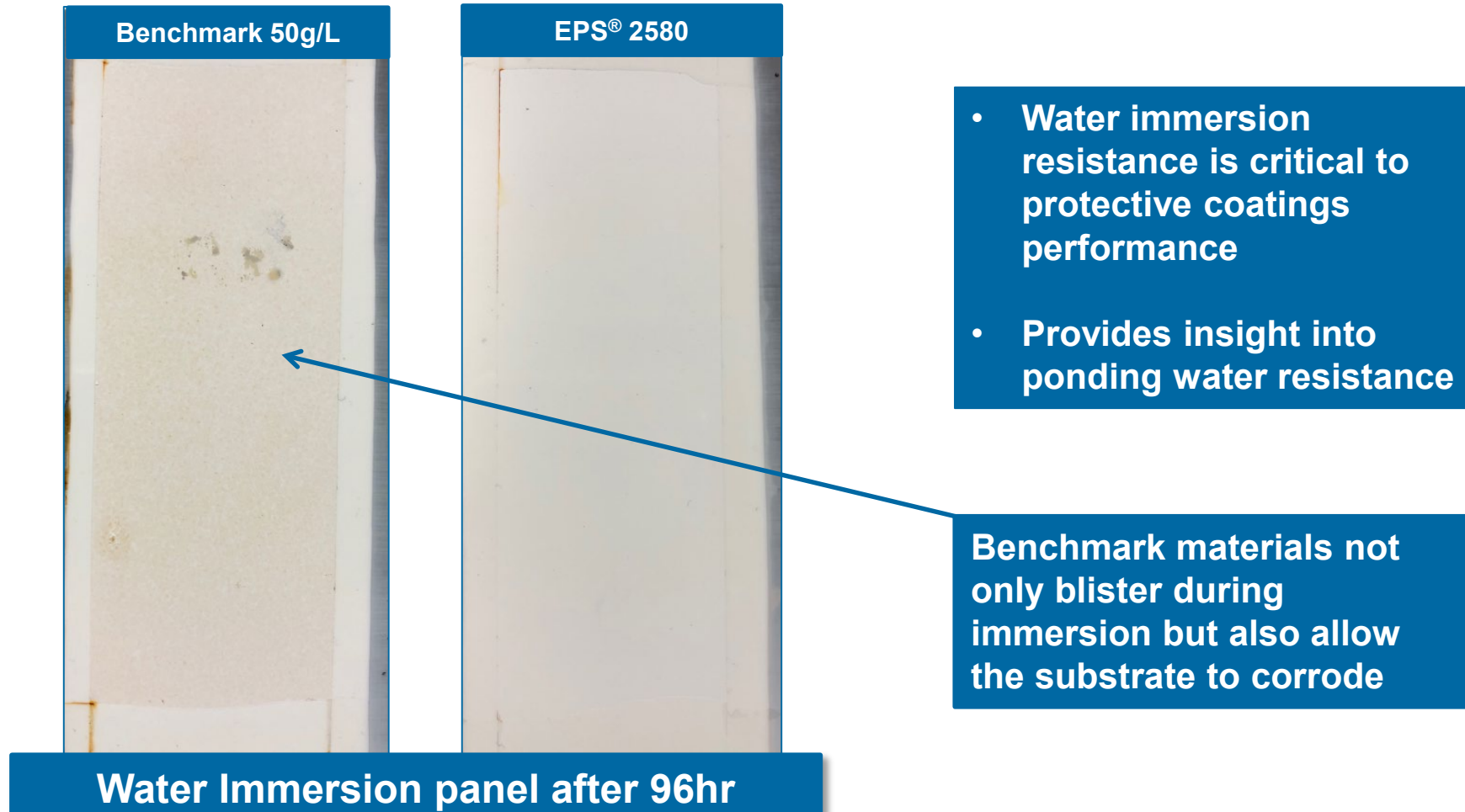
EPS® 2580

### Procedure

Formulations applied (10mil WFT) and dried for 24hrs. Films were then placed in 60°C Oven for 30min with 1kg weight applied. After 30min, specimens were removed from oven and left at room temp. for 30min with weight still applied. After this the films were separated and assessed for blocking.

# Performance Overview

## Water Immersion



# Binder Formulation Interactions

## Clear and pigmented coatings

- Formulation components have a profound influence on the final properties of the film.
- Factors manipulating final film properties in clear and pigmented coatings were evaluated.
- Care should be taken in selection of filming aids and pigmentation



**Formulation  
Variation**





# Clear Coatings Coalescent Impact

The use of a hydrophobic (polymer miscible) solvent is recommended

Use of Hydrophilic coalescents can impact field rusting

10% Water Miscible A



10% Water Miscible B

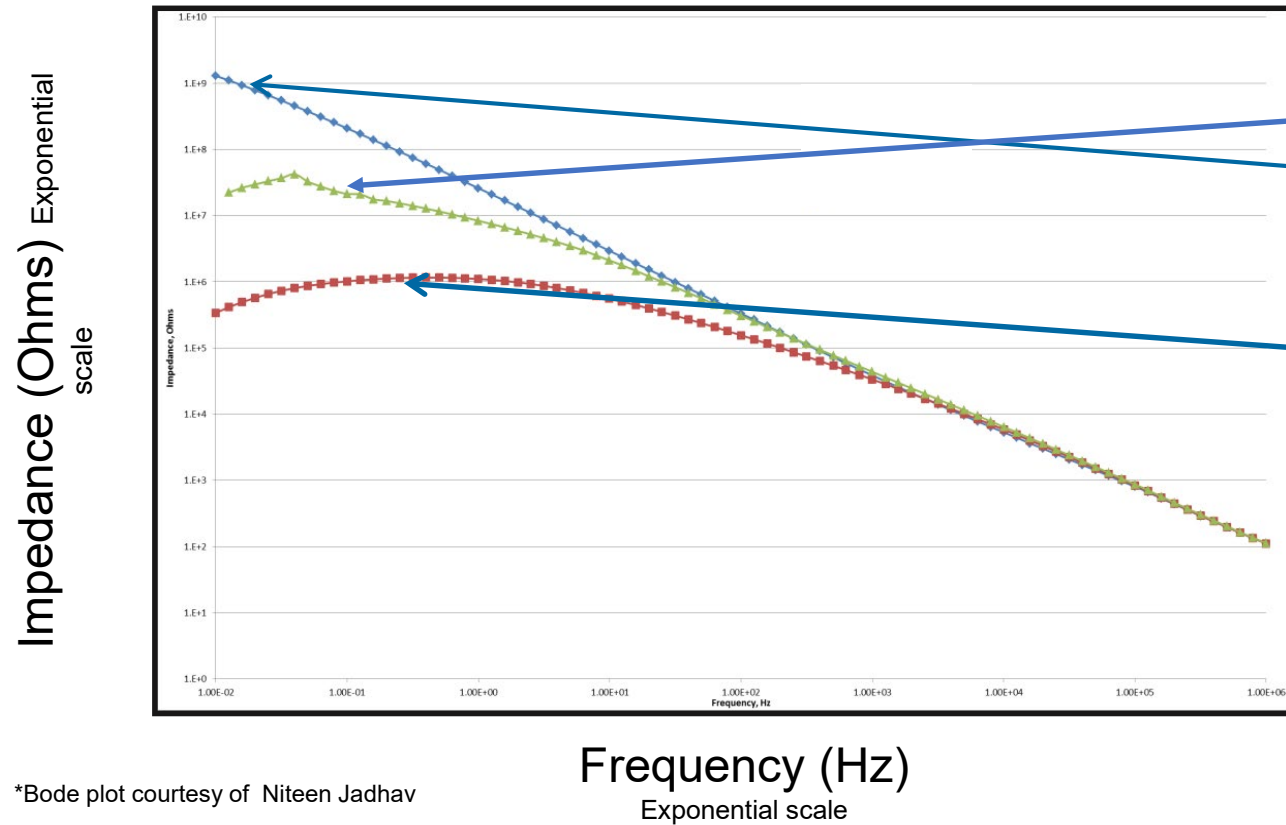


10% Polymer Miscible



# Binder Formulation Interactions

## Clear and pigmented coatings



Polymer Miscible solvents

Water Miscible solvent

- Impedance of hydrophobic solvent coalesced film is orders of magnitude higher than one with water miscible.

\*Bode plot courtesy of Niteen Jadhav

# Pigment Binder Interactions

## Experiment Design Factors

**Hypothesis: By manipulating pigment particle size, pigment oil adsorption, pigment chemistry and latex particle size. There will be a shift in packing behavior and thus a reduction in water uptake and corrosion susceptibility**

- Experiments evaluating extender pigment influence on water uptake, corrosion, and electrochemical impedance.
- Factors investigated
  - Pigment particle size
  - Oil adsorption
  - Pigment chemistry
  - Latex particle size
- Sought to elucidate main effects and two way interactions between these variables.
- Evaluating differences between 15PVC (Moderate packing) and 35PVC (Dense packing) systems in their response to variables.

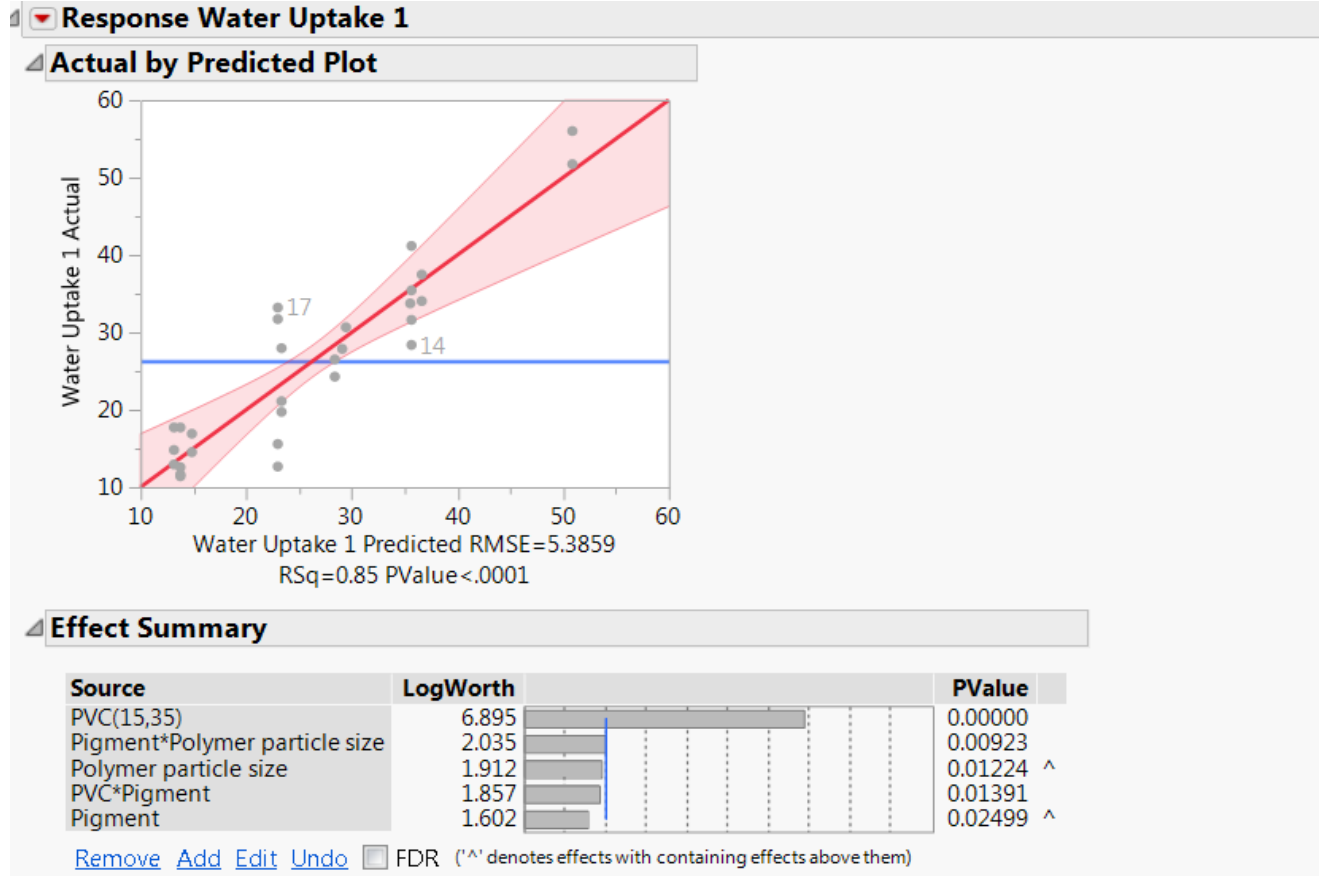
# Experimental Design 1

## 2 latex with pigmentation variation

- 5 Variables investigated (31runs)
- Polymer Particle size
- PVC 15 or 35
- Pigment oil adsorption
- Pigment
  - CaCO<sub>3</sub>
    - 3 and 5 micron
  - BaSO<sub>4</sub>
    - 1 and 3 micron
  - SiO<sub>2</sub>
    - 2.4 and 3.5 micron
- Experiment was designed to perform the minimum number of runs to establish a significant statistical model.

# Experimental Results and Modelling

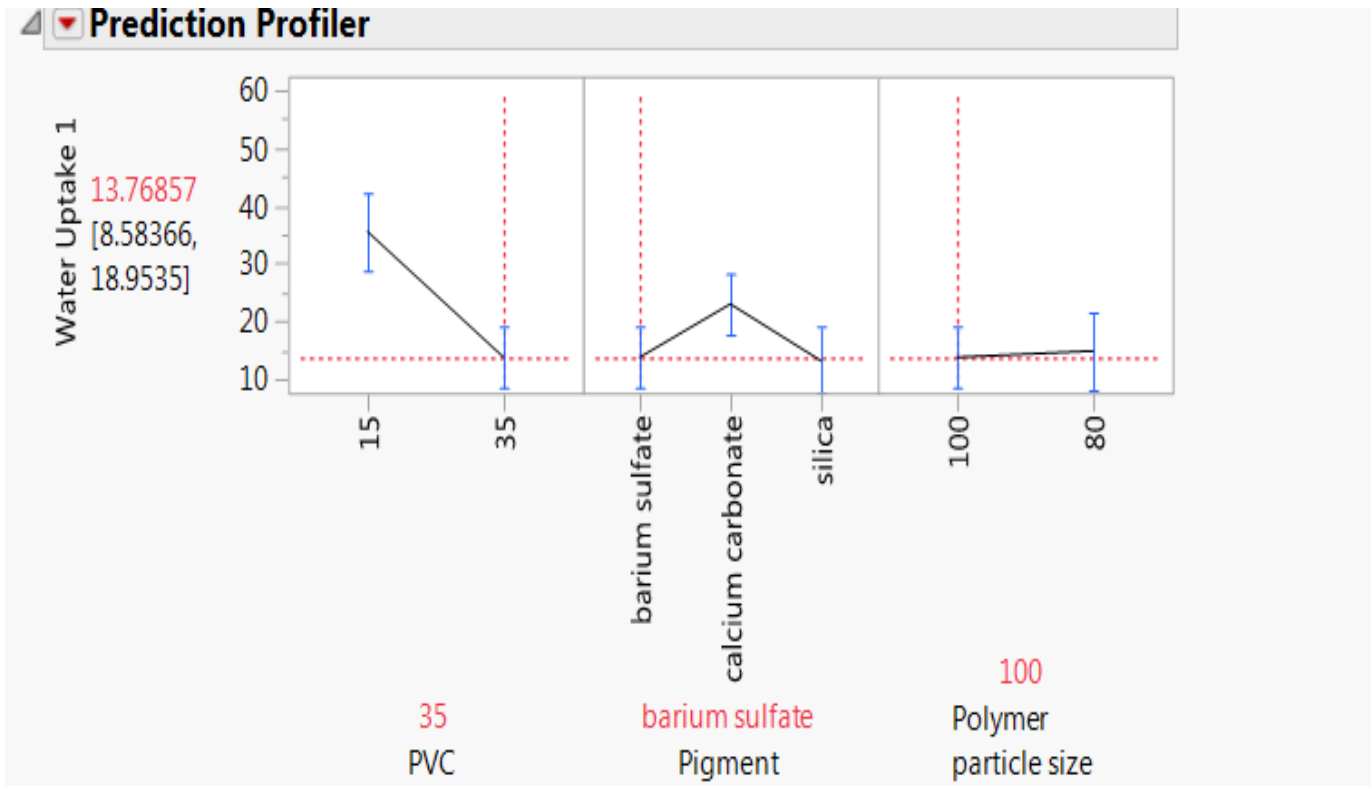
## All run model for water uptake



- P values indicate that PVC, polymer particle size, pigment particle size and polymer particle size/pigment interaction term and a PVC pigment interactions term are the significant factors.
- Low residuals from the prediction model
- 85% of the variation in water uptake is explained by these variables.

# Experimental Results and Modelling

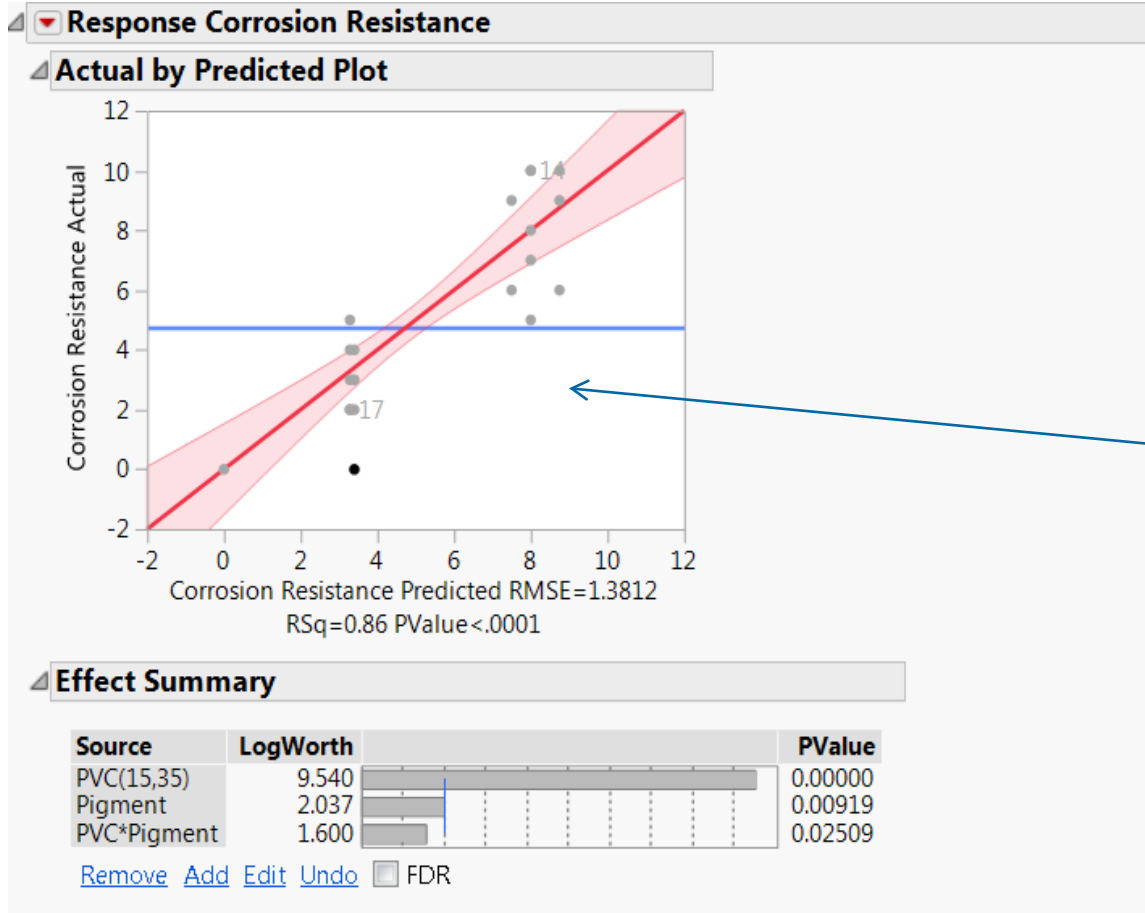
## All run model for water uptake



- Performance optimizer tool allows you to minimize or maximize a response.
- Minimizing water uptake provides variable set points seen here.
- 35PVC barium sulfate and 100nm emulsion provide for minimal water uptake. (13.76%)

# Experimental Results and Modelling

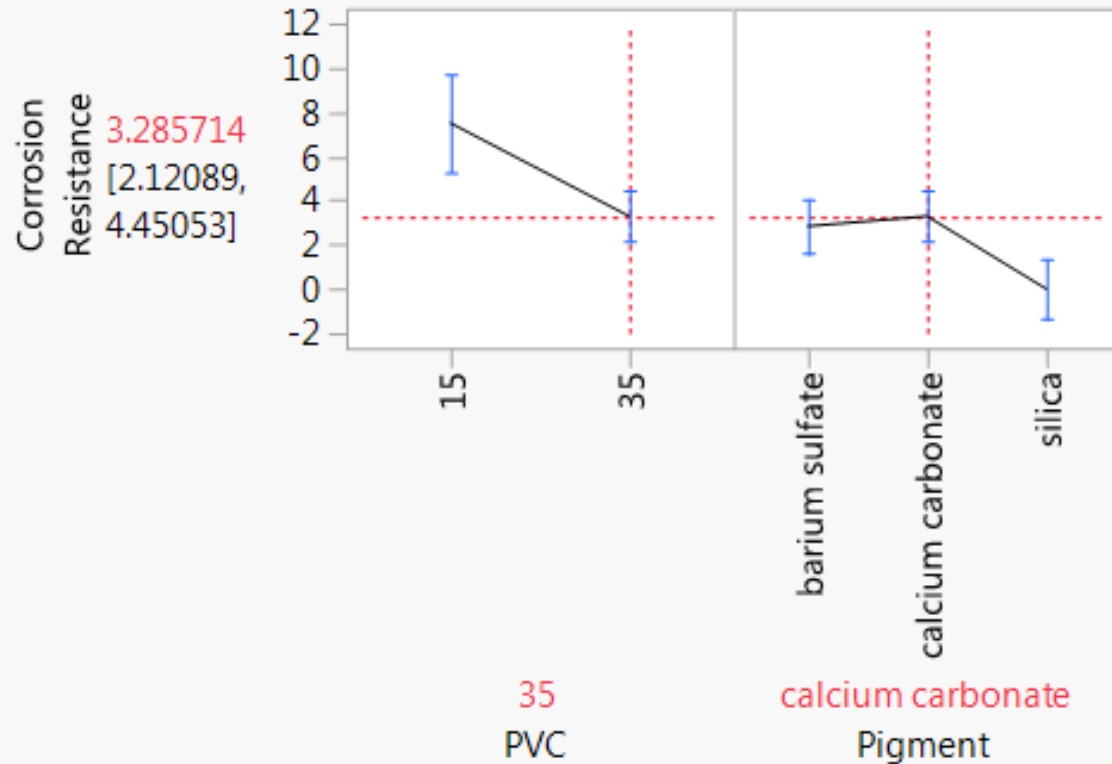
## All run model for corrosion resistance



- P values indicate that PVC, Pigment type, and a PVC/pigment type interaction term are the significant variables.
- Low residuals from the prediction model
- 86% of the variation in the corrosion is explained by these variables.

# Experimental Results and Modelling

## All run model for corrosion resistance

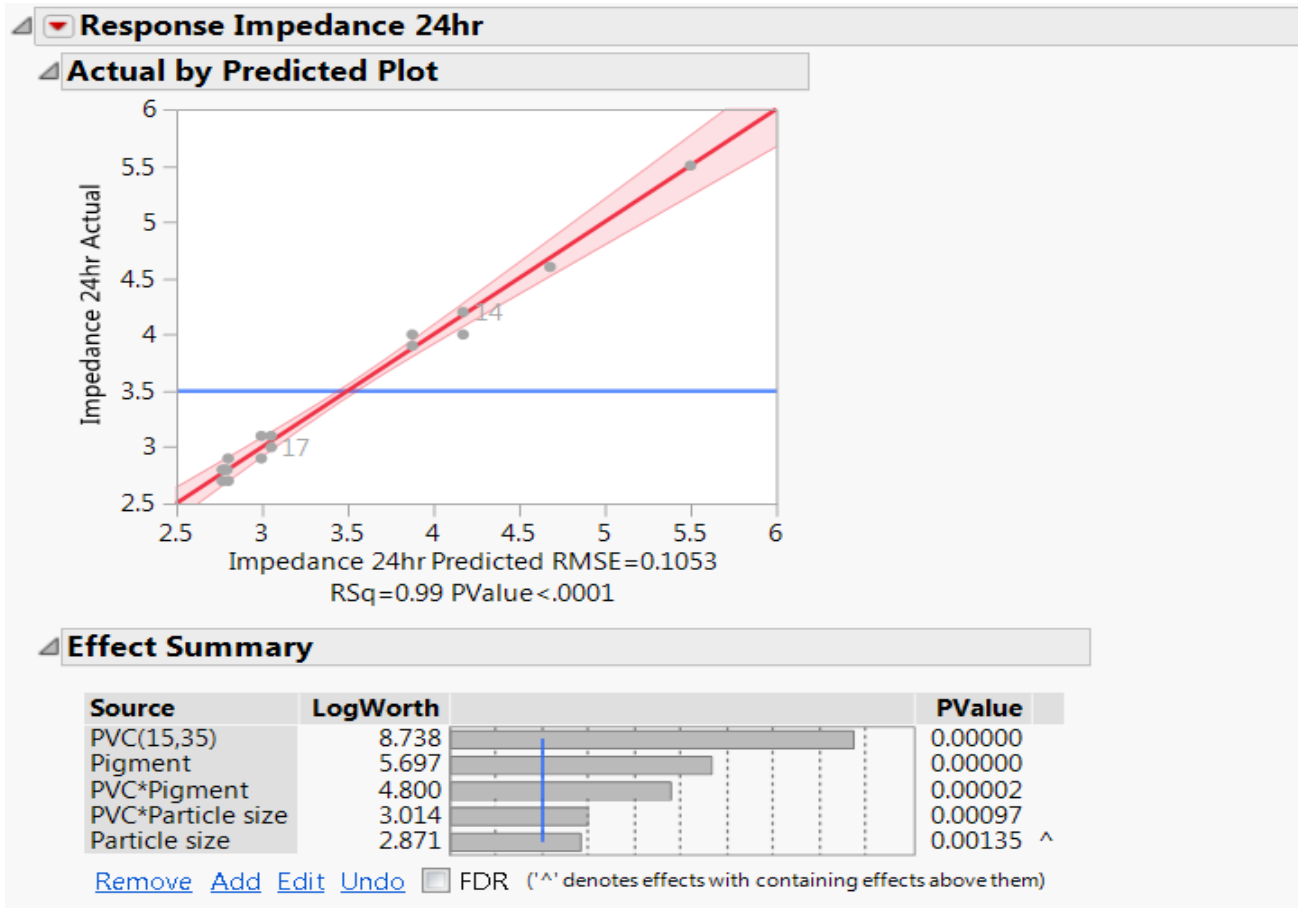


- Running 35PVC maximization exercise for corrosion yields set point seen left.
- 15PVC and barium sulfate provide the optimal corrosion resistance



# Experimental Results and Modelling

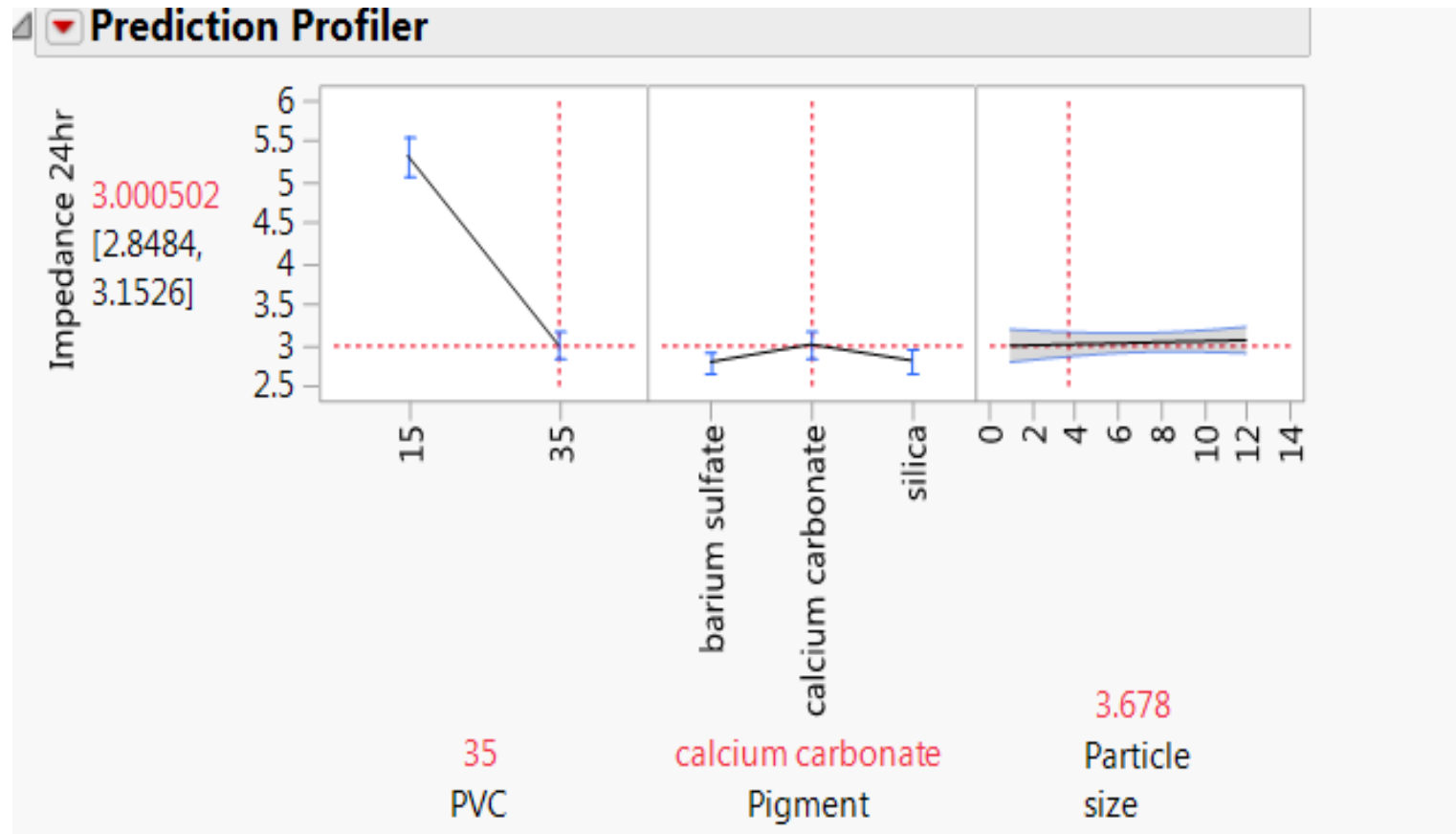
## All run model for Impedance



- Modelling Impedance of the films provided the best possible model.
- Significant factors were PVC, Pigment type, Pigment particle size, PVC/pigment type interaction and a PVC/ pigment particle size interaction term.
- 99% of the variability is explained in the model.

# Experimental Results and Modelling

## All run model for Impedance



- Running 35PVC maximization exercise for impedance yields set point seen left.
- 15PVC and calcium carbonate at 3microns provides the highest impedance of the film.
- 35PVC films were found to have minimal fluctuations in impedance from the experimental variables.

# Pigment Binder Experiment

## Findings, Conclusions and future work

The experiment elucidated a number of interesting phenomena

- 35PVC films took up less water than did comparable 15PVC formulas
- However the 35PVC formulas did not provide improved corrosion resistance suggesting other factors are at play.
- Barium sulfate extenders provided both the lowest water uptake and the best corrosion performance irrespective of PVC.
- 35PVC films showed variation in corrosion and water uptake but not in impedance behavior.
- Findings provide an impetus to further the understanding of packing behavior in latex films. (morphology or interfacial surface area)

# New DTM Resin Platform

## In Conclusion

- **Waterborne topcoats, and direct to metal coatings present numerous challenges to modern formulators**
- **Formulating in lower sheens and in primer formulations adds additional complexity to polymer design**
- **Developing an understanding of the binder/formulation interactions is critical to achieving optimal performance in these demanding applications**

# Development and Experimental Technology Team

**Chris LeFever**

Formulation/Synthesis Chemist

**Glenn Frazee**

Synthesis Scientist

**Niteen Jadhav**

Analytical Chemist

**Jack Rosemore**

Formulation Chemist

# QUESTIONS

**Chris LeFever**

[clefever@eps-materials.com](mailto:clefever@eps-materials.com)

815-345-0514

[epscca.com](http://epscca.com)

