

EXHIBIT 2

QUALIFIED PRODUCTS LIST

As a means of expediting contract awards and deliveries of certain products the manufacturers are sometimes required by the Federal Government to have their products pretested, either by a Government or a designated independent laboratory, to determine whether the products meet Government specifications. If a product meets specification requirements, the manufacturers' product may be placed on a qualified products list (QPL). Assurance that the proper quality is being maintained is achieved by adequate retesting of deliveries under each contract.

Widespread publication of products identified as "qualified" would, with certain important qualifications, provide consumers with an important indicator of product acceptability in the commercial marketplace. Presently, manufacturers are not permitted to advertise or publicize the fact that their product appears on a qualified products list.

In order to determine the value of the QPL to consumers consideration must first be given to whether the specifications for a consumer-type product represents a level of performance identical to or substantially the same as that desired by private consumers. If it does, then products found on a qualified products list can properly be understood to have been found effective performance-wise by the Government. Failure of a product to appear on a QPL might only indicate that its manufacturer, not interested in doing business with the Government, never submitted his product for testing. It might also indicate, on the other hand, that the product failed to meet the level of performance required by the U.S. Government. To date, public access to the identities of products falling into this latter category is forbidden.