

Area," dated October 26, 1967. By letter of February 29, 1968, the Administrator of GSA forwarded to the chairman, Committee on Government Operations, a status report on the implementation of these recommendations. At that time most of the recommendations had been implemented and it is now planned that full implementation of those recommendations adopted will be completed by June 30, 1968. This is not to say that thereafter work will cease on these recommendations, but merely that implementation will be completed. We feel that implementation of these recommendations has resulted in substantial improvements in the arrangements for accomplishing the GSA construction program requirements.

With respect to the painting responsibilities of GSA, we are continually searching out ways to enhance our effectiveness and promote economy. In an effort to improve the administration of painting contracts, GSA has taken action in the following areas:

1. TRAINING CLASSES

During the past year the General Services Administration, Public Buildings Service, has instigated an intensive training program to develop the potential of the paint inspection staff in the regions. The training program presented by the Moore Research Laboratories, Inc., Silver Spring, Md., under contract with GSA is a study of paint products and painting methods. Special emphasis is given to inspection techniques including the use of instrumentation to assure contract compliance on the part of painting contractors.

The course which is 1 week's duration has been conducted in regional offices in New York, Chicago, and the District of Columbia. Approximately 30 men at each location who have responsibility for construction and painting inspection were in attendance at each session.

Personnel from neighboring regions will attend the courses to be given in San Francisco and Atlanta during June and July. The personnel selected to attend these courses will have the added responsibility of conducting similar classes upon return to their respective headquarters.

Reports from the regions where the course has been given are highly encouraging in that considerable interest has been generated and it is believed that our increased paint inspection staff will pursue the difficult task of seeking contract compliance with greater determination because of the training acquired and the availability of precise instrumentation to assist them in this endeavor.

Although we are developing our own expert inspectors, specialized consultants have been engaged to evaluate unusual painting problems on some of our projects. For instance, a qualitative and quantitative analysis was made of the acid-resistant coatings of the ductwork at the mint in Philadelphia with the express purpose of determining that all contract requirements were met. A similar analysis was made on the Gerontology Building being built for National Institutes of Health on the Baltimore City Hospital grounds.

2. INSPECTION GUIDES

The inspection guide on painting and finishing for construction inspectors provides a ready reference on paint materials and their recommended use, surface preparation, probable causes of paint failures, inspection techniques, and test equipment to be used. In addition, we have developed a recording system for paint application. The inspector is required to record daily the specified coating system to be applied to a specific surface in a particular area or room, the date the proper surface preparation was completed, the date each coat was applied, the type of paint applied, and any confirming tests made to determine the thickness of the coat. Continuous inspection of all painting operations is necessary to maintain this record. This information is retained as a part of the permanent records of the project.

3. DESIGN GUIDES FOR PAINTING

The design guide specification for painting of new construction work has been revised with the assistance of the Federal Supply Service and incorporated suggestions of the Painting & Decorating Contractors of America.

The revised specification incorporates improved painting requirements and refined paint systems, including:

(a) A reduced number of coats for economy while maintaining a good standard of quality.

(b) Improved requirements for shading of successive coats for ease of inspection.