5 BLUE FLAG, DERAIL, SWITCH AND RAIL CAR STORAGE PROCEDURE

5.1 PURPOSE

To establish a procedure for placing, locking, or removing blue flags, derails, or rail switch points on the railroad tracks, and assure visibility at vehicle and major pedestrian crossings within the Complex.

5.2 SCOPE

This procedure applies to all PPG associates, contract maintenance, and Railroad employees within the Lake Charles Complex.

5.3 PROCEDURE

5.3.1 SHIPPING LOADING/UNLOADING AREAS

5.3.1.1 Shipping personnel will be responsible for the operating of blue flags. PPG or Railroad personnel involved in switching railcars are responsible for opening and closing derails.

5.3.1.2 The derail may only be operated by the Railroad or Shipping personnel. No one is to open the derail until the blue flag has been placed in the open track position. The derail is normally left closed and the blue flag open for the Railroad when tracks are available for switching.

5.3.2 PRODUCTION/MAINTENANCE UNLOADING AREAS

5.3.2.1 Production and Maintenance personnel will be responsible for operating blue flags and for opening and closing derails at all facilities not normally operated by Shipping personnel.

5.3.2.2 The derail may be operated by the Railroad or Production or Maintenance personnel. No one is to open the derail until the blue flag has been placed in the open track position. The derail is normally left closed and the blue flag open for the Railroad when tracks are available for switching.
5.3.3 MAINTENANCE WORK ON OR NEAR TRACKS

5.3.3.1 Maintenance work on or near the tracks, including work on railcars, requires the switch stand or derail to be locked in accordance with Lockout Procedure (Safety Procedure #6) to insure no railcars can enter the maintenance area.

5.3.3.2 Maintenance work on or near the tracks (Within 8’ 6” of center of tracks), including work on railcars, at loading or unloading areas requires the switch stand to be locked or the derail to be locked in accordance with Lockout Procedure (Safety Procedure #6) to insure no railcars can enter the loading/unloading area.

5.3.3.3 Tracks that are having maintenance performed or any structural deficiency noted will be locked out. There will be no switching performed on that track.

5.3.4 RAILCAR STORAGE

5.3.4.1 Each major vehicle and pedestrian railway crossing within the Complex is marked with an area of railroad track painted white or marked with an orange cone. No railcar shall be parked or stored in the crossing or between the marked areas.

5.4 DEFINITIONS

5.4.1 BLUE FLAG - A Blue metal sign which is universally accepted as a railroad warning device. The sign is affixed to the track and activated when swung perpendicular to the track.

5.4.2 DERAIL - A device permanently attached to the track used to derail a railcar.

5.4.3 SWITCH STAND - A permanently attached device used to switch railcars from two tracks that intersect.

5.4.4 RAIL OBSTRUCTION - An object placed or protruding within 8’-6” of the centerline of a track and less than 17’-0” above the top of the rail.

5.4.5 SHIPPING/TANK CAR REPAIR, LOADING/UNLOADING AREAS - Any loading rack or repair building used exclusively for loading and/or unloading products by Shipping, Pels Shipping, Silicas Shipping, or repairs by PPG Tank Car Repair Shop personnel.
These areas contain derails and blue flags on each end of the loading station or building.

5.4.6 PRODUCTION/MAINTENANCE UNLOADING AREAS J- A permanent track location in the Complex where various materials are unloaded by Production or Maintenance personnel. These areas contain derails and blue flags at an appropriate distance on each side of the unloading station.

5.4.7 RAILROAD CREW - The railroad crew contracted by PPG to switch railcars inside the Complex. The equipment and crew consists of a switch engine, an engineer, and one or more personnel on the ground to switch the railcars.

5.4.8 RAILROAD CONTRACT MAINTENANCE - A railroad maintenance crew contracted by PPG to repair or construct the Complex railroad tracks. This crew works under the direction of the PPG Field Engineering.