



January 1, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

Ref: Clearcoat & Basecoat Blending

This letter is meant to clarify the Axalta Coating Systems (ACS) position on blending procedures for all ACS brands.

### **Blending of BaseCoat**

Metallic, solid, and pearl basecoats must be blended into adjacent panels to achieve an acceptable color match.

There are many things that can affect the way the color appears once applied to the vehicle. These include the amount and type of reducer added (fast-slow), air pressure, air temperature, gun type and nozzle setups, as well as individual application technique. All of these factors can change the appearance of the color. Therefore, ACS recommends blending with a minimum of 18 to 24 inches as the best way to achieve an acceptable color match and insure customer satisfaction.

### **Blending Clearcoat**

The practice of blending clearcoat is not endorsed nor warranted by ACS.

Many auto manufacturers require complete panel painting to the next break point when refinishing. An extreme example would be basecoating a quarter panel and needing to clear the quarter panel, the roof and other quarter panel to meet the manufacturer's repair specifications.

Many shops avoid this procedure on older vehicles by 'blending' the clear into the sail panel. While ACS may provide products to assist in this procedure, it is not a warranted repair process.

At no time does ACS recommend or endorse partial clearcoat panel painting or open clearcoat blending in the middle of a panel. This practice results in an inferior repair.

Performing a clearcoat blend repair results in diminishing film thickness that will breakdown more rapidly from UV exposure. The repair may deteriorate and become obvious over time.

In closing, with the issue of Diminished Value looming in front of repair shops and insurance companies, it is ACS's recommendation to follow proper repair procedures to best facilitate the delivery of vehicles back to pre-accident condition.

If you have any questions, please contact your local Axalta Coating Systems representative or phone 1-855-6 Axalta.

Sincerely,

Janis L. Nutini  
Refinish Americas Product Manager  
Axalta Coating Systems