

#### REPORT OF

#### PRODUCT EVALUATION

#### CONDUCTED ON A

## "WELDED PICKET" ALUMINUM GUARDRAIL ASSEMBLY

TO THE

#### INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE 2000

**FOR** 

EXCELL RAILING SYSTEMS LTD. #406 – 12914 ANVIL WAY SURREY, BC V3W 8E7

REPORT PREPARED BY

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**REPORT NUMBER: 481-1456 - 1c** 

DATE: MARCH 6, 2000 REVISED DATE: SEPTEMBER 16, 2002 UNDER PROJECT NO.: 3028343-2



whoch Horsey













Revised: September 16, 2002

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Introduction revised to include one-piece top rail and IBC Acceptance	3
IBC Code Requirements replaced BOCA National Building Code	4
Test Results simplified to correlate with IBC Requirements	4
Evaluation of one-piece Top Rail added	4
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#### **PREFACE**

All services undertaken are subject to the following general policy:

- 1. This report is for the exclusive use of Intertek Testing Services NA Ltd.'s (ITS's) client and is provided pursuant to the agreement between ITS and its client. ITS's responsibility and liability are limited to the terms and conditions of the agreement. ITS assume no liability to any party, other than to the client in accordance with the agreement, for any loss, expense or damage occasioned by the use of this report.
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#### INTRODUCTION

Intertek Testing Services NA Ltd./Warnock Hersey has conducted Uniform and Concentrated load tests on an aluminum guardrail assembly manufactured at Excell Railing Systems Ltd. manufacturing plant in Surrey, BC. The guardrail assembly was identified as the "Welded Picket System (42" Height)" and was tested on January 19, 2000.

The testing was conducted to determine if the Guard Rail Assembly is in Compliance with the BOCA National Building Code 1993, Sections 1615.8.2 "Guard Design and Construction" and 1615.8.2.1 "In-fill Areas".

A further engineering evaluation of the section properties of the one piece Excell Round and Excell Square Welded Pick top rail was conducted on July 30, 2002 as part of Project No.: 3028343. This evaluation was to determine if the one-piece rail system would perform as well or better than the two-piece section. Finding that the one-piece system is an acceptable alternate it has been included in this report.

In addition to the above, an evaluation was conducted to determine if the guardrail assembly meets the load requirements of the International Building Code 2000 (IBC), Section 1607.7.1.

#### DESCRIPTION

The guardrail is (114") wide measured from corner post to corner post and (42") high measured from deck level to the top of the guardrail.

The top rail is constructed in two pieces consisting of a sub-rail and a snap-on Square Top Rail cap. The sub-rail is fastened to the top of each corner post using two #12 x 1-1/2" panhead screws. The corner sleeve portion of the top cap is mitre cut and welded and extends approximately 4" to either side. Each top cap runs continuously from one 90° corner segment to the other. Where the top and bottom rails attach to the building wall structure a wall attachment plate is provided.

A 2-1/2" wide x 3" high x 1/8" aluminum plate assembly (complete with 1-1/2" long welded sleeve) is fastened to the end of the top rail using two #12 x 1-1/2" panhead screws and three #14 x 2" panhead screws (complete with Mungo brand, model MN8x40 sleeve anchors) which secure the wall attachment plate to the concrete wall structure. A 1-5/8" wide x 1-1/2" high x 1/8" thick aluminum plate assembly is fastened to the end of the bottom ail using a single #8 x 3/4" self tapping panhead screw and two #14 x 2" panhead screws (complete with Mungo brand, model MN8x40 sleeve anchors) which secure the wall attachment plate to the concrete wall structure. The bottom rails are fastened to a 1" long extruded aluminum rail clip using a single #8 x 3/4" self tapping panhead screw. Each of the rail clips, located on either side of each post, are fastened to the post using two #12 x 1-1/2" panhead screws.

Aluminum pickets measuring  $5/8" \times 5/8" \times 0.050"$  thick are welded between the top sub-rail and the channel shaped bottom rail and spaced 4-1/2" apart c/c. Each picket is welded at either side to the top sub-rail and fits through a square punched opening in the bottom rail and welded to one side.

The corner posts are 1-5/8" square complete with a screw chase at each inside corner and mid-section with a wall thickness of 0.068" thick. An aluminum baseplate measuring 3-1/2" x 3-1/2" x 1/4" thick was fastened to the base of each post using four #12 x 2" hardened steel flathead screws (Robertson Whitehouse Type "A"). Four #14 x 2" panhead screws (complete with Mungo brand, model MN8x40 sleeve anchors) secure each post to the concrete floor. Supporting the welded picket bottom rail at three equally spaced points between the posts are 1/2" square, 0.060" wall aluminum picket support legs which are inserted approximately 1" into the 5/8" pickets and secured using a single #8 x 1/2" self tapping screw. Each leg is fastened to the concrete floor using a #12 x 2" panhead screw (complete with a Mungo brand, model MN8x40 sleeve anchor). See attached drawings in the appendix for details and a general layout.

#### CODE REQUIREMENTS

#### **International Building Code 2000**

1607.7.1 Handrails and guards. Handrail assemblies and guards shall be designed to resist a load of 50 pounds per linear foot (pound per foot) (0.73 kN/m) applied in any direction at the top and to transfer this load through the supports to the structure.

#### **Exceptions**

- 1. For one-and two-family dwellings, only the single concentrated load required by Section 1607.7.1.1 shall be applied.
- 2. In Groups I-3, F, H and S occupancies, for areas that are not accessible to the general public and that have an occupant load no greater that 50, the minimum load shall be shall be 20 pounds per foot (0.29 kN/m).

1607.7.1.1 Concentrated load. Handrail assemblies and guards shall be able to resist a single concentrated load of 200 pounds (0.89 kN), applied in any direction at any point along the top, and have attachment devices and supporting structure to transfer this loading to appropriate structural elements of the building. This load need not be assumed to act concurrently with the loads specified in the preceding paragraph.

1607.7.1.2 Components. Intermediate rails (all those except the handrail), balusters and panel fillers shall be designed to withstand a horizontally applied normal load of 50 pounds (0.22 kN) on an area not to exceed 1 square foot (305 mm²) including openings and space between rails. Reactions due to this loading are not required to be superimposed with those of either preceding paragraph.

1607.7.1.3 Stress increase. Where handrails and guards are designed in accordance with the provisions for allowable stress design (working stress design) exclusively for the loads specified in Section 1607.7.1, the allowable stress for the members and their attachments are permitted to be increased by one-third.

The required safety factor for proof tested assemblies is 2.5 in accordance with clause 1714.3.1.

The safety factor for glass used in handrails and guards is 4 in accordance with clause 2407.1.1.

#### TEST RESULTS

- 1. A horizontal load of 100 lbs/ft was applied to the top rail without failure.
- 2. A horizontal concentrated load of 400 lbs was applied to the top rail without failure.
- 3. A horizontal load of 125 lbs was applied over a one-foot square area of the pickets without failure.

#### ONE PIECE TOP RAIL

An engineering evaluation was conducted to determine if the Excell Round and Excell Square one-piece welded picket top rails are equivalent to the two-piece system that was initially evaluated.

The one-piece system was found to be an acceptable alternate based on the following:

- 1. Testing of the initial system revealed that the two-piece assembly did not work as a composite section.
- 2. The lateral section properties (Moment of Inertia) of the one-piece system exceed that of the top cap section of the two-piece system. The top cap provides the majority of the lateral stiffness of the system.
- 3. The addition of the integrated bottom plate to the one-piece system significantly increases the buckling capacity of the rail.

#### CONCLUSION

The guardrail system and installation as described in this report (and attached drawings) meets the loading requirements of the International Building Code 2000, clause 1607.7.1 with a minimum safety factor of 2.0.

## INTERTEK TESTING SERVICES NA LTD. Warnock Hersey

Tested by:

No longer with the Company

Doug Docherty, AScT

Senior Technologist, Building Products

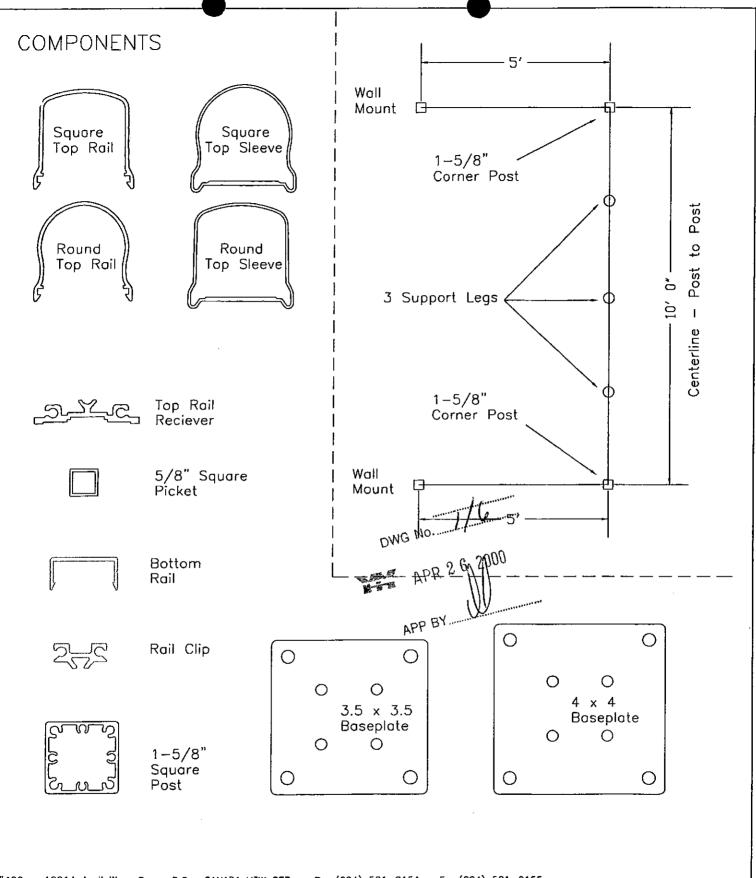
Reviewed by:

Cam Robinson, P. Eng.

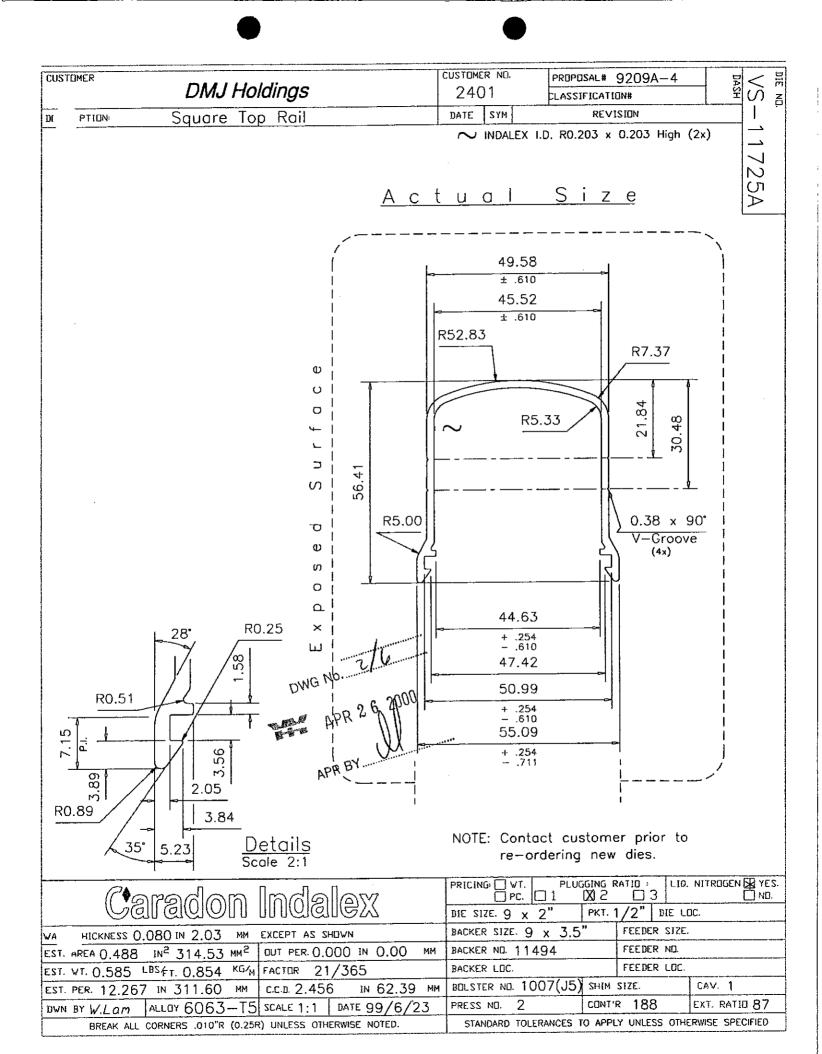
Manager, Construction Products

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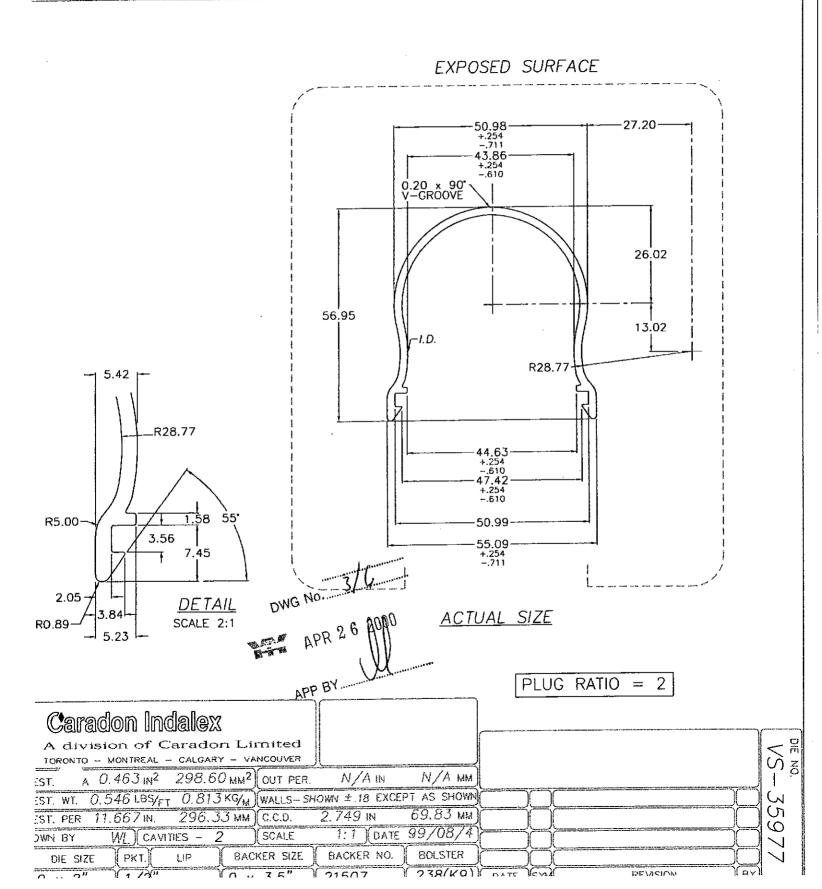
**APPENDIX A Details of the Tested Systems** 

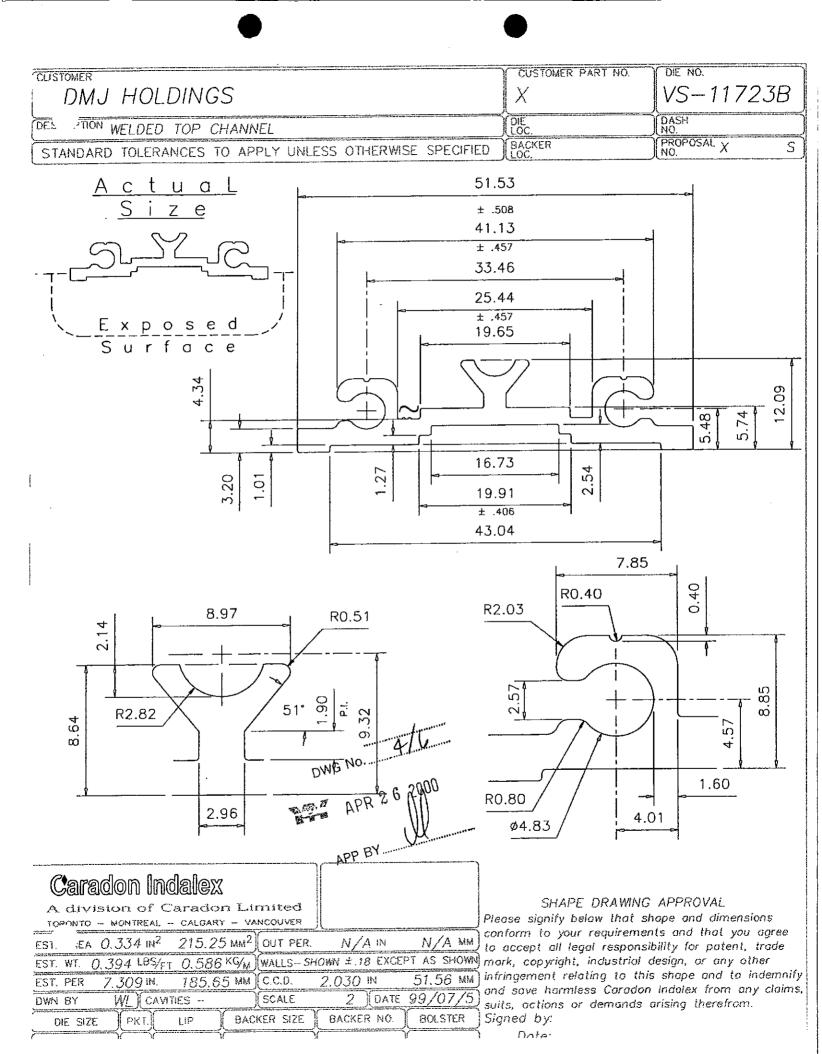


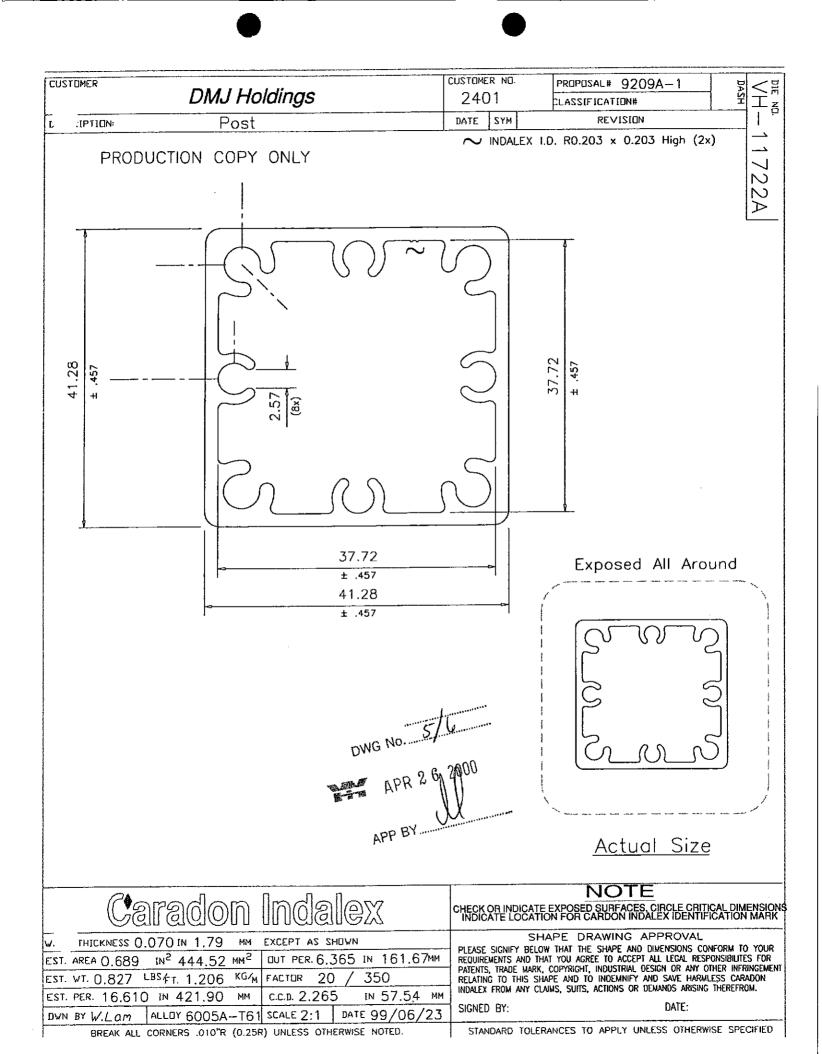
#406 - 12914 Anvil	Woy Surrey, B.C. CANAD	V3W 8E7 Bus.(604) 501-0151 Fox.(604) 501-0155	1 (*)
TITLE Welded Pi	Excell Railing		
GALE 3/8" = 1'	DATE Jan.2000	N.B.C. 120" Centerline	Systems Ltd.
DRAFT P.Bacon	CHK,D	U.B.C. 120" Centerline	
ENG.	CHK'D	BOCA 120" Centerline	DRAWING No.
APPR'I	AS BUILT	JOB No.	1003

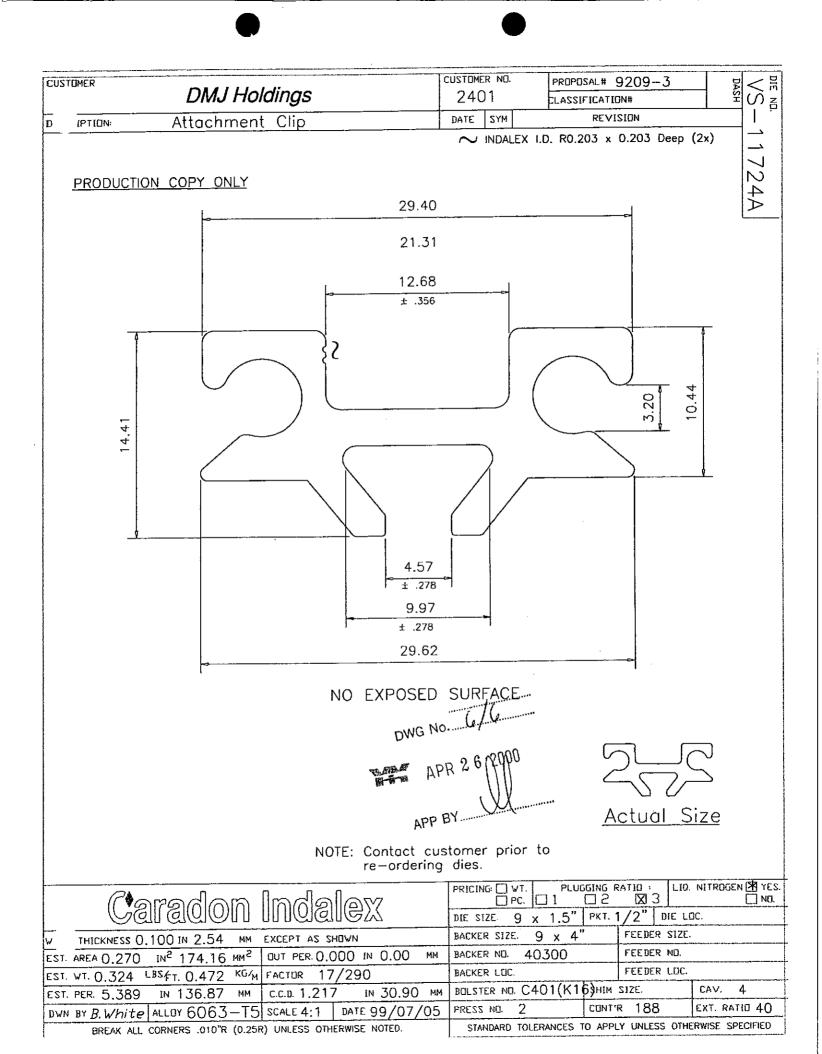


CUSTOMER		CUSTOMER PART NO.	DIE NO.
DMJ HOLDINGS		2383	VS-35977
DES TION	TOP RAIL	DIE LOC.	DASH NO.
STANDARD	TOLERANCES TO APPLY UNLESS OTHERWISE SPEC	IFIED BACKER	PROPOSAL 9293A-1









# **APPENDIX B Details of the Alternate One-Piece Rail**

