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(71) Applicant: **IMPERIAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES PLC** [GB/GB]; Imperial Chemical House, Millbank, London SW1P 3JF (GB).

(72) Inventors: **CRAUN, Gary, Pierce**; 409 Crescent Drive, Berea, OH 44017 (US). **HAHN, Kenneth, George**; 60 Bel-lus Road, Hinckley, OH 44233 (US)

(74) Agent: **COPPER, Alan, Victor**, ICI Group Intellectual Property, Patent & Trade Marks Section, Legal Affairs Dept., P.O. Box 1883, Wexham Road, Slough, Berkshire SL2 5FD (GB).

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(54) Title: AQUEOUS COPOLYMER THICKENER COMPOSITIONS

(57) Abstract: An aqueous dispersion of copolymeric microparticles, useful as an associative thickener in coating compositions such as paints, comprising copolymerised ethylenically unsaturated monomers by weight of, i) from 10 to 90 % carboxyl functional monomer, ii) from 1 to 50 % long chain alkyl ester of acrylate or methacrylate monomer where the alkyl chain contains at least 11 carbon atoms, iii) from 0 to 89 % short chain acrylate or methacrylate monomer selected from methyl acrylate, ethyl acrylate, methyl methacrylate and ethyl methacrylate and; iv) optionally other ethylenically unsaturated monomers, wherein the microparticles of the dispersion are substantially of uniform copolymer composition and the volatile organic solvent is from 0 to 1 % by weight (based on the total weight of the dispersion).

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