WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A process for producing an aqueous coating composition, the process comprising:

(i) providing an aqueous polymer dispersion having a pH <7;

(ii) adding to the dispersion 1 to 30 ppm of 5-chloro-2-methyl-3(2H)-isothiazolone (CIT) and 10 to 1000 ppm of 2,2-dibromo-3-nitrilopropionamide (DBNPA), all by weight of the total weight of the dispersion; and

(iii) adding at least one adjuvant to the dispersion to produce a coating composition;

(iv) raising the pH of the coating composition to a value sufficient to decompose the DBNPA; and

(v) adding a CIT-decomposing compound to the coating composition to decompose the CIT.

2. The process of claim 1, wherein step (ii) comprises adding to the dispersion 5 to 20 ppm by weight, preferably 10 to 14.9 ppm by weight of CIT based on the total weight of the dispersion.

3. The process of claim 1 or claim 2, wherein 20 to 400 ppm, preferably about 100 ppm, of DBNPA by weight based on the total weight of the dispersion are added in (ii).

4. The process of any one the preceding claims, wherein step (iv) comprises raising the pH of the coating composition to > 8.

5. The process of any one the preceding claims, wherein step (iv) comprises raising the pH of the coating composition to > 8 and up to 10.

6. The process of any one the preceding claims, wherein step (v) comprises adding cysteine to the coating composition.

7. The process of any one of the preceding claims and further comprising:

(vi) adding to the coating composition 50 to 300 ppm, preferably 50 to 250 ppm, by weight zinc pyrithrione and/or 50 to 500, preferably 75 to 350 ppm, by weight of 1,2-benzisothiazolin-3-one (BIT) and/or 50 to 150 ppm by weight of 2-bromo-2-nitro-1,3-

propanediol based on the total weight of the coating composition to preserve the coating composition against microbial attack.

8. A process for producing an aqueous coating composition, the process comprising:

(i) providing an aqueous polymer dispersion having a pH <7;

(ii) adding to the dispersion 1 to 30 ppm of 5-chloro-2-methyl-3(2H)-isothiazolone (CIT), up to 10 ppm of 2-methyl-3(2H)-isothiazolone (MIT) and 10 to 1000 ppm of 2,2-dibromo-3-nitrilopropionamide (DBNPA), all by weight of the total weight of the dispersion; and

(iii) adding at least one adjuvant to the dispersion to produce a coating composition; and

(iv) adjusting the pH of the coating composition to a value of at least 10.5, preferably between 10.5 to 11.5, to decompose the DBNPA, CIT and, if present, MIT and to preserve the coating composition against microbial attack.

9. The process of claim 8, wherein step (ii) comprises adding to the dispersion up to 3 ppm, preferably up to 1 ppm, MIT based on the total weight of the dispersion.

10. The process of claim 8 or claim 9, wherein, after step (ii), the dispersion contains no measurable amount of MIT.

11. The process of any one of claims 8 to 10, wherein step (ii) comprises adding to the dispersion 5 to 20 ppm by weight, preferably 10 to 14.9 ppm by weight of CIT based on the total weight of the dispersion.

12. The process of any one of claims 8 to 11, wherein 20 to 400 ppm, preferably about 100 ppm, of DBNPA by weight based on the total weight of the dispersion are added in (ii).

13. The process of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the pH adjusting step (iv) comprises adding one or more of an alkali metal hydroxide, an alkali metal silicate, an alkylalkoxysilane, an alkylalkoxysiloxane and an alkysiliconate to the coating composition.

~~14. An aqueous coating composition produced by the process of any one of the preceding claims.~~

~~15. An adhesive, paint, lacquer or varnish comprising the coating composition of claim 14.~~

~~16. An interior paint comprising the coating composition of claim 14.~~

~~17. A preservative free interior paint comprising a coating composition produced by the process of any one of claims 8 to 12.~~