AMERICAN STANDARD, LAS PINAS CITY

FIELD STUDY

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A Field Study Report
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ABSTRACT

SALVACION, NAPOLEON ROSANES. American Standard, Las Piñas City. Undergraduate Field Study, Bachelor of Science in Business Management, Major in Economics, Cavite State University, Indang Cavite, April 2001. Adviser: Mrs. Nelia E. Feranil.

A 480-hour field study was conducted from October 30, 2000 – January 31, 2001. It aimed to present the company's organization and management, production, marketing and financial performance of the firm, determine the problems encountered by the firm in its day-to-day operation and formulate some feasible solutions.

Information and data about the company were gathered from files and records of the company, and through interviews with the administrative staff who are knowledgeable with the specific matters such as the management policies and practices, and the financial operation of the company. Other relevant information were gathered from the CvSU library, internet and Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

American Standard, also known as Sanitary Wares Manufacturing Corporation, was organized and established in June 1961 as a joint venture between American Standard Inc. of the United States of America, and a group of pioneering Filipino investors. In 1990, American Standard gained control of the corporation in the major buy-out. Subsequently, the company went public and is now being traded in the stock exchange.

The company has a broad market base. It has a wide product range which caters all types of customers belonging to economic classes "A" through "D". The biggest group of the company's buyers is the specifiers group which consists of contractors, developers, architects and interior designers.

The company produces a complete line of world class vitreous china sanitary wares. These were water closets, lavatories, bidets, urinals, toilet paper holders and soap holders. To complement these vitreous china products, the company is also marketing other items such as brass fittings, bathtubs and whirlpools.

The company has a total work force of 470. In 1999, company's equity was P240,115,523.00 but realized a net loss of P39,398,005.00.

The construction industry was in turmoil and the retail market was weak, because of reduced buying power related to high unemployment which was the company's major problem. It was suggested that the company must develop new products at lower prices so that other small businesses or dealers/retailers can avail of its products without sacrificing its quality. They must use, therefore, local materials that are as effective as the imported materials that they are using.

The company plans to maintain market leadership in the face of growing competition through new and innovative products and services; thus making the company a profitable venture for its customers and shareholders.

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AMERICAN STANDARD LAS PIÑAS CITY ¹

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INTRODUCTION

The term "whitewares" is any of a broad class of ceramic products that are white to off-white in appearance and frequently contain a significant vitreous, or glassy, component. These include products such as fine china dinnerware, lavatory sinks and toilets, dental implants, and spark-plug insulators. Whitewares depend upon a relatively small set of properties for their utility; imperviousness to fluids, low conductivity of electricity, chemical inertness, an ability to be formed into complex shapes. These properties are determined by the mixture of raw materials chosen for the products, as well as by the forming and firing processes employed in their manufacture (Grolier Incorporated, 1995).

Plumbing is considered as the art and science of installing pipes, fixtures, and apparatus in buildings to convey water and other substances including the discharge of