Expert Witnesses

During this trial, you have heard testimony from at least one witness who claims to have specialized knowledge in a technical field. Such persons are sometimes referred to as expert witnesses. Because of their specialized knowledge, they are permitted to express opinions which may be helpful to you in determining the facts.

Since they do have specialized knowledge, the opinions of expert witnesses, whether expressed personally or in documents which have been admitted into evidence, should not be disregarded lightly.

On the other hand, you are not required to accept such opinions just because the witnesses have specialized knowledge.

In determining what weight to give to the testimony of a so-called expert witness, you should apply the same tests of credibility that apply to the testimony of any other witness. That is to say, you should consider such things as the witness's:

-- opportunity to have observed the facts about which he testified; and

-- apparent candor or lack of candor.

In addition, you should take into account the witness's:

-- qualifications; and

-- the accuracy of the facts upon which the witness's opinions were based.

In short, you should carefully consider the opinions of expert witnesses, but they are not necessarily conclusive.