



INFORMATION SHEET

Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) Concentration Limits for Automotive Refinishing Products Regulations

WHAT ARE AUTOMOTIVE REFINISHING PRODUCTS?

Automotive refinishing coatings and surface cleaners are applied to motor vehicles and mobile equipment (including cars, motorcycles, trucks, truck trailers, street cleaners and farm equipment) to refinish the surface or prepare the surface for its coating. These coatings and surface cleaners contain solvents which evaporate to the atmosphere during surface preparation and coating application.

The solvents used in these products contain volatile organic compounds (VOCs), which are pollutants contributing to the formation of both fine particulate matter and ozone. Fine particulate matter and ozone are the main ingredients of smog.

WHY ARE WE REGULATING?

The Government of Canada is working to reduce emissions of air pollutants in order to protect the environment and health of Canadians. It is estimated that over five kilotonnes of VOCs are emitted each year from coatings and surface cleaners used in automotive refinishing operations in Canada. The Regulations are expected to reduce the annual VOC emissions from these sources by approximately 40 percent.

On April 26, 2008, the proposed Regulations were published in the *Canada Gazette*, Part I, followed by a 60-day comment period. Comments were taken into consideration while preparing the final Regulations.

The final Regulations were published in the *Canada Gazette*, Part II, on July 8, 2009. The Regulations can be viewed on the CEPA Registry website: www.ec.gc.ca/cepregistry

For information on the development of the Regulations, please visit the following website: www.ec.gc.ca/cov-voc/

WHAT ARE THE MAIN REQUIREMENTS OF THE REGULATIONS?

The Regulations apply to the manufacture, import and sale of automotive refinishing products in Canada and set mandatory VOC concentration limits for these products. The manufacture and import prohibitions of products that exceed the VOC concentration limits come into force on June 19, 2010, while the sale and offer for sale prohibitions come into force on December 19, 2010.

The VOC concentration limits are listed below:

Product Category	VOC Concentration Limit (grams per litre)
Primer surfacer	250
Primer sealer	340
Pre-treatment wash primer	660
Adhesion promoter	840
Colour coating	420
Uniform finish coating	540
Truck-bed liner coating	310
Temporary protective coating	60
Underbody coating	430

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Product Category	VOC Concentration Limit (grams per litre)
Single-stage coating	420
Multicolour coating	680
Clear coating	250
Other coatings	250
Surface cleaners	50

HOW DO THESE NEW CANADIAN REGULATIONS COMPARE TO THOSE OF OTHER JURISDICTIONS?

The Regulations are based on similar requirements in other jurisdictions, such as California and Europe.

HOW CAN COLLISION REPAIR SHOPS PREPARE FOR THE COMING INTO FORCE DATES OF THE REGULATIONS?

Starting June 19, 2010, products that exceed the VOC concentration limits can no longer be imported or manufactured in Canada, and on December 19, 2010, the sale and offer for sale of automotive refinishing products in excess of the VOC concentration limits will also be prohibited. This will allow suppliers to sell any remaining products that exceed the VOC concentration limits until December 18, 2010. For these products to be sold after December 18, 2010, they must have VOC concentration limits below the levels specified in the Regulations.

HOW CAN I STAY INFORMED?

Visit the following website for additional information or to join the email list for notification regarding this initiative: www.ec.gc.ca/cov-voc/

Questions and inquiries can be directed to Environment Canada at:

Telephone: 819-994-5787

Fax: 1-888-391-3695 or 819-953-3132

Email: vocinfo@ec.gc.ca