



Volatile Organic Compound 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.



What Are Volatile Organic Compounds?

Volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions from automotive refinishing products are a contributing factor in the creation of air pollution. The use of automotive refinishing products results in emissions of VOCs from solvent-based products and, to a lesser extent, from water-based products. The solvents in these products are released to the atmosphere by evaporation during surface preparation

and coating application. They then contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone and fine particulate matter, which form 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%.

To Whom Do the Regulations Apply?

The Regulations apply to the **manufacturers, importers and sellers** of automotive refinishing products in Canada.

What Are the Main Requirements 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.

The VOC concentration limits are listed below.

Product Category	VOC Concentration Limit (g/L)
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
Single-stage coating	420
Multicolour coating	680
Clear coating	250
Other coatings	250
Surface cleaners	50

HOW TO STAY INFORMED?

For additional information, visit www.ec.gc.ca/cov-voc.

Questions and inquiries can be directed to Environment Canada:

Tel.: 1-800-668-6767

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

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