



September 2014 Update

Volatile Organic Compound Concentration Limits for Architectural Coatings Regulations

What Are Architectural Coatings?

Architectural coatings are products such as **paints, stains, varnishes, lacquers.**



The Canadian architectural coatings sector produces coatings for three main segments:

- **General architectural coatings:** coatings sold to painting contractors and to the general public through retail outlets.
- **Industrial maintenance coatings:** high-performance architectural coatings for industrial or professional application to surfaces exposed to extreme conditions.
- **Traffic marking coatings:** used for marking traffic surfaces such as streets and highways, parking lots, and airport runways.

What Are Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC)?

Consumer and commercial use of architectural coatings (paints, stains, etc.) results in the emission of VOCs by evaporation during the drying process, following application of the coating to a surface. In the atmosphere, photochemical reactions between VOCs and other common airborne pollutants such as nitrogen oxides, result in the formation of ground-level ozone (O₃), a respiratory irritant and component of smog. Smog is a noxious mixture of air pollutants, consisting primarily of O₃ and particulate matter, that can often be seen as a haze in the air, especially over urban centers.

HOW TO STAY INFORMED?

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

Questions and inquiries can be directed
to Environment Canada:

Tel.: 1-888-391-3426
Fax: 1-888-391-3695 or 819-953-3132
Email: products.produits@ec.gc.ca



New Prohibition on Manufacture or Import of Recycled Coatings Takes Effect in September 2014

On September 9, 2014, a prohibition on manufacturing or importing recycled coatings that contain more than 350 grams of VOCs per litre of product, comes into effect in Canada.

The recycled coating products to which the *Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) Concentration Limits for Architectural Coatings Regulations* apply are those containing no less than 50% secondary and post-consumer coatings, by total product weight; the post-consumer coatings must also account for no less than 10% of the total product weight. A secondary coating is a finished coating originating from a manufacturing process. If a product does not meet these requirements, the maximum VOC concentration for this category does not apply. In such a case, the product will be required to meet the VOC concentration limits for any other categories that are applicable under the Regulations.

Note that recycled coating products containing greater than 350 grams of VOCs per litre, that are imported into, or manufactured, in Canada prior to September 9, 2014, may continue to be sold in Canada until September 10, 2016.

New Prohibitions on Sale or Offering for Sale Take Effect in September 2014

On September 10, 2014, the sale or offering for sale of the following six architectural coatings will be prohibited if their VOC concentration is higher than the prescribed limit:

Architectural Coating	Maximum VOC Concentration (g/L)
Bituminous roof primer	350
Any other bituminous roof coating	300
Form release compound, for application to concrete formwork	250
Floor enamel, a high-gloss opaque floor coating for application to surfaces that may be subject to foot traffic	250
Interior wiping stain	250
Exterior wood stain, clear or semi-transparent	250

These new prohibitions will apply to a wide variety of distributors and retail outlets, ranging from large department stores to smaller outlets that sell any of the products listed above. These new prohibitions will place an obligation on sellers to ensure that their products comply, and to remove non-compliant product from the marketplace.

Useful Links

Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) Concentration Limits for Architectural Coatings Regulations:
laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-2009-264/index.html

Environment Canada Guidance Document on Analytical Methods for Determining Volatile Organic Compound Concentration and Other Parameters for the VOC Regulations:
www.ec.gc.ca/cov-voc/default.asp?lang=En&n=427177B6