



# Risk Management - Brief Overview

## Toxic substances: 2-Butoxyethanol

2-Butoxyethanol (2-BE), also known as ethylene glycol monobutyl ether, is a solvent (a liquid used for dissolving other substances) belonging to the glycol ether family. 2-BE is used in surface coatings, household cleaning products, herbicides, automobile brake fluids, printing inks, spot removers and cosmetics.

2-BE was found to be harmful to human health under the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999* and may contribute to the deterioration of red blood cells. In order to help protect the health of Canadians, the [2-Butoxyethanol Regulations](#) came into force in 2007 limiting 2-BE in cleaning, paint and coating products designed for indoor use.

### Scope of the Regulations

These Regulations set concentration limits for 2-BE in products that are manufactured, imported or sold in Canada

The concentration limits do not apply to products intended for export only or to products for use:

- in a manufacturing or processing activity;
- in a commercial paint or coating activity;
- as a solvent in a laboratory for analysis;
- in scientific research;
- as a laboratory analytical standard.

The Regulations apply to final, ready-to-use products after being mixed or diluted according to the manufacturer's written instructions.

### Main requirements of the Regulations

The Regulations set 2-BE concentration limits for these products:

| Product   | Concentration Limit (% w/w) <sup>4</sup> |
|---|--|
| Automobile Cleaner <sup>1</sup>                     | 10.0                                     |
| Rug or Carpet Cleaner                               | 10.0                                     |
| Floor or Baseboard Stripper                         | 2.0                                      |
| Paint Stripper or Thinner                           | 0.5                                      |
| Laundry Stain Remover                               | 22.0                                     |
| Any Other Aerosol <sup>2</sup> Cleaner <sup>3</sup> | 5.0                                      |
| Any Other Non-aerosol Cleaner <sup>3</sup>          | 6.0                                      |
| Aerosol <sup>2</sup> Paint or Coating               | 0.1                                      |
| Non-aerosol Paint or Coating                        | 0.5                                      |

<sup>1</sup> Does not include automobile degreasers or internal engine cleaners

<sup>2</sup> Does not include pump sprays

<sup>3</sup> A product used to degrease and clean glass, floors and other surfaces, including bathroom and kitchen surfaces, but does not include automobile degreasers

<sup>4</sup> The Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada may grant a permit to import or manufacture a product in which the concentration of 2-BE exceeds the limits of the Regulations

Determining the concentration of 2-BE should be done by an accredited laboratory and is subject to record keeping requirements. Please consult the Regulations for more information.

### Information and Contacts

This material has been prepared for reference only and does not have an official character. For interpreting and applying the Regulations, please refer to: <http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-2006-347/>

For more information, consult the 2-BE webpage at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/management-toxic-substances/list-canadian-environmental-protection-act/2-butoxyethanol.html>

Please direct any questions to the Products Division of Environment and Climate Change Canada: [Produits-Products@ec.gc.ca](mailto:Produits-Products@ec.gc.ca)

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