



February 2008

Highlights of the New Waterborne Basecoat Legislation

In a continuing effort to reduce emissions of volatile organic compounds, or VOCs, from California businesses, the California Air Resources Board has adopted Resolution 05-46 - Suggested Control Measure (SCM) for Automotive Coatings. The SCM limits the amount of VOCs that may be present in various types of automotive coatings. VOCs include many common organic solvents such as toluene, xylene, and butyl acetate. Several California Air Quality Districts have already adopted the SCM with effective dates as early as July 2008. It is anticipated that other states and Canada will implement similar requirements in the near future.

In preparation for the new air quality rules many paint and coating manufacturers are reformulating paints to contain less volatile organic compounds, using waterborne coating technologies. In some cases the reformulation and use of waterborne coatings may affect the choice of respiratory protection for painters. Below are some guidelines to help you determine what type of respiratory protection to use if your coatings are reformulated.

3M's Automotive Aftermarket Division and Occupational Health & Environmental Safety Division are leaders in respiratory protection and providing information about regulatory changes, web-based and in-person training, and a broad range of products and services.

Even with the use of waterborne products, employers are still required to perform an exposure assessment to determine if respiratory protection is necessary to help protect employee health during the spray application of low VOC basecoat and clearcoat products. Respiratory protection is required whenever airborne exposure levels exceed the state or federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Permissible Exposure Limits (PEL). Refer to the coating material safety data sheet for information pertaining to organic solvents and other hazardous ingredients in the coatings used. The use of the 3M™ Organic Vapor Monitor #37023 can help assess the airborne exposure levels and workers' exposure to organic vapors.

If it is determined that an air purifying respirator is required, a cartridge change-out schedule must be established. Federal OSHA 1910.134 (d)(3)(iii)(B) states - "If a cartridge/canister air purifying respirator for protection against gases and vapors does not have an end of service life indicator (ESLI), then the employer must implement a cartridge/canister change schedule based on objective information that will ensure the cartridges/canisters are changed before the end of their service life." 3M Service Life Software can be used to aid in developing a change-out schedule. For more information refer to 3M Technical Data Bulletin #158, Air Purifying Respirator In Automotive Paint-Spraying Operations at www.mmm.com/OccSafety.

3M also recommends that the coating material safety data sheet be checked for the presence of hexavalent chromium. Hexavalent chromium is often used in paint and coating pigments. Operations that may release hexavalent chromium include grinding, sanding, welding, and painting.

For more information about respiratory protection and 3M products, please see our website at www.mmm.com/OccSafety or call 1-800-328-1667.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Rech". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Ken Rech
National Sales Manager

Attach.

3M Recommended Products for Waterborne Coating Application

*Professional Series Half Mask
07139*



*Organic Vapor Cartridge Replacement
Packout 07195*



*Low Maintenance Half Facepiece
07192*



*Full Facepiece
07162*



*GVP PSK PAPR Kit
07190*



