

# BRITISH COATINGS FEDERATION LIMITED

## BCF DECORATIVE COATINGS ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

### INTRODUCTION

1. Decorative coatings manufacturers in membership of the British Coatings Federation (BCF) acknowledge that environmental protection strategies are an integral part of the industry's Coatings Care Programme. This document sets out the key elements of the decorative coatings environmental policy in support of the industry's commitment to environmental improvement.
2. The policy applies to all retail and trade decorative coatings.

### VOLATILE ORGANIC COMPOUNDS (VOC) REDUCTION

3. The VOC content of products covered by this policy (excluding aerosols) will not exceed maximum levels, as defined in Appendix I in line with the standards and time frames in place at the European-wide industry level.
4. For the purposes of this policy, a VOC is defined as any organic material used to dissolve, carry, plasticise or disperse, with an initial boiling point lower than, or equal to, 250°C or if electing to use the B & Q label, please refer to their VOC definition which states the boiling point at 280°C (see also Appendix II 1b).
5. Products in scope of this policy will carry an environmental warning phrase:  
*"VOCs (Volatile Organic Compounds) contribute to atmospheric pollution"*  
and will indicate the VOC content.

A 5 band classification scheme will be used to indicate the VOC content (expressed as weight/volume):

Minimal	0-0.29%
Low	0.3-7.99%
Medium	8-24.99%
High	25-50%
Very high	more than 50%

The environmental label, containing this information, will be displayed on packs using industry-wide formats, as shown in Appendix II.

### EQUIPMENT CLEAN UP AND DISPOSAL

6. Products in scope of this policy will carry advice on the cleaning of application equipment and the disposal of surplus material. Standardised phrases will be displayed on packs, as shown in Appendix III.

### LEAD IN PAINTED SURFACES

7. Under BCF's policy, information will continue to be made available to users of decorative coatings about the hazards associated with removing lead-based paint from older properties with advice provided on its safe removal. (Contact the BCF for an information booklet).

The on-can labelling phrase below will continue to be used on all appropriate products (i.e. those which are most likely to entail prior removal of lead-based paints): -

*"Special precautions should be taken during surface preparation of pre-1960s paint surfaces over wood and metal as they may contain harmful lead. For further advice contact....."*  
(A company contact number is given here).

### INFORMATION AND ADVICE

8. The BCF will act in partnership with other stakeholders in the development and provision of information and advice to consumers and professional painters and decorators on the VOC reduction programme, on the management of surplus coatings and wastes, and on lead.

**APPENDIX I**

**VOC Contents of Decorative Coatings**

Class (see list over)	Sub-class	Gloss at 60 angle (%)	Formulation	Maximum VOC content (g/l)	
				Phase 1: by 21.12.98	Phase 2: In line with European implementation
1.	1.1	=<25	Water borne	30	30*
	1.2	=<10	Solvent borne	400 <sup>1**</sup>	**
2.	2.1	>25	Water borne	150	100*
	2.2	>10	Solvent borne	350 <sup>1</sup>	**
3.	3.1		Water borne	60	40
	3.2		Solvent borne	450	450**
4.	4.1		Water borne	150	130 <sup>2*</sup>
	4.2		Solvent borne	400 <sup>3</sup>	300 <sup>3*</sup>
5.	5.1		Water borne	150	130
	5.2		Solvent borne	550	500
6.	6.1		Water borne	170	140
	6.2		Solvent borne	550	500
7.	7.1		Water borne	50	30
	7.2		Solvent borne	750	750
8.	8.1		Water borne	140	140
	8.2		Solvent borne	600	600
9.	9.		Solvent borne	450	450
10.	10.1		Water borne	140	140
	10.2		Solvent borne	550 <sup>4</sup>	550 <sup>4</sup>
11.	11		Solvent borne	600	600
12.	12.1		Water borne	- <sup>6</sup>	- <sup>6</sup>
	12.2		Solvent borne	350	- <sup>5</sup>

\* including POS tinting systems

\*\* To be phased out over time. Industry plans to be put in place

1 Formulation based on low aromatic solvents (=<5%)

2 130 necessary for open time

3 In case of higher density solvents multiply by density/0.75

4 only allowed if category 10.1 is not suitable for application

5 to be phased out by 31/12/01

6 includes special effect coatings; levels yet to be set

### List of Classes

- Class 1: interior low gloss paints for walls and ceilings
- Class 2: interior glossy paints for walls and ceilings
- Class 3: exterior wall paints (façade coatings)
- Class 4: interior and exterior trim paints and also paints for exterior claddings and anticorrosive decorative paints (not including heavy duty anticorrosive paints)
- Class 5: Transparent coatings, lacquers and varnishes on all substrates, preferably on wood
- Class 6: Woodstains: a liquid product producing a transparent or semi transparent film for the decoration and protection against weathering, which enables maintenance to be carried easily. Such products may contain biocides to protect the film or wood interface against blue stain and mould. The term 'opaque woodstain' is also used for a paint applied such that the wood surface structure remains visible. These coatings are included in this class
- Class 7: primers/sealers binding primers and primers including primers for exterior wood e.g. binding primers to stabilise loose substrate particles or rendering or to give hydrophobic properties and paints only for use on difficult surfaces e.g. water soluble stains, loosely adhering materials.
- Class 8: One-pack coatings for specific end use application (such as floors, radiators, metalwork) including physically drying solvent borne coatings, oxidative drying coatings and high quality emulsion paints.
- Class 9: Solvent borne one pack paints for use on exterior walls (facades) under adverse drying conditions
- Class 10: Two-pack reactive coatings for specific end use application (such as floors). Chemically reactive e.g. polyisocyanate plus polyol or epoxide plus amine coatings, application e.g. on floors, stairs, on zinc plated steel, on plastic substrates
- Class 11: One-pack reactive coatings for specific end use application (such as floors), stairs, on zinc plated steel, on plastic substrates
- Class 12: Multicoloured paints including physically drying solvent borne coatings, oxidative drying coatings and high quality emulsion paints, application normally on walls and floors. Includes special effect coatings.

## APPENDIX II

### ENVIRONMENTAL VOC LABEL

#### 1. Label Design & Position

All products will carry an environmental label either a) or b) as below:

##### a) Minimum Requirement

The label for such products will be of the following format: (text to be legible and contained within a box) the size of which is flexible.

Minimal: VOC content 0-0.29% VOCs (Volatile Organic Compounds) Contribute to atmospheric pollution
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This will be located in the area of the pack label reserved for health, safety and environmental information.

##### b) Alternative Option

An alternative option will be to use the label design initiated by B & Q which can be used only under license from B & Q and in accordance with the conditions laid down for its use, including the B & Q VOC definition, which uses a boiling point of 280°C.

The text will exactly match that used in the boxed format above.

#### 2. Very small containers

On very small containers e.g. tester pots and trial packs, alternative arrangements may be made to communicate the VOC content via point-of-sale, rather than on pack.

#### 3. Timetable on products as delivered from manufacturers:

- on all new products when they are placed on the market
- on existing products, during 1998 with the majority completed by the end of 1998.

## APPENDIX III

### EQUIPMENT CLEAN UP AND DISPOSAL PHRASES

1. The following phrases will be carried out on all products covered by the VOC reduction initiative:
  - i) *Remove as much product (option to use “paint”/“varnish” etc.) as possible from application equipment (option to use “brushes and rollers” etc.) before washing*
  - ii) *Some local authorities have special facilities for disposal or disposing of waste coatings (option to use “paint”/“varnish” etc.)*
  - iii) *Do not empty product (option to use “paint”/“varnish” etc.) into drains or watercourses*
2. These advice phrases will normally be contained in the area of the pack label reserved for non-statutory health, safety and environmental information.
3. For products supplied for **professional use** only, for which a safety data sheet (SDS) is prepared in accordance with the CHIP Regulations and the BCF’s guidance, phrases ii) and iii) in 1. above may be omitted. The standard phrases contained in Section 13 of the SDS provide the necessary information i.e.:

*Do not allow into drains or water courses or dispose of where ground or surface water may be affected.*

*Wastes, including emptied containers, are controlled wastes and should be disposed of in accordance with regulations made under the Control of Pollution Act and the Environmental Protection Act.*
4. These advice phrases will be introduced on products as delivered from manufacturers:
  - on all new products when they are placed on the market
  - on existing products during 1998 with the majority completed by the end of 1998