

VOC UPDATE

NEW VOC LAWS EFFECTIVE IN MASSACHUSETTS JANUARY 1, 2009!

The New Regulations

New VOC (Volatile Organic Compounds) regulations for paints go into effect on 1/1/09 in Massachusetts. These regulations are similar to those that were implemented in 2005 in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Washington DC and northern Virginia, in 2006 in Maine, 2007 in New Hampshire, and in Connecticut in 2008.

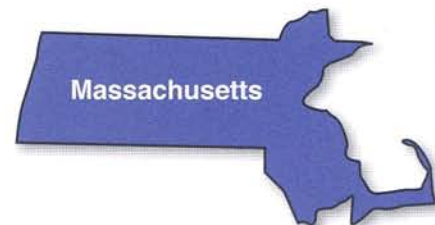
The regulations were established upon recommendations by the Ozone Transport Commission (OTC), which was formed by Congress in 1990. The Commission's goal is to reduce ground-level ozone and improve air quality in the Northeast.

Under the new regulations, lower VOC limits will be in effect for 53 coatings categories, such as flats, non-flats, primers, stains, varnishes and industrial maintenance

coatings. All coatings sold or used within Massachusetts must comply with the new VOC limits. Many existing oil-based primers and finishes are not compliant with the regulations and are being replaced by low VOC versions.

Although the new OTC regulations are effective beginning 1/1/09 in Massachusetts, there are certain exemptions which are important to users. These exemptions are:

- ① Container size of one quart or smaller
- ② Aerosols
- ③ Coatings that are shop-applied
- ④ Coatings manufactured prior to 1/1/09



New regulations for architectural and industrial coatings impact Massachusetts.

How The New VOC Regulations Affect You

- **By law, painting contractors must use only OTC-compliant coatings in their field work in Massachusetts beginning 1/1/09.**
- **Painting contractors are responsible for ensuring that their employees comply with the regulations.**
- **It is unlawful for coatings suppliers to distribute any non-compliant coatings in regulated areas.**

What Should A Painting Contractor Do *BEFORE* The OTC Regulations Go Into Effect?

- 1 Check with your paint suppliers to confirm their awareness of the new VOC regulations and their ability to supply user-friendly OTC-compliant products.
- 2 Discuss with your paint suppliers their efforts in complying with the regulations, including any changes to paints that you use regularly in your business.
- 3 Discuss with your paint suppliers what OTC-compliant alternatives they have available to replace the non-compliant products you may currently use. *An attractive option is Sherwin-Williams advanced waterborne and high-solids alkyd coatings in place of non-compliant oil-based paints and primers.*
- 4 Make sure any bids or submittals in regulated areas include only OTC-compliant coatings.
- 5 Discuss with your paint suppliers any training materials or resources they have available to help you educate your employees and customers.

What Should A Painting Contractor Do *AFTER* The OTC Regulations Go Into Effect?

- 1 If you are working in a regulated area, make sure your paint supplier is *providing* you with only OTC-compliant coatings, or coatings that meet one of the listed exemptions*.
- 2 If you are working in a regulated area, make sure that you are *applying* only OTC-compliant coatings, or coatings that meet one of the listed exemptions*.
- 3 Due to the “grandfather clause” exemption, a contractor can complete on-going jobs with non-compliant coatings that were manufactured prior to 1/1/09 for projects in Massachusetts.

We Are Your Source for OTC-Compliant Coatings

Sherwin-Williams is the recognized industry leader in low-VOC coatings. Through the years, we have undertaken extensive research and development to commercialize user-friendly, high performance, low-VOC coatings that meet the stringent requirements of all national and state regulations. The result is a complete line of OTC-compliant products with no sacrifice in performance or application characteristics. See your Sherwin-Williams representative for our complete listing of OTC-compliant products.

For additional information on the new VOC regulations, contact your Sherwin-Williams sales representative or local store manager, or visit the Ozone Transport Commission's web site at www.otcair.org, which contains links to most state environmental web sites.

*see front page for listed exemptions

