

# **RULE 234 AUTOMOTIVE REFINISHING OPERATIONS**

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## 100 GENERAL

**101 PURPOSE:** To limit the emission of volatile organic compounds from coating and solvent operations associated with motor vehicles, mobile equipment, and associated parts and components.

**102 APPLICABILITY:** The provisions of this rule apply to any person who uses, applies or solicits the use or application of any automotive coating or associated solvent; or any person who supplies, sells, offers for sale, manufacturers or distributes for use or application within the District, any automotive coating or associated solvent.

**103 SEVERABILITY:** If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of this rule is, for any reason, held invalid, unconstitutional or unenforceable by any court of competent jurisdiction, that portion shall be deemed as a separate, distinct, and independent provision, and the holding shall not affect the validity to the remaining portions of the rule.

### 104 EXEMPTIONS

104.1 Exemption From Rule 219: The provisions of Rule 219, ORGANIC SOLVENTS, shall not apply to the operations subject to this rule.

104.2 Exemption, Small Quantity: The provisions of this rule shall not apply to any automotive coating that is sold, supplied, or offered for sale in 0.5 fluid ounce or smaller containers intended to be used by the general public to repair tiny surface imperfections.

104.3 Exemption, Assembly Line: The provisions of this rule shall not apply to any coating applied to motor vehicles or mobile equipment, or their associated parts and components during manufacture on an assembly line.

104.4 Exemption, Aerosol Products Coating: The provisions of this rule shall not apply to the application of aerosol coating products from non-refillable aerosol containers having a capacity of one liter (34 fluid ounces), or less.

104.5 Exemption, Use Outside of District: The provisions of this rule shall not apply to any automotive coating or associated solvent that is offered for sale, sold, or manufactured for use outside of the District or for shipment to other manufacturers for reformulation or packing.

## 200 DEFINITIONS

**201 ADHESION PROMOTER:** A coating which is labeled and formulated to be applied to uncoated plastic surfaces to facilitate bonding of subsequent coatings, and on which, a subsequent coating is applied.

**202 AEROSOL COATING PRODUCT:** A pressurized coating product containing pigments or resins that dispenses product ingredients by means of a propellant, and is packaged in a non-refillable can for hand-held application, or for use in specialized equipment for ground traffic/marketing applications.

**203 ASSEMBLY LINE:** An arrangement of industrial equipment and workers in which the product passes from one specialized operation to another until complete, by either automatic or manual means.

**204 ASSOCIATED PARTS AND COMPONENTS:** Any structures, devices, pieces, modules, sections, assemblies, sub-assemblies, or elements of motor vehicles or mobile equipment

that are designed to be a part of motor vehicles or mobile equipment but which are not attached to motor vehicles or mobile equipment at the time of coating the structure, device, piece, module, section assembly, sub-assembly, or element. "Associated parts and components" does not include circuit boards.

- 205 AUTOMOTIVE COATING:** Any coating or coating component used or recommended for use in motor vehicle or mobile equipment refinishing, service, maintenance, repair, restoration, or modification, except metal plating activities. Any reference to automotive refinishing or automotive coating made by a person on the container or in product literature constitutes a recommendation for use in motor vehicle or mobile equipment refinishing.
- 206 AUTOMOTIVE COATING COMPONENT:** Any portion of a coating including, but not limited to, a reducer or thinner, toner, hardener, and additive, which is recommended by any person to distributors or end-users for use in an automotive coating, or which is supplied for or used in an automotive coating. The raw materials used to produce the components are not considered automotive coating components.
- 207 AUTOMOTIVE REFINISHING FACILITY:** Any shop, business, location, or parcel of land where motor vehicles or mobile equipment or their associated parts and components are coated, including autobody collision repair shops. "Automotive Refinishing Facility" does not include the original equipment manufacturing plant where the motor vehicle or mobile equipment is completely assembled.
- 208 CAPTURE EFFICIENCY:** The fraction, in percent, of all VOC's generated by a process that is directed to an abatement or recovery device.
- 209 CLEANING OPERATIONS:** Involves the removal of loosely held uncured adhesives, inks, coatings, or contaminants, including, but not limited to, dirt, soil, or grease, from motor vehicles, mobile equipment, associated parts and components, substrates, parts, products, tools, machinery, equipment, or general work areas.
- 210 CLEAR COATING:** Any coating that contains no pigments and is labeled and formulated for application over a color coating or clear coating.
- 211 COATING:** A material which is applied to a surface and forms a film in order to beautify, preserve, repair, and/or protect such surface.
- 212 COLOR COATING:** Any pigmented coating, excluding adhesion promoters, primers, and multi-color coatings, that requires a subsequent clear coating and which is applied over a primer, adhesion promoter, or color coating. Color coatings include metallic/iridescent color coatings.
- 213 CONTROL EFFICIENCY:** The fraction, in percent, of pollution prevented by a control device and the pollution introduced to the control device.
- 214 ELECTROSTATIC SPRAY APPLICATION:** Any method of spray application of coatings where an electrostatic attraction is created between the part to be coated and the paint particles.
- 215 EMISSION CONTROL SYSTEM:** Any combination of capture systems and control devices used to reduce VOC emissions from automotive coating operations.
- 216 EXEMPT COMPOUNDS:** For the purpose of this Rule, exempt compounds are as defined in Rule 102, DEFINITIONS.

- 217 GRAPHIC DESIGN APPLICATION:** The application of logos, letters, numbers, and graphics to a painted surface, with or without the use of a template by brush, roller, or airbrush.
- 218 HIGH VOLUME, LOW PRESSURE (HVLP) SPRAY EQUIPMENT:** Spray equipment, permanently labeled as such, used to apply coatings by means of a gun which is designed to be operated and which is operated between 0.1 and 10 pounds per square inch, gauge, (psig) air atomized pressure, measured dynamically at the center of the air cap and at the air horns.
- 219 LACQUER:** A coating that dries primarily by solvent evaporation and is resolvable in its original solvent.
- 220 METALLIC/IRIDESCENT COLOR COATING:** Any coating that contains more than 0.042 pounds per gallon (5 grams per liter) of metal or iridescent particles as applied, where such particles are visible in the dried film.
- 221 MOBILE EQUIPMENT:** Equipment which may be drawn or is capable of being driven on rails or on a roadway, including, but not limited to, trains, railcars, truck bodies, truck trailers, camper shells, mobile cranes, bulldozers, street cleaners, golf carts, and implements of husbandry or agriculture.
- 222 MOTOR VEHICLE:** Any self-propelled vehicle, including, but not limited to cars, trucks, buses, golf carts, vans, motorcycles, tanks, and armored personnel carriers.
- 223 MULTI COLOR COATING:** Any coating that exhibits more than one color in the dried film after a single application, is packaged in a single container, and hides surface defects on areas of heavy use, and which is applied over a primer or adhesion promoter.
- 224 PRETREATMENT COATING:** A coating which contains a minimum of one-half (0.5) percent acid by weight, and not more than 16 percent solids by weight, to provide surface etching, and which is labeled and formulated to be applied directly to bare metal surfaces to provide corrosion resistance and topcoat adhesion.
- 225 PRIMER:** Any coating, which is labeled and formulated for application to a substrate to provide: (1) a bond between the substrate and subsequent coats, (2) corrosion resistance, (3) a smooth substrate surface, or (4) resistance to penetration of subsequent coats, and on which a subsequent coating is applied. Primers may be pigmented.
- 226 PRIMER SEALER:** Any coating which is labeled and formulated for application prior to the application of a color coating for the purpose of color uniformity, or to promote the ability of the underlying coating to resist penetration by the color coating.
- 227 REDUCER:** Products used to thin a coating.
- 228 SINGLE-STAGE COATING:** Any pigmented coating, excluding primers and multi-color coatings, labeled and formulated for application without a subsequent clear coat. Single-stage coatings include single-stage metallic/iridescent coatings.
- 229 SOLVENT:** A VOC-containing fluid used to perform surface preparation and cleaning operations.
- 230 SPOT REPAIR:** Repair of an area on a motor vehicle, piece of mobile equipment, or associated parts or components of less than 1 square foot (929 square centimeters).
- 231 TEMPORARY PROTECTIVE COATING:** Any coating which is labeled and formulated for the purpose of temporarily protecting areas from overspray or mechanical damage.

- 232 TRANSFER EFFICIENCY:** The ratio of the amount of coating solids adhering to the object being coated to the total amount of coating solids sprayed, expressed as a percentage.
- 233 TRUCK BED LINER COATING:** Any coating, excluding clear, color, multi-color, and single stage coatings, labeled and formulated for application to a truck bed to protect it from surface abrasion.
- 234 UNDERBODY COATING:** Any coating labeled and formulated for application to wheel wells, the inside of door panels or fenders, the underside of a trunk or hood, or the underside of the motor vehicle.
- 235 UNIFORM FINISH COATING:** Any coating labeled and formulated for application to the area around a spot repair for the purpose of blending a repaired area's color or clear coat to match the appearance of an adjacent area's existing coating.
- 236 VOLATILE ORGANIC COMPOUNDS (VOC):** Any chemical compound containing at least one atom of carbon except for the Exempt Compounds listed in Rule 102, DEFINITIONS.

**237 VOC CONTENT:**

237.1 VOC Regulatory Content: The weight of VOC per combined volume of VOC and coating solids, calculated with the following equation:

$$\text{VOC Regulatory Content} = (Ws - Ww - Wec) / (Vm - Vw - Vec)$$

237.2 VOC Actual Content: The weight of VOC per volume of material, calculated with the following equation:

$$\text{VOC Actual Content} = (Ws - Ww - Wec) / Vm$$

Where:

- Ws = Weight of volatile compounds in grams
- Ww = Weight of water in grams
- Wec = Weight of exempt compounds in grams
- Vm = Volume of material in liters
- Vw = Volume of water in liters
- Vec = Volume of exempt compounds, as defined in Rule 102, DEFINITIONS, in liters

**300 STANDARDS**

**301 LIMITS:** No person shall apply to any motor vehicle, mobile equipment, or associated parts and components, any coating with a VOC regulatory content, as calculated pursuant to Section 237.1 for VOC regulatory, in excess of the following limits, except as provided in Section 304.

Coating Category	Regulatory VOC Content g/l (lb/gal)
Adhesion Promoter	540 (4.5)
Clear Coating	250 (2.1)
Color Coating	420 (3.5)
Multi-Color Coating	680 (5.7)
Pretreatment Coating	660 (5.5)

Coating Category	Regulatory VOC Content g/l (lb/gal)
Primer	250 (2.1)
Primer Sealer	250 (2.1)
Single-Stage Coating	340 (2.8)
Temporary Protective Coating	60 (0.5)
Truck Bed Liner Coating	310 (2.6)
Underbody Coating	430 (3.6)
Uniform Finish Coating	540 (4.5)
Any Other Coating Type	250 (2.1)

**302 MOST RESTRICTIVE VOC LIMIT:** If anywhere on the container of any automotive coating, or any label or sticker affixed to the container, or in any sales, advertising or technical literature supplied by a person, any representation is made that indicates that the coating meets the definition of or is recommended for use for more than one of the coating categories listed in Section 301, then the lowest VOC content limit shall apply.

**303 APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:** No person shall apply a coating to any motor vehicle, mobile equipment, or associated parts and components unless one of the following application methods is used:

303.1 Brush, dip, or roller;

303.2 Electrostatic spray application equipment, operated in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations;

303.3 High Volume Low Pressure (HVLP) spray equipment, operated in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations;

303.4 Spray gun, demonstrated to meet the HVLP definition in Section 218 in design and use;

303.5 Any other equivalent coating application method which has been demonstrated to have a transfer efficiency equivalent to or higher than, the application methods listed in this Section, as determined per subsection 507.2, Determination of Transfer Efficiency, and which has been submitted to and approved in writing prior to use by the Air Pollution Control Officer.

**304 EMISSION CONTROL SYSTEM:** In lieu of complying with VOC content limits of Section 301, a person may use a VOC emission control system that controls emissions from the source operation provided the following conditions are met:

304.1 The VOC emission control system shall be approved in writing by the Air Pollution Control Officer.

304.2 The VOC emission control system shall be operated with an overall control efficiency (capture and control), as determined in Sections 507.3 and 507.4, of at least 85 percent by weight, during periods of emission producing activity. The approved emission control system must be maintained and used at all times in proper working condition.

304.3 Submit an Operation and Maintenance Plan at least 90 days in advance of the date on which VOC emission control system is to be used in lieu of compliance with VOC content limitations. The Plan shall specify operation and maintenance procedures which will demonstrate continuous operation and compliance of the emissions control

equipment during periods of emissions-producing operations. The Plan shall also specify which daily records must be kept to document these operations and maintenance procedures. These records shall comply with the requirements of Section 502. The Plan shall be implemented upon approval by the Air Pollution Control Officer.

304.4 Submittal of an application for Authority to Construct per Rule 501, GENERAL PERMIT REQUIREMENTS, prior to control system construction.

**305 SOLVENT LIMITS AND EVAPORATIVE LOSS MINIMIZATION:**

305.1 Closed, non-leaking, non-absorbent containers shall be used for the storage or disposal of VOC-laden materials, including cloth or paper used for solvent surface preparation and cleanup.

305.2 Fresh or spent solvent, coating, catalyst, thinner, or reducer, shall be stored in closed vapor-tight containers when not in use. Containers may only be open when adding or removing contents. Disposal shall be done in a manner to prevent evaporation of VOCs into the atmosphere at the facility.

305.3 Solvents shall not be used for the cleanup of spray equipment including paint lines unless an enclosed system or other system, that has been approved in writing for use by the Air Pollution Control Officer, is used for cleanup. The system must enclose spray guns, cups, nozzles, bowls, and other parts during washing, rinsing, and draining procedures. Equipment used shall minimize the evaporation of organic compounds to the atmosphere. Spray equipment may be cleaned without the use of an enclosed system if cleaning solutions are used that do not contain VOCs.

305.4 For solvent cleaning operations other than for bug and tar removal, solvents must have VOC content less than 25 g/l, as calculated using the equation listed in Section 237.2 for VOC actual content. For solvents used for bug and tar removal, the VOC content shall meet requirements for such products under the Consumer Products Regulation (California Code of Regulations Section 94509, with a maximum limit of 40% volatile organic compound by weight).

**306 TOXIC AIR CONTAMINANT:** No person shall apply a coating to any motor vehicle, mobile equipment, or associated parts and components, containing cadmium or hexavalent chromium.

**400 ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS**

**401 PROHIBITION OF POSSESSION:** No person shall possess at any automotive refinishing facility, any VOC-containing product that is not in compliance with Section 301 or 304 or 305.4, as applicable.

**402 PROHIBITION OF SPECIFICATION:** No person shall solicit or require for use or specify the application of any coating or solvents to a motor vehicle, mobile equipment, or part or component if such use results in a violation of the provisions of this rule. The prohibition of this Section will apply to all written or oral contracts, including but not limited to, job orders, under the terms of which any coating which is subject to the provisions of this rule is to be applied to any motor vehicle, mobile equipment, or part or component at any physical location within the District.

**403 PROHIBITION OF SALE OR MANUFACTURE:**



403.1 No person shall manufacture, blend, repackage for sale, supply, sell, offer for sale, or distribute within the District, any coating with a VOC content in excess of the limits specified in Section 301. This shall apply to the sale of any coating which will be applied at any physical location within the jurisdiction of the District.

403.2 The provision of Section 403.1 shall not apply to the application of coatings where either: (a) The product is used exclusively within a emission control systems as allowed in Section 304; or (b) For coatings for use outside of the District.

**404 VOC COMPLIANCE STATEMENT REQUIREMENT:** The manufacturer or repackager of automotive coatings and automotive coating components and solvents subject to this rule shall provide the following product information to the purchaser, on product data sheets, or equivalent medium (including in electronic or web media format), for each coating, coating component, solvent, and ready to spray mixture:

404.1 VOC actual content and VOC regulatory content, expressed in grams per liter or pounds per gallon;

404.2 Weight percentage of volatiles, water, and exempt compounds;

404.3 Volume percentage of water and exempt compounds;

404.4 Density of the material, in grams per liter.

**405 LABELING REQUIREMENTS:** The manufacturer and repackager of automotive coatings and automotive coating components and solvents shall include on all containers the material type (applicable use category(ies)), and the VOC actual content and VOC regulatory content for coatings and solvents, as supplied, expressed in grams per liter or pounds per gallon. For products manufactured prior to July 1, 2011, labeling does not need to identify the material type (applicable coating category(ies)).

**406 HVLP MARKING:** A person shall not sell, offer for sale, or distribute for use within the District any HVLP gun without a permanent marking, or accurate information provided on company letterhead or in the form of technical literature clearly identifying the spray gun manufacturer, salesperson or distributor, denoting the maximum inlet air pressure in psig at which the gun will operate within the parameters specified in Section 218.

## **500 MONITORING AND RECORDS**

**501 USER COATING RECORDS:** Operators of facilities subject to this Rule shall maintain, and have available at all times on the site, the following:

501.1 A current listing of all VOC containing materials in use at their facility. This listing shall include, for each product:

501.1.1 Material name and manufacturer identification;

501.1.2 Application method;

501.1.3 Material type (applicable use category(ies)), mix ratio, and specific use instructions;

501.1.4 Specific mixing instructions;

501.1.5 VOC actual content and VOC regulatory content.

- 501.2 Current manufacturing specification sheets, technical data sheets, material data sheets, or current air quality data sheets, which list the VOC actual content and VOC regulatory content of each material ready to spray coating (based on the manufacturer's stated mix ratio) and automotive coating component, and VOC content of each solvent.
  - 501.3 Records on a monthly basis for the quantity and material type (applicable use category(ies)) of each coating applied, and total facility VOC emissions. These records shall be summarized for the previous calendar year and submitted to the District by June 1.
  - 501.4 Purchase records identifying the coating or solvent material type (applicable use category(ies)), product name and/or identification number, product volume, and name and address of the seller, The material type (applicable use category(ies)) may be contained on product data sheets or manufacturer specification sheets. Purchase records may be stored offsite.
- 502 EMISSION CONTROL EQUIPMENT RECORDS:** Any person using emissions control equipment pursuant to Section 304 as a means of complying with this rule shall maintain such records as required by the Operation and Maintenance Plan in Section 304, Section 501, and also including:
- 502.1 Monthly usage records of all materials used such as coatings, catalysts, additives, and reducers.
  - 502.2 Daily records of key operating parameters such as temperatures, pressures, flowrates, and hours of operation of the control device to verify compliance of the capture and control device.
  - 502.3 Maintenance work which interferes with the operation of the control device.
- 503 SALES RECORDS:** Any person within the District selling coatings subject to this Rule shall maintain the following records for on-site sales, for a three-year period, and make such records available on request to the Air Pollution Control Officer:
- 503.1 Business name, street address, phone number, and either business license or drivers license;
  - 503.2 Product name and volume;
  - 503.3 VOC content and material type (applicable use category(ies)). This information must be available on-site, and does not need to be included in each sales transaction;
  - 503.4 Date of sale.
- 504 PROHIBITION OF SALE OR MANUFACTURE RECORDS:** Any person claiming an exemption under subsection 403.2 shall keep a detailed log of each automotive coating component and automotive coating manufactured, blended, repackaged for sale, supplied, sold, offered for sale, or distributed showing:
- 504.1 Quantity, including size, and number of containers;
  - 504.2 Regulatory and actual VOC content for coatings;
  - 504.3 Purchaser, including name, address, phone number, and retail tax license number;

504.4 The specific exemption being utilized under Section 403.

**505 BURDEN OF PROOF:** Any person claiming an exemption pursuant to Section 104 shall have information available including product data or material data safety sheets or records that allow the Air Pollution Control Officer to verify eligibility of the exemption.

**506 MAINTENANCE OF RECORDS:** Records required by this rule shall be retained for a minimum of three years, except for sources subject to Rule 507, FEDERAL OPERATING PERMIT PROGRAM, which shall retain records for five (5) years. Records shall be made available to the Air Pollution Control Officer upon request.

**507 TEST METHODS:** The following test methods are incorporated by reference, and shall be used to test coatings and solvents subject to the provisions of this rule. A source is in violation of this rule if any measurement by any of the listed applicable test methods exceeds the standards of this rule.

507.1 Determination of VOC Content: The VOC content of coatings or solvents, subject to the provisions of this Rule, shall be determined by procedures contained in U.S. EPA Reference Test Method 24 (40 CFR 60), "Determination of Volatile Matter Content, Water Content, Density, Volume Solids, and Weight Solids of Surface Coatings".

507.2 Determination of Transfer Efficiency: Transfer efficiency as required in Section 303 of this rule shall be determined in accordance with the South Coast Air Quality Management District Test Method "Spray Equipment Transfer Efficiency (TE) Test Procedure for Equipment User," May 24, 1989, or other equivalent method which has been approved in writing by the Air Pollution Control Officer and submitted to and approved by U.S. EPA.

507.3 Determination of Control Efficiency: Control efficiency as required by Section 304 of this rule, shall be determined in accordance with U.S. EPA Method 25 25A, or 25B; and U.S. EPA Method 2 or 2C (whichever is applicable). U.S. EPA Method 18 or CARB Method 422 "Determination of Volatile Organic Compounds Emissions from Stationary Sources" may be used to determine emissions of exempt compounds.

507.4 Determination of Capture Efficiency: Capture efficiency as required in Section 304, of this rule shall be determined by and reported in accordance with U.S. EPA "Guidelines for Determining Capture Efficiency", January 9, 1995, and 40 CFR 51, Appendix M, Methods 204-204f, as applicable.

507.5 Determination of Acid Concentration: Acid concentration in pretreatment wash primer as defined in Section 223, of this rule shall be determined by ASTM Test Method D-1613-06 "Standard Test Method for Acidity in Volatile Solvents and Chemical Intermediates Used in Paint, Varnish, Lacquer, and Related Products", 2006.

507.6 HVLP Equivalency: Spray equipment HVLP equivalency shall be determined using South Coast Air Quality Management District "Guidelines for Demonstrating Equivalency with District Approved Transfer Efficiency Spray Guns", September 26, 2002.

507.7 Determination of Exempt Compounds: Measurement of exempt compounds shall be determined by using CARB Method 432, "Determination of Dichloromethane and 1,1,1-Trichloroethane in Paints and Coatings," September 12, 1998"; ARB Method 422 "Determination of Volatile Organic Compounds in Emission from Stationary Sources", January 22, 1987; or South Coast Air Quality Management District Method 303-91, "Determination of Exempt Compounds", February 1993.

- 507.8 Determination of Methyl Acetate, Acetone, t-Butyl Acetate, and parachlorobenzotrifluoride (PCBTF) Content: Measurement of methyl acetate, acetone t-butyl acetate and PCBTF, shall be determined using ASTM D6133-02, "Standard Test Method for Acetone, p-chlorobenzotrifluoride, Methyl Acetate or t-Butyl Acetate Content of Solventborne and Waterborne Paints, Coatings, Resins, and Raw Materials by Direct Injection into a Gas Chromatograph", February 2003.
- 507.9 Multiple Test Methods: When more than one test method or a set of test methods is specified for any testing, a violation of any requirement of this rule established by any one of the specified test methods or set of test methods shall constitute a violation of this rule.
- 507.10 Alternative Test Methods: The use of other test methods which are determined to be equivalent or better and approved, in writing, by the Air Pollution Control Officer, and U.S. EPA may be used in place of test methods specified in this rule.