FACT SHEET

December 2005

California Environmental Protection Agency
Air Resources Board

SUGGESTED CONTROL MEASURE FOR AUTOMOTIVE COATINGS (SCM)

Why did the Air Resources Board (ARB/Board) develop the SCM?

The SCM that was approved by the Board on October 20, 2005, serves as a model rule that local air pollution control and air quality management districts (districts) can use when adopting and amending their automotive coatings rules. The SCM is designed to promote consistency and uniformity among district rules and to achieve volatile organic compound (VOC) emission reductions. The SCM is the result of nearly four years of study of automotive coatings, and was developed in cooperation with the districts, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and the affected industry.

What will the SCM accomplish?

The SCM will achieve significant emission reductions. It is estimated that coatings used in automotive refinishing operations generate 20.7 tons of VOC emissions per day in California which contribute to the formation of smog. Many of these operations are located in or near residential areas and can adversely impact the surrounding neighborhoods. If all of the districts adopt the SCM, VOC emissions from automotive coatings and cleaning solvents would be reduced by approximately 15.8 tons per day, resulting in a healthier workplace, and a cleaner environment.

What will the SCM require?

The districts that adopt the SCM will have lower VOC limits than those in current district rules. The VOC limits for the coatings categories are shown below. The SCM also establishes a 25 grams per liter VOC limit for cleaning and surface preparation solvents. Most of the VOC limits are based on available coatings and solvents. The SCM prohibits the sale of coatings that do not comply with the VOC limits. It also prohibits automotive refinishing shops from possessing or using non-complying coatings and solvents.

Coating Category	VOC regulatory limit, as applied in grams/liter (pounds per gallon*)	
	effective January 1, 2009	effective January 1, 2010
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)	
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)	

*English units are provided for information only.

How Can I Stay Informed?

Please visit our website at http://www.arb.ca.gov/coatings/autorefin/scm/scm.htm.