

VOC 2010 FAQ's



What are VOCs?

Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) are chemical elements that readily evaporate and are emitted through a variety of industrial products. In paint, solvents (e.g. white spirit) are the main carrier of VOCs.

What does this mean for paint?

Whilst paint is only a small contributor to VOC emissions in the UK, it is the responsibility of paint manufacturers to help reduce total emissions, which are linked to global warming and air pollution.

What is the VOC 2010 Legislation about?

The European Union has introduced legislation** aimed at reducing the amount of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) contained in decorative coatings such as paints, varnishes and woodstains. Traditional solvent-based 'trim' products will be especially affected by the new limits that come into force January 1st 2010 and some current products will have to change.

** (EU directive 2004/42/EC)

What products will this affect?

The VOC 2010 EU legislation will mainly affect solvent based paints, varnishes and woodstains across trade. All ICI Paints AkzoNobel Water Bourne products are already VOC 2010 compliant.

When is this all happening?

From the beginning of 2010 ICI Paints AkzoNobel cannot produce any products that are not VOC 2010 compliant. In store, non compliant products can be sold up until the end of 2010 but then that's it. However, applicators are not affected by the legislation and can continue using non compliant products after 2010.

What will happen to the paints I use?

ICI Paints AkzoNobel have pre-empted these changes and have been reformulating products and changing tinting recipes to make all paints, varnishes and woodstains fully VOC compliant. So, by the beginning of 2010 all the products made available from Dulux Trade and other ICI Paints AkzoNobel brands will be VOC 2010 compliant.



We're ready. Are you?

How will I know if a product is VOC compliant or not?



Dulux Trade Paints and **Glidden Trade** products will all have a VOC 2010 'flash' symbol shown on the can if the product has been reformulated for VOC 2010.



Dulux Trade and **Glidden Trade** products that **have been tinted** will have a blue triangle featured on the lid if that product has changed because of VOC 2010 legislation and is now compliant.



Dulux Trade Woodcare and **Cuprinol Trade** will have a VOC 2010 'flash' on the front of can to communicate that the product is VOC 2010 compliant.



Sikkens products that have undergone a change due to VOC 2010 will have **PLUS** featured at the end of the name.

Will the products I buy be the same?

ICI Paints AkzoNobel have undertaken extensive quality testing of the new solvent based products that meet the strict VOC legislation.

However, products will differ to standard paints because the technology behind the paints has changed. Products may look different in can and often need a vigorous stir before use.

All solvent based paints that are VOC 2010 compliant will yellow quicker across all manufacturers. At Dulux Trade & Glidden Trade we have optimised the available technology to minimise this yellowing effect.

Though the finish and performance of the new 2010 compliant products has been maintained, there are some notable differences in application. In particular drying time is longer as all 2010 solvent based trim paints (including Weathershield Exterior Undercoat) now take 16-24 hours to dry. This is due to the thicker film, which means that the paint takes longer to dry.

Initially non gloss paints (in particular Undercoats) may seem glossier than previously, but over a period of a few weeks they reach a similar sheen level to the existing products. This actually results in a glossier finish and the undercoat and gloss system will stay glossier for longer.

Despite these changes, the VOC 2010 compliant products still have the high level of performance and have the same quality finish you expect from Dulux Trade and Glidden Trade.



Are all these products available now?

Some are available now. Newly compliant products are coming into stores from now on and you will begin to see them more frequently towards the back end of 2009.

What should I be wary of?

It is worth taking care not to mix compliant and non compliant products on a job as they do have slightly different properties. Also, Dulux Trade & Glidden Trade Eggshells have been reclassified and therefore can only be used as trim products. This is communicated on the back of pack and in the technical data sheet.

How do I get more information?

Keep checking the product information on our website www.icipaints.co.uk Or you can contact the Dulux Trade Technical Advice Centre on 0870 242 1100 for more information.



Our Commitment to Sustainability

AkzoNobel is committed to reducing the ecological footprint of every aspect of its business. 'Step Towards Greener' explains the AkzoNobel approach. It recognises there are no quick fixes and that progress will only be made by making many small improvements.

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