



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Environmental Program Fact Sheet

RCSA 22a-174-40, Consumer Products

RCSA 22a-174-41, Architectural and Industrial Maintenance Coatings

Overview

While Connecticut has made significant progress in reducing ozone levels by regulating pollutant emissions from industrial facilities, electric utilities, motor vehicles and gasoline vapors, new scientific evidence indicates that adverse public health effects occur following exposure to ozone at levels *below* the current standards. Breathing air that contains ozone can reduce lung function and aggravate asthma and other respiratory conditions. Ground-level ozone, the type that is harmful, is not emitted directly into the air but forms through a reaction of nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in the presence of sunlight. To reduce VOC emissions and reduce harmful ozone levels further, the Connecticut DEP created new regulations to make consumer products, such as hairsprays, cleaning products and brake cleaners for example, pollute less.

Authorizing Statutes

Sections 22a-170 and 22a-174 of the Connecticut General Statutes

Regulations

RCSA Section 22-174-40, Consumer Products

RCSA 22a-174-41, Architectural and Industrial Maintenance Coatings

Effective Dates

RCSA section 22a-174-40 is effective on January 1, 2009.

RCSA section 22a-174-41 is effective on May 1, 2008 and includes a provision that allows any architectural coating manufactured prior to May 1, 2008 to be sold, supplied or offered for sale for up to three years to May 1, 2011.

RCSA section 22a-174-40 and RCSA section 22a-174-41 were promulgated on July 26, 2007.

Frequently Asked Questions

Is regulation necessary when the VOCs emitted from my cleaners, cooking sprays, deodorant and insecticides must be trivial?

Many consumer products that we all use daily include VOC-containing solvents. Although each product contains only a tiny amount of VOC, Connecticut residents use hundreds of thousands of these items each year. Examples of these products include adhesives and adhesive removers, aerosolized consumer products such as cooking spray, air fresheners and antiperspirants, shaving creams, hair care products, cleaners, spot removers, fabric protectants, degreasing agents and insecticides. Architectural coatings such as paints and varnishes also include VOCs. The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection determined that the amount of VOCs emitted from consumer products and architectural coatings in Connecticut without these new regulations is about 61 tons per day, about 17% of all VOC emitted from human activities each day. Therefore, reducing the emissions of VOCs from these products by about 20% will play an important role in Connecticut's effort to reduce ozone, improve air quality and contribute to improved health for Connecticut's citizens.

Does regulation mean that my favorite products won't be available?

Many states have already adopted similar regulations or will do so in the near future. As a result, manufacturers have reformulated products that meet the new standards.

Will the reformulated products work?

Manufacturers have a strong interest in producing water-based or low VOC products that are as effective as higher VOC content products. For example, paints and varnishes are manufactured to have a reduced VOC content and have been shown in tests to have the same or better level of durability and quality. Similarly, manufacturers claim that personal care products, cleaning products with low VOC content and automotive and degreasing products are equally as effective as higher VOC containing products.

Will I have difficulty finding the reformulated products?

No, manufacturers and retail sellers are required to supply reformulated products. As a customer, you will not need to change your behaviors or take actions to use compliant products.

Will the reformulated products cost me more?

Generally, there is no significant increase in price for reformulated products. For example, a cost analysis on low VOC hair care products showed that manufacturers achieve low VOC formulations for hair sprays without incurring additional costs and therefore do not need to pass on costs to consumers. Furthermore, many surrounding states have adopted similar regulations, making compliant products available now in the region. Supplying Connecticut is unlikely to add costs evident to customers.

What about toxic compounds in consumer products?

The Connecticut DEP is also committed to reducing toxic compounds used in consumer products because these compounds are potential carcinogens. To that end, the use of toxic air contaminants, perchloroethylene, methylene chloride and trichloroethylene, has been prohibited in consumer products including contact adhesives and removers, aerosol adhesives and coatings, automotive brake, carburetor and choke cleaners, electrical cleaners, electronic cleaners, engine degreasers, footwear or leather care products, general degreasers and graffiti remover.

Additional Information

The Connecticut air pollution regulations, including the new consumer product and architectural industrial maintenance coating regulations, can be viewed at http://www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?a=2684&q=322184&depNav_GID=1619

For questions about the regulations, call Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, Engineering Section at (860) 424-4152.

Contact Information

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This overview is designed to answer general questions and provide basic information. You should refer to the appropriate statutes and regulations for the specific regulatory language of the different permit programs. This document should not be relied upon to determine whether or not an environmental permit is required. It is *your* responsibility to obtain and comply with all required permits.