Air Resources Board

Mary D. Nichols, Chairman
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Sacramento, California 95812 • www.arb.ca.gov

Linda S. Adams
Secretary for Environmental Protection

Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

February 1, 2008

Dear Air Pollution Control Officer:

On October 26, 2007, the Air Resources Board (ARB or Board) approved amendments to the Suggested Control Measure for Architectural Coatings (SCM). ARB staff developed the amended SCM, in consultation with the districts, to replace the June 2000 SCM. This new SCM specifies volatile organic compound (VOC) limits for 42 coating categories. The proposed VOC limits for nineteen of the 42 categories are lower than the limits in current district rules based on the 2000 SCM. Statewide implementation of the 2007 SCM is expected to reduce VOC emissions by approximately 15 tons per day outside of the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

The Board also directed ARB staff to work with the districts and industry following the Board meeting to modify Section 5.2 of the SCM, the "Most Restrictive VOC Limit" provision. The enclosed SCM includes the appropriate revisions to Section 5.2.

Along with the SCM, ARB staff prepared a Staff Report and Technical Support Document, which contain technology assessments for each coating category, as well as economic impact and environmental impact assessments. These documents are available on our website at http://www.arb.ca.gov/coatings/arch/docs.htm. If you would like hard copies, please contact Mr. Jim Nyarady, Manager, Strategy Evaluation Section at (916) 322-8273.

The SCM was developed for districts that need additional emission reductions for the attainment or maintenance of State or federal ambient air quality standards. As in the development of the 2000 SCM, uniformity of architectural coatings regulations throughout California was a concern of both the districts and the coatings industry. To that end, the Board strongly encourages districts to adopt the SCM without modification. We believe that it is important that the SCM be modified only as necessary for consistency with the format of your district's rules. It is especially important that the definitions, standards, and effective dates be uniform. ARB staff is ready to assist districts in any way with the adoption, interpretation, or implementation of the SCM.

The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our website: http://www.arb.ca.gov.

California Environmental Protection Agency

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The Board also directed ARB staff to monitor industry's progress towards meeting the future VOC limits; to conduct technology assessments for the categories with lowering limits prior to the effective dates; to continue to assess reactivity and atmospheric availability for architectural coatings; and to conduct another comprehensive, statewide survey of architectural coatings. We will keep you apprised of these developments.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (916) 445-4383 or contact Mr. Robert Fletcher, Chief, Stationary Source Division at (916) 445-0650.

Sincerely,

James N. Goldstene
Executive Officer

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Robert D. Fletcher, Chief
Stationary Source Division

Mr. Jim Nyarady, Manager
Strategy Evaluation Section