



## Ozone Transport Commission - OTC

### Introduction

By now we have all heard that, like it or not, waterborne paints are coming to the automotive refinish industry. The problem is, there are a lot of rumors floating around out there and a lot of misinformation.

From a shops view point, who do you believe? What do you believe?

Let's try to shed some light on the subject.

### What is the OTC?

We contacted Arleen Shulman who is Chief, Air Resource Management Bureau of Air Quality Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to ask her that very question. What is the OTC?

Her response was as follows:

The OTC (Ozone Transport Commission) is NOT a law/rulemaking body. It was created by Congress to RECOMMEND strategies to reduce ground-level ozone and includes 13 jurisdictions from Maine through Virginia.

Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) in paints contribute to ozone. What's in the works right now is a consultative process with member states to develop a MODEL state rule. Then, each state would go through its own rulemaking process to adopt a requirement. The "model" rule has been finalized by the OTC. It is now in the hands of the individual states.

### When could it go into effect?

The 1/1/12 date, which seems to be the buzz around the industry, is a *possible* recommendation for states to follow. The model rule may, in practice, mean a transition to waterborne products in many cases but it's our (and Arleen's) understanding that in some categories, solvent-based products could meet the VOC limit.

That is in fact true. Zimmerman's and CARS are the sole supplier to the Susquehanna valley for the Transtar NoMix Low VOC products. That is a solvent based "compliant" product. Compliant is the key word there. Everyone is assuming that we will have to change to waterborne technology to "comply" with the new laws. That is not necessarily the case.

We also handle Sikkens Autowave, Lesonal WB, Glasurit 90-line, RM Onyx, and Sherwin Williams AWX waterborne coatings.

We feel we have you covered no matter which direction you decide to go to meet compliance.

### What will the guidelines be?

The OTC followed the guidelines set forth by the SCAQMD. (South Coast Air Quality Management District of Southern California).

California mandated using compliant products January 1, 2009.

### Rule Categories

For now, according to the OTC draft model rule #081103, the categories are broken down as follows:

- Automotive Pretreatment Coating** - 5.5 lbs/gal  
Normally a Washprimer type product.
- Automotive Primer** - 2.1 lbs/gal  
Any coating applied prior to the application of topcoat for filling surface imperfections, corrosion resistance, or adhesion.
- Clearcoating** - 2.1 lbs/gal  
Any non-pigmented protective coating applied over a colorcoat for protection of the colorcoat from the elements.
- Colorcoating** - 3.5 lbs/gal  
Any pigmented basecoat style colorcoat.
- Multicolor Coating** - 5.7 lbs/gal  
This is a topcoat consisting of a pigmented basecoat, a mid-coat, and a clear or transparent Clearcoat.
- Other Automotive Coating Types** - 2.1 lbs/gal

- Single Stage Coating** - 2.8 lbs/gal  
Any pigmented topcoat colorcoat not requiring a Clearcoat for protection.
- Temporary Protective Coating** - 0.5 lbs/gal
- Truck Bed Liner Coating** - 2.6 lbs/gal
- Underbody Coating** - 3.6 lbs/gal  
Rustproofing coatings and such.
- Uniform Finish Coating** - 4.5 lbs/gal  
Blenders.

As you can see, there is no statement made saying you have to use a waterborne product. Only required VOC limits will be set.

Each coating manufacturer has to decide how they want to comply with the regulations. Some choose to go the water route, others choose to use solvent, some will offer both.

### Conclusions

In conclusion, the suggested law from the OTC that will affect us in Pennsylvania was completed in December 2009. It is up to each state to make their own law and determine when it will go into effect. Each state will decide if they choose to follow the guidelines set forth by the commission or they can be stricter. Only time will tell.

Our advice to you, if you are considering a change, do it sooner than later. ***Change when you want to not when you have to.***

