VEHICLE REFINISHING?
What you need to know*

YOU MUST HAVE A VALID CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

In order to legally operate, you must hold a valid certificate of compliance from your local authority. To obtain this you must first arrange to have an Approved Assessor Inspection to verify compliance with the Regulations. A certificate of compliance can last up to 3 years. You must display your certificate in a prominent position on the premises.

YOU MUST USE COMPLIANT PRODUCTS

Only products which comply with the VOC content limit for that category of product must be used. Products must be labelled with the category, the VOC content in g/l and the maximum VOC limit for that category of product. Use of products which exceed the VOC content limit is a direct breach of the Regulations. Product containers should be free from leaks and corrosion.

YOU MUST USE COMPLIANT EQUIPMENT

Sprayguns must have a transfer efficiency of 65% or higher, you must be able to demonstrate this. Spray gun cleaning should only take place in a dedicated spray gunwash unit. The spray gunwash unit must be enclosed.

YOU MUST MAINTAIN RECORDS

You must keep records of all VOC containing products purchased, the litres purchased, the types of product and the VOC content in g/l. You must record the name of the suppliers used to supply you with VOC containing products. You must also keep records of all VOC waste collections from your premises and records of staff training.

*The European Union (Paints, Varnishes, Vehicle Refinishing Products and Activities) Regulations 2012, S.I. No. 564 of 2012, set out the legal obligations in relation to vehicle refinishing products and activities. The EPA has published Best Practice Guidelines for Vehicle Refinishing which can be found on the websites below.

For full information on your requirements log onto: www.solvents.ie or http://www.enviroguide.ie/services/audit-inspections
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YOU MUST STORE VOC CONTAINING WASTE PROPERLY

VOC containing waste is hazardous and poses a threat to human health and the environment. Liquid waste must be stored in suitable sealed, labelled containers on a spill tray/bund. Solid waste must be stored in a closed, labelled container.

VOC WASTE MUST BE REMOVED FROM SITE BY AN AUTHORISED WASTE COLLECTOR

You must ensure that the waste collector holds a valid hazardous waste collection permit. You should obtain a copy of this permit and a copy of the EPA licence for the facility to which the waste is being taken.

VOC CONTAINING PRODUCTS ARE REGULATED TO PROTECT HUMAN HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

If you are using VOC containing products in vehicle refinishing, you must comply with the law. Information relating to your requirements can be found by logging on to the websites listed below or by contacting the environment section in your local authority. Failure to comply with the Regulations may result in you being issued with a fixed payment notice which is a spot fine of €500 or if convicted in court, liability on summary conviction to fines of up to €5000 and/or up to 6 months imprisonment.

NEXT STEPS:

- Contact the environment section of your local authority to let them know you plan to carry on vehicle refinishing
- Contact the Approved Assessor to arrange an inspection and obtain guidance on: 01-5654730 or by email to aa@enviroguide.ie
- Read and be familiar with the EPA Best Practice Guidelines for Vehicle Refinishing (web address below)

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