

SAFEGUARDS

SGS CONSUMER TESTING SERVICES

HARDLINES

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EU RESTRICTS DICHLOROMETHANE IN PAINT STRIPPERS

The European Union (EU) recently approved measures to ban dichloromethane in paint strippers. The limit is no more than 0.1 % and the effective date is dependant on the nature of the business.



In April 2008, we informed interested parties that the EU was proposing to restrict the use of the volatile solvent dichloromethane in paint strippers ¹. On 3 June, 2009, the EU officially published Decision No. 455/2009/EC of 6 May 2009 to implement this measure ². The new decision amends ANNEX I of Council Directive 76/769/EEC regarding restrictions on the marketing and use of dichloromethane. Highlights on the requirements are summarised in Table below.



¹'Partial Ban for Paint Strippers Containing Dichloromethane Proposed', Safeguards 29/08, SGS Consumer Testing Services, April 2008

²[Decision No. 455/2009/EEC of the European Parliament and the Council of 6 May 2009 amending Council Directive 76/769/EEC as regards restrictions on the marketing and use of dichloromethane, L 137/3 – L 137/6, Official Journal of the European Union, 3 June 2009](#)



Substance	CAS (EC)	Scope	Requirement	Effective Date
Dichloromethane	75-09-2 (200-838-9)	Paint stripper placed on market for first time for supply to general public or professionals	< 0.1 %	After 06 December 2010
		Paint stripper supply to general public or professionals	< 0.1 %	After 6 December 2011
		Paint stripper used by professionals	< 0.1 %	After 6 June 2012

Under the new Decision, Member States, provided certain health and safety provisions are defined including professionals possessing appropriate qualifications, may allow professionals to use paint strippers containing dichloromethane. Paint strippers with ≥ 0.1 % dichloromethane may be used in industrial installations only if certain conditions are met.

SGS will follow up and inform interested parties as development on restricted substances and other legislation occur.

Throughout our global network of laboratories, we are able to provide a range of services, including analytical testing and consultancy for dichloromethane and other restricted substances in a comprehensive range of consumer products for worldwide markets. Please do not hesitate to contact us for further information.

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