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Technical Bulletin

VOC Limits for Intumescent Coatings to Meet LEED Requirements

The SCAQMD (South Coast Air Quality Management District) has been the nation's most stringent VOC regulating body for field applied paint, coatings and fireproofing materials for many years. These rules were originally designed to help reduce the air pollution levels in the Greater Los Angeles Area.

Since the organization's development, the SCAQMD regulations have been adopted as the nation's "LEED Platinum and LEED Gold standard" for VOC regulations and have been used to satisfy LEED requirements for commercial construction projects throughout the United States. Products that meets these VOC requirements, contribute toward a projects' LEED Certified, Gold, Silver or Platinum level.

As there is no fireproofing category in the LEED-NC 2.2, the SCAQMD regulations are commonly used to designate specialty coatings classifications for LEED applications.

The SCAQMD (Rule 1113) outlines the current VOC limits as of January 1, 2014 for several categories of specialty coatings as follows:

Specialty Coating Type	Current VOC Limit (g/l)
Concrete surface retarders	50
Driveway Sealers	50
Faux finishing coatings	200
Fireproofing coatings	150
Graphic art coatings	150
Mastic coatings	100
Metallic pigmented coatings	150
Anti-graffiti coatings	50

Intumescent coatings are considered part of the fireproofing package for commercial building projects. These coatings are used and applied to satisfy life safety requirements for commercial buildings. They are properly classified as fireproofing coatings, not paint coatings.