

# MPI Green Performance® Standard [GPS-1-14 and GPS-2-14] For Paints & Coatings

## Performance

A pilot program investigating OFP (Ozone Forming Potential) initiated by the **National Institute of Building Sciences**, addressed coating performance relative to environmentally preferable products with the following:

*“Given that the **primary function of paints and coatings is to provide protection** for coated surfaces, and thus **extend the life of such surfaces**, it is imperative for any environmentally preferable product specification to address the equivalence in **performance** between products being compared. Inadequate consideration of product performance in the past has led to a selection of paints and coatings that have not provided comparable performance, **leading to the premature aging of structures** on the one hand, or **excessive product use to offset performance shortcomings** on the other hand.”*

Also in the draft specification was the requirement that “only products appearing in the current edition of the MPI Approved Products List under the category for the intended application will be considered for certification, and that continued listing in the MPI Approved Products List will be a condition of maintaining the certification”.

As to recycled paints, there are at least two concerns. The first concern is that the waste stream must be **verifiably environmentally preferable**. The second is that recycled paint must **meet the same minimum performance standards** as comparable non-recycled paint, and that there must be comfort as to the ongoing continuance in spite of varying raw material streams. These concerns are being addressed in the new Green Seal Standard for Recycled Paint that requires MPI listing approval based upon testing to MPI’s performance standards, and auditing both by Green Seal and by MPI.

The **MPI Green Performance®** Standard therefore requires that all products shall meet or exceed the performance requirements of the applicable MPI product standard, evidenced by current listing in the MPI Approved Products List.

**Note:** This standard addresses environmental friendliness **with performance** in the context of differing geographical environmental regulatory trends. It does not address sustainability issues where higher VOC coatings perform significantly better. In these cases duty cycle considerations would prompt the use of higher-per-coat VOC coatings in order to extend the duty cycle thereby lowering the total VOCs. Some of these are stains, varnishes, industrial maintenance coatings, interior trim coatings, etc.

Environmental regulations also can bring ‘unintended consequences’ in the broader picture. Examples include: as yet unknown challenges through the use of new replacement solvents, and the need for better applicator knowledge in the safe use of newer formulated products. Another example is the more frequent repainting (due to lower product performance) that may be required, resulting in the contribution of additional VOCs and higher O. & M. costs.

## Essential Elements of MPI’s Green Performance® Standard

- **Performance**
- **Chemical Component Restrictions**
- **Maximum Allowable Limits of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)**

## Chemical Component Restrictions

The **MPI Green Performance®** Standard requires that the manufacturer shall demonstrate that the following chemical compounds are **not used** as ingredients in the manufacture of the product: [Trace elements (max. 5 ppm) as a by-product are excluded.]

|                        |                             |                        |                         |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Acrolein               | Diethyl phthalate           | Formaldehyde           | Methylene Chloride      |
| Acrylonitrile          | Dimethyl phthalate          | Hexavalent Chromium    | Naphthalene             |
| Antimony               | Di-n-butyl phthalate        | Isophorone             | Toluene (Methylbenzene) |
| Asbestos               | Di-n-octyl phthalate        | Lead                   | 1,1,1 –trichloroethane  |
| Benzene                | 1,2 –dichlorobenzene        | Mercury                | Vinyl Chloride          |
| Butyl benzyl phthalate | Di (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate | Methyl ethyl ketone    |                         |
| Cadmium                | Ethylbenzene                | Methyl isobutyl ketone |                         |

Also includes all *IARC – Group 1 Carcinogenic to humans [excluding crystalline silica, not in the form of quartz or cristobalite dust]*.

\*IARC Group 1 carcinogens -<http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Classification/>

## Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) Requirements

The **MPI Green Performance**<sup>®</sup> Standard (**GPS-1-12**) requires that the manufacturer demonstrate that VOC concentrations of the product shall not exceed those listed below as determined by U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Reference Test Method 24 (Determination of Volatile Matter Content, Water Content, Density Volume Solids, and Weight Solids of Surface Coatings), Code of Federal Regulations Title 40, Part 60, Appendix A.

**MPI Green Performance**<sup>®</sup> Standard (**GPS-2-12**) provides for a **maximum allowable limit of 50 g/L** of VOCs.

VOCs shall be listed as g/L (grams/liter). The calculation of VOC shall exclude water and tinting color added at the point of sale.

Products meeting the **MPI Green Performance**<sup>®</sup> Standard (**GPS-1-12 & GPS-2-12**) are listed at [www.specifygreen.com](http://www.specifygreen.com) and at [www.paintinfo.com](http://www.paintinfo.com)

|   | MPI Categories  | Max. Allowable VOCs |        |
|---|---|---------------------|--------|
|   |   | GPS-1               | GPS-2  |
| <b>Architectural</b>                                  |   |                     |        |
| Interior Flat Intermediate/Top Coats                  | 49, 53, 55, 118, 133, 143,165, 252  | 50 g/L              | 50 g/L |
| Interior Non-Flat Intermediate/Top Coats              | 43, 44, 47, 51, 52, 54, 89, 131, 138, 139, 140, 141, 144, 145, 146, 147, 151, 153, 155, 158, 166, 167, 168, 169, 225, 226, 254, 255 | 150g/L              | 50 g/L |
| Interior Non-Flat Intermediate/Top Coats (high gloss) | 48, 114, 148, 154, 157, 171, 256  |                     |        |
| Exterior Flat Intermediate/Top Coats                  | 8, 10, 42, 113  | 100 g/L             | 50 g/L |
| Exterior Non-Flat Intermediate/Top Coats              | 9, 11, 15, 38, 40, 41, 94, 119, 161, 163, 164, 213, 214, 311, 315   | 150g/L              | 50 g/L |
| <b>Special Purpose</b>                                |   |                     |        |
| Clear Varnishes                                       | 28, 29, 30, 56, 57, 73, 74, 75, 128, 129, 130, 181, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197   | 350 g/L             |        |
| Clear Sanding Sealers                                 | 84, 102   | 350 g/L             |        |
| Clear Lacquer   | 85, 86, 87  | 550 g/L             |        |
| Fire Retardant coatings – Pigmented                   | 63, 64, 67, 126   | 350 g/L             |        |
| Fire Retardant coatings – Clear                       | 62, 65, 66, 109, 111  | 650 g/L             |        |
| Floor Coatings  | 27, 58, 59, 60, 68, 127   | 250g/L              |        |
| Hi Temperature Coatings                               | 2, 21, 22   | 420 g/L             |        |
| Industrial Maintenance Coatings                       | 31, 35, 71, 72, 77, 78, 82, 83, 98, 101, 105, 108, 115, 120, 174, 177, 201, 202, 203, 205, 215, 301                                 | 340 g/L             |        |
| Metallic Pigmented Coatings                           | 1   | 500 g/L             |        |
| Multi-Color Coatings                                  | 112, 121  | 250 g/L             |        |
| Pigmented Lacquer                                     | 24, 122, 123, 124   | 550 g/L             |        |
| Pretreatment Wash Primers                             | 25, 80  | 420 g/L             |        |
| Primers & Undercoaters                                | 4, 5, 6, 17, 39, 45, 46, 50, 61, 69, 91, 116, 125, 134, 149,172   | 200 g/L             |        |
| Quick Dry Enamels                                     | 81, 96  | 250 g/L             |        |
| Recycled Coatings                                     | 10RC, 10RR, 11RC, 11RR, 15RC, 15RR, 44RC, 44RR, 52RC, 52RR, 53RC, 53RR, 54RC, 54RR  | 150 g/L             |        |
| Rust Preventative Coatings                            | 23, 26, 76, 79, 95, 107, 135, 173, 275  | 400 g/L             |        |
| Shellac – Clear                                       | 88  | 730 g/L             |        |
| Specialty Primers                                     | 3, 5, 7, 36, 136, 137, 223  | 350 g/L             |        |
| Stains  | 13, 14, 16, 33, 90, 92, 156, 186  | 250 g/L             |        |
| Traffic Coating                                       | 32, 70, 97  | 150 g/L             |        |
| Waterproofing Concrete/Masonry Sealers                | 34, 99, 104,117   | 400 g/L             |        |
| Zinc Rich Primers                                     | 18, 19, 20, 200   | 340 g/L             |        |

|             |                         |
|-------------|-------------------------|
| No category | 37, 100, 106, 132, 212, |
|-------------|-------------------------|

- Note:**
- MPI categories listed opposite a category are the best 'fit' according to the definition information available.
  - These categories may be differently defined, or interpreted by various authorities having jurisdiction under various different regulations.
  - **MPI Green Performance**<sup>®</sup> Standard users are responsible for determining appropriateness of this information for their individual use.
  - Dry Fog/Fall categories have been reclassified under Interior Flat/Non-Flat since the first version of this standard.

**Definitions - For the purpose of this standard, the following definitions shall apply:**

**ARCHITECTURAL COATINGS** are any coatings applied to stationary structures and their appurtenances, to mobile homes, to pavements, or to curbs.

**COATING** is a material which is applied to a surface in order to beautify, protect, or provide a barrier to such surface.

**FLAT COATINGS** are coatings that register a gloss of less than 5 on a 60-degree meter and less than 10 on an 85-degree meter.

**INDUSTRIAL MAINTENANCE COATINGS** are coatings, including primers, sealers, undercoaters, intermediate coatings and topcoats, formulated for or applied to substrates, including floors, that are exposed to one or more of the following extreme environmental conditions:

- (A) immersion in water, wastewater, or chemical solutions (aqueous and non-aqueous solutions), or chronic exposure of interior surfaces to moisture condensation;
- (B) acute or chronic exposure to corrosive, caustic or acidic agents, or similar chemicals, chemical fumes, chemical mixtures, or solutions;
- (C) repeated exposure to temperatures in excess of 250 degrees Fahrenheit;
- (D) repeated heavy abrasion, including mechanical wear and repeated scrubbing with industrial solvents, cleaners, or scouring agents; or
- (E) exterior exposure of metal structures.

**NONFLAT COATINGS** are coatings that register a gloss greater than 5 on a 60 degree meter and a gloss of 10 or greater on an 85 degree meter.

**CLEAR WOOD FINISHES** are clear and semi-transparent coatings, including lacquers and varnishes, applied to wood substrates to provide a transparent or translucent solid film.

**DRY-FOG COATINGS** are coatings which are formulated only for spray application so that when sprayed, overspray droplets dry before falling on floors and other surfaces.

**FIRE-RETARDANT COATINGS** are coatings labeled and formulated to retard ignition and flame spread, that has been fire tested and rated by a testing agency approved by building code officials for use in bringing building and construction materials into compliance with federal, state and local building code requirements. The fire retardant coating shall be tested in accordance with ASTM Test Method E 84-99, incorporated by reference in paragraph (e)(4) or listed by Underwriter's Laboratories, Inc. as fire-retardant coatings with a flame spread index of less than 25.

**FLOOR COATINGS** are opaque coatings that are formulated for or applied to flooring; including but not limited to decks, porches, gymnasiums, and bowling alleys, but do not include Industrial Maintenance Coatings.

**HIGH-TEMPERATURE INDUSTRIAL MAINTENANCE COATINGS** are industrial maintenance coatings formulated for or applied to substrates exposed continuously or intermittently to temperatures above 400 degrees Fahrenheit (205 degrees Centigrade).

**LACQUERS** are clear or pigmented finishes, including lacquer sanding sealers, formulated with nitrocellulose or synthetic resins to dry by evaporation without chemical reaction. The dried film can be re-dissolved by the original solvent.

**METALLIC PIGMENTED COATINGS** are coatings, excluding roof coatings, containing at least 0.4 pounds per gallon (48 grams/liter) of coating, as applied, of elemental metallic pigment (excluding zinc), mica particles or any combination of metallic pigments and mica particles.

**MULTI-COLOR COATINGS** are coatings which exhibit more than one color when applied and which are packaged in a single container and applied in a single coat.

**PRE-TREATMENT WASH PRIMERS** are coatings which contain a minimum of 1/2 percent acid, by weight, applied directly to bare metal surfaces to provide necessary surface etching.

**PRIMERS** are coatings applied to a surface to provide a firm bond between the substrate and subsequent coats.

**QUICK-DRY ENAMELS** are non-flat coatings which comply with the following:

- (A) Shall be capable of being applied directly from the container by brush or roller under normal conditions, normal conditions being ambient temperatures between 60°F and 80°F;
- (B) When tested in accordance with ASTM D 1640 they shall: set-to touch in two hours or less, dry-hard in eight hours or less, and be tack-free in four hours or less by the mechanical test method.

**QUICK-DRY PRIMERS, SEALERS, AND UNDERCOATERS** are primers, sealers, and undercoaters which are intended to be applied to a surface to provide a firm bond between the substrate and subsequent coats and which are dry-to-touch in one-half hour and can be recoated in two hours (ASTM D 1640).

**RECYCLED COATINGS** are coatings formulated such that 50 percent or more of the total weight consists of secondary and post-consumer coatings and 10 percent or more of the total weight consists of post-consumer coatings, and manufactured by a certified recycled paint manufacturer.

**RUST PREVENTATIVE COATINGS** are coatings formulated for use in preventing the corrosion of metal surfaces in residential and commercial situations.

**SANDING SEALERS** are clear wood coatings formulated for or applied to bare wood for sanding and to seal the wood for subsequent application of coatings. To be considered a sanding sealer a coating must be clearly labeled as such.

**SEALERS** are coatings applied to either block materials from penetrating into or leaching out of a substrate, to prevent subsequent coatings from being absorbed by the substrate, or to prevent harm to subsequent coatings by materials in the substrate.

**SHELLACS** are clear or pigmented coatings formulated solely with the resinous secretions of the lac beetle (*laccifer lacca*), thinned with alcohol, and formulated to dry by evaporation without a chemical reaction.

**SPECIALTY PRIMERS** are coatings formulated for or applied to a substrate to block stains, odors or efflorescence; to seal fire, smoke or water damage; to condition excessively chalky surfaces; to block stains such as from woods prone to extractive bleeding; or recommended for application to highly alkaline concrete, plaster, and other cementitious surfaces. An excessively chalky surface is one that is defined as having chalk rating of four or less as determined by ASTM D-4214 – Photographic Reference Standard #1 or the Federation of Societies for Coatings Technology "Pictorial Standards for Coatings Defects".

**STAINS** are opaque or semi-transparent coatings that are formulated to change the color but not conceal the grain pattern or texture.

**TRAFFIC COATINGS** are coatings formulated for or applied to public streets, highways, and other surfaces including, but not limited to, curbs, berms, driveways, and parking lots.

**UNDERCOATERS** are coatings formulated for or applied to substrates to provide a smooth surface for subsequent coats.

**VARNISHES** are clear wood finishes formulated with various resins to dry by chemical reaction.

**WATERPROOFING CONCRETE/MASONRY SEALERS** are clear or pigmented sealers that are formulated for sealing concrete and masonry to provide resistance against water, alkalis, acids, ultraviolet light, and staining.

**ZINC-RICH INDUSTRIAL MAINTENANCE PRIMERS** are primers formulated to contain a minimum of 65 percent metallic zinc powder (zinc dust) by weight of total solids for application to metal substrates.



| Category Description                      | US EPA      | CARB | OTC | EC  | SCAQMD<br>7/1/08 | LEED CANADA<br>NC 2009 | Green Seal | LEED<br>NC<br>2009 | SCAQMD<br>1/1/04 | MPI GPS-1 | MPI GPS-2 |
|---|-------------|------|-----|-----|------------------|------------------------|------------|--------------------|------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Interior Flat Intermediate & Topcoats     | 250         | 100  | 100 | 100 | 50               | 50                     | 50         | 50                 | 100              | 50        | 50        |
| Interior Non-Flat Intermediate & Topcoats | 380         | 150  | 150 | 150 | 50               | 150                    | 150        | 150                | 150              | 150       | 50        |
| Exterior Flat Intermediate & Topcoats     | 250         | 100  | 100 | 100 |                  |                        | 100        |                    |                  | 100       | 50        |
| Exterior Non-Flat Intermediate & Topcoats | 380         | 150  | 150 | 150 |                  |                        | 200        |                    |                  | 150       | 50        |
| <b>Special Purpose Exceptions</b>         |             |      |     |     |                  |                        |            |                    |                  |           |           |
| Clear Varnishes                           | 450         | 350  | 350 | 350 | 275              | 275                    |            | 350                | 350              | 350       |           |
| Clear Sanding Sealers                     | 550         | 350  | 350 | 350 | 275              | 275                    |            | 275                | 350              | 350       |           |
| Clear Lacquer                             | 680         | 550  | 550 | 550 | 275              | 275                    |            | 550                | 550              | 550       |           |
| Clear Brushing Lacquer                    | 680         | 680  | 680 | 680 | 275              | 275                    |            |                    | 680              | 680       |           |
| Dry Fog Coatings                          | 400         | 400  | 400 | 400 | 150              |                        |            |                    | 400              | 50/150    | 50        |
| Fire Retardant Coatings-Pigmented         | 450         | 350  | 350 | 350 | 100/50           |                        |            |                    | 350              | 350       |           |
| Fire Retardant Coatings-Clear             | 850         | 650  | 650 | 650 | 100/50           |                        |            |                    | 650              | 650       |           |
| Floor Coatings                            | 400         | 250  | 250 | 250 | 50               | 50                     |            | 100                | 100              | 250*      |           |
| Industrial Maintenance Coatings           | 450         | 250  | 340 | 340 | 100              |                        |            |                    | 250              | 340*      |           |
| High Temperature Coatings                 | 650         | 420  | 420 | 420 | 420              |                        |            |                    | 420              | 420       |           |
| Faux Finishing Coatings                   | 700         | 350  | 350 | 350 | 350              |                        |            |                    | 350              | 350       |           |
| Metallic Pigmented Coatings               | 500         | 500  | 500 | 500 | 500              |                        |            |                    | 500              | 500       |           |
| Multicolor Coatings                       | 580         | 250  | 250 | 250 | 250              |                        |            |                    | 250              | 250       |           |
| Pigmented Lacquers                        | 680         | 550  | 550 | 550 | 275              |                        |            |                    | 550              | 550       |           |
| Pretreatment Wash Primers                 | 780         | 420  | 420 | 420 | 420              |                        |            |                    | 420              | 420       |           |
| Primers & Undercoats                      | 350         | 200  | 200 | 200 | 100              | 100                    |            | 150                | 200              | 200       |           |
| Quick Dry Enamels                         | 450         | 250  | 250 | 250 | 50               |                        |            |                    | 250              | 250       |           |
| Recycled Coatings                         | -           | 250  | 250 | 250 | 250              |                        | 250        |                    | 250              | 150       |           |
| Rust Preventative Coatings                | 400         | 400  | 400 | 400 | 100              | 250                    | 250        | 250                | 400              | 400**     |           |
| Sealers                                   | 350         | 200  | 200 | 200 | 100              | 100                    |            | 200                | 200              | 200       |           |
| Shellacs-Clear                            | 730         | 730  | 730 | 730 | 730              | 730                    |            | 730                | 730              | 730       |           |
| Shellacs-Pigmented                        | 550         | 550  | 550 | 550 | 550              | 550                    |            | 550                | 550              | 550       |           |
| Specialty Primers                         | 350/400     | 350  | 350 | 350 | 100              | 100                    |            | 200                | 350              | 350       |           |
| Stains                                    | 550/350     | 250  | 250 | 250 | 100              | 100                    |            | 250                | 250              | 250       |           |
| Traffic Marking Coatings                  | 450/150     | 150  | 150 | 150 | 100              |                        |            |                    | 150              | 150       |           |
| Waterproofing Concrete Masonry Sealers    | 600/400/700 | 400  | 400 | 400 | 100              | 100                    |            | 250                | 400              | 400       |           |

\* While SCAQMD has a lower limit, MPI is not convinced that a wide spectrum of products is available below those levels to warrant matching the level for these **performance-critical** substrates.

\*\* LEED references Green Seal GC-03 which has only three "performance requirements" – MPI is not convinced that either adhesion or hiding power is nearly adequate, and their **corrosion resistance "performance requirement" is nonexistent** although this characteristic is **absolutely critical** here.

**Note #1:** EC (Environment Canada) implemented in 2010.

**Note #2:** LEED 2.2 presently contains VOC levels of 50 g/L for "flats" and 150 g/L for "non-flats" with some 'other' categories from SCAQMD as at **Jan. 01, 2004**.

**Note #3:** MPI GPS-1-12 is MPI Green Performance® Standard August 2012 (first published as GPS-1-05 July 2005). MPI GPS-2-12 was first published July 2007.

**Note #4:** South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) Rule 1113 Architectural Coatings rules in effect on **January 1, 2004** and on **July 1, 2008**.

**Note #5:** LEED 1.0 is a Canadian licensed version published in 2004 but with a new revision in March 2007 requiring SCAQMD levels in place "at time of building permit".

**Note #6:** MPI GPS-12 is the only standard **requiring significant performance**. Both **ECO LOGO** and **Green Seal Recycled Standards** now require **MPI performance** listing.