

# Information

ISSUE 2

# Understanding the EU Directive

A Directive was introduced in 2004 to control solvent emission more efficiently during refinishing. It controls the *supply* of

paint materials in the EU, not their use in individual bodyshops.

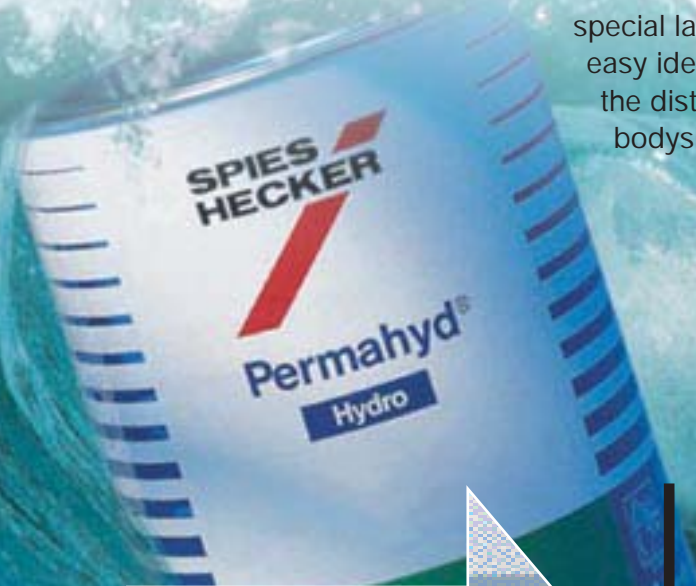
The so-called Product Directive stops paint manufacturers from

marketing in the EU any high solvent refinishing product intended for road vehicles including trucks and trailers.

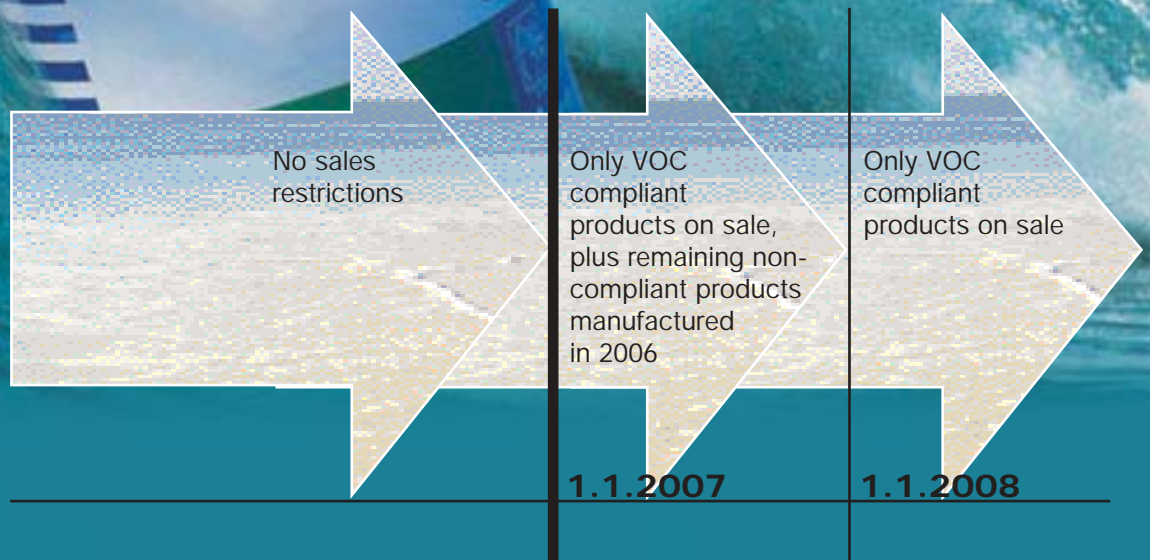
Strict VOC limits are set for each product type, and containers carry special labelling for easy identification at the distributor or bodyshop.

## No replacements

Once any single high solvent product goes out of stock across the EU in 2007 it cannot be replaced. To introduce any such product onto the refinishing market will be a criminal offence. Any bodyshop trying to survive on solvent borne materials in 2007 could find themselves running out of paint at any time.



Only 20 months until the changeover



# How this effects you!

This Directive affects both bodyshop and distributor dramatically, even though it applies largely to paint

manufacturers. From 1st January 2007 bodyshops will not reliably be able to buy non-compliant

materials from their suppliers within the EU.

From then on paint manufacturers can only supply waterborne or high solids materials, although some high solvent materials may still be supplied by distributors as they run down stocks in 2007 of materials produced in 2006. This route of supply is likely to be small and unreliable as

distributors and manufacturers are expecting to reduce stocks of solvent borne materials dramatically as 2007 approaches.



Always look for the Greentec logo on the label - it guarantees that the product is VOC compliant.

## *The clock is ticking!*

**2007 is  
the deadline**