

EPA's Safer Choice Criteria for VOC-exempt Solvents

EPA's Safer Choice Program will allow the use of certain solvents that do not fully comply with the Safer Choice Criteria for Solvents (at <http://www2.epa.gov/saferchoice/standard>) in specific circumstances. The vapor pressure of any solvent that does not fully comply with the solvent criteria must be low enough to qualify as "volatile organic compound (VOC)-exempt" (under California Air Resources Board and EPA criteria*), and must be among the safest available solvents compared to similar alternatives. As per section 5.5 of the Standard, solvents that can be classified as CMRs or PBTs are excluded. This exemption will enable product manufacturers to comply with section 4.2.7.1 of the Safer Choice Standard, which limits the VOC content of Safer Choice products.

* Extract from 40 CFR 59.203(f):

Under EPA regulations, a chemical is VOC-exempt, if it:

- Has vapor pressure of less than 0.1 millimeters of mercury (at 20 degrees Celsius); Or, if the vapor pressure is unknown:
- Consists of more than 12 carbon atoms; or
- Has a melting point higher than 20 degrees C. and does not sublime (i.e., does not change directly from a solid into a gas without melting).