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COSMETICS & HYGIENE

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Hong Kong Extends Control of VOCs to Cleaning Products

BACKGROUND

Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) are found in wide ranges of consumer products and play a significant role in driving ozone formation, therefore fine particulates, and smog. To tackle the air pollution problem in Hong Kong and in response to the '[Clean Air Plan for Hong Kong 2035](#)' issued in 2021, the Hong Kong government is planning to extend the scope of VOC control, including cleaning products.

AIR POLLUTION CONTROL (VOCs) REGULATION

The Air Pollution Control (VOCs) Regulation has been implemented in phases since 2007. It regulates the VOC content of products manufactured in, or imported into Hong Kong. Currently, more than 170 types of products, covering 6 categories of consumer products (air freshener, hairspray, multi-purpose lubricant, floor wax stripper, insecticide and insect repellent), are controlled under this regulation.



FOR ENQUIRIES

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The Hong Kong government conducted a study in 2019 to estimate the VOC reduction if unregulated consumer products comply with California Consumer Products Regulation, which revealed around 80% of VOC emission reduction was attributable to 7 types of cleaning products.

PROPOSAL ON SCOPE EXTENSION

In response, the Environmental Protection Department has proposed to extend the control of VOCs to these products as shown below.

ITEM	CLEANING PRODUCT	PROPOSED VOC CONTENT LIMIT (% VOC BY WEIGHT [^])	
		Aerosol	Non-Aerosol
1	Bathroom & Tile Cleaner	7	1
2	Disinfectant	70	1
3	General Purpose Cleaner	8	0.5
4	Glass Cleaner	10	3
5	Kitchen Cleaner	8	4
6	Sanitizer	70	1
7	Toilet Or Urinal Care Product	10	3

Source: [Public Consultation - Archive | Environmental Protection Department \(epd.gov.hk\)](#)

The consultation period was concluded in February 2023. If the timeline goes as scheduled, this proposal is expected to become effective in December 2023.

SGS specialists provide expertise in all aspects of cosmetic, household care and hygiene testing and regulatory guidance with our state-of-the-art facilities and technology, helping you bring safe, effective and compliant products to market.

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