The VOC Solvents Directive
1999/13/EC

European Commission DGENV.
C.4 (Industrial Emissions), Bernd Mehlhorn
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COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 1999/13/EC of 11 March 1999 on the limitation of emissions of volatile organic compounds due to the use of organic solvents in certain activities and installations

• Entry into force: 29 March 1999
  ▪ Transposition = implementation for new installations:
    1 April 2001 (old MS)
    date of accession (new MS)
  ▪ Implementation for existing installations:
    31 Oct 2007 (no transitional periods for new MS)
VOC Solvents Directive

Amended by: Directive 2004/42/CE on the limitation of emissions of volatile organic compounds due to the use of organic solvents in certain paints and varnishes and vehicle refinishing products ("Paints directive")

Result: coating of road vehicles as part of vehicle repair is excluded from the scope of the VOC Solvents Directive
Scope of the Directive

- **Activities listed in Annex I**
  - coating, dry cleaning, printing, footwear manufacture, manufacture of pharmaceutical products, wood impregnation, surface cleaning, etc.

- if they are operated above the solvent consumption thresholds listed in Annex IIA
**AIM:** prevent or reduce the direct and indirect effects of emissions of VOC into the environment and on human health.

Due to their volatility, VOC are emitted directly or indirectly to air. They undergo complex chemical reactions in the atmosphere, causing a number of indirect effects, in particular the formation of photochemical oxidants (e.g.: OZONE).

**Summer smog**

**Health risks**
- carcinogens
- mutagens
- reprotoxic substances

- carcinogens
- mutagens
- reprotoxic substances
Key provisions

• All installation shall comply with:
  • either the Emission Limit Values in waste gases and fugitive emission values, or the total ELVs (Annex IIA)
  or
  • the requirements of the reduction scheme (Annex IIB)

»Keyword: flexibility!
The tasks of the ...

Apply at the competent authority for registration or authorisation

Meet the ELVs or apply a reduction scheme

Carry out continuous or periodic measurement

Replace substances or preparations classified as carcinogens, mutagens or toxic

Supply the competent authority with necessary data

Operator
Reduction scheme

• Aim: to allow an operator to make the same reduction as would be made by applying the emission limit values, but to do it by substitution

• The scheme is proportional to the level of production and takes into account progress already made

Abated conditions & full solvent (ELV approach) = Non-abated conditions & low solvent (reduction scheme)
The tasks of the Competent authority:

- Deliver authorizations (where appropriate)
- Verify compliance (solvent management plan, reduction scheme…)
- Make information available to the public
- Supervise derogations and reduction scheme
- Keep an updated list of the registered and authorized installations
- Deliver authorizations (where appropriate)
Design and ensure correct implementation of a national plan (art 6)

Take appropriate measure in case of non-compliance

Determine and implement sanctions applicable to breaches & notify these provisions to the Commission

Advisory committee

Take the appropriate measures to ensure that the emission limitations are respected (art 5, 8, 9 & annex II)

Ensure public access to information

Report to the Commission on the implementation of the Directive

Participate to the exchange of information on substitution

Member States

Designate the competent authority

The tasks of the

Report to the Commission on the implementation of the Directive
The national plan option allows Members States to tailor reduction programmes to their own industrial circumstances. These plans shall result in a reduction of the annual emissions of VOCs by at least the same amount which would have been achieved by applying the emission limitations of the Directive.

No national plan received yet!!
Reporting to the Commission

2003-2004: First reporting period

Sept. 2005: Last date for MS to send back questionnaires

Jul.-Dec. 2006: Evaluation of reports of first reporting period

2005-2007: Second reporting period

2008-2010: Third reporting period
Information exchange

- According to Art.5(6) on substitution of substances
  
  http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/environment/air/solvents/index_en.htm

- Includes: a set of guidance documents
  a list of links to relevant external websites
Conclusions

Directive 1999/13/EC

requires strict environmental standards needed to tackle tropospheric ozone

takes into detailed account the impact on industry in design of the controls

provides Member States and industrial operators with the optimum flexibility of implementation