

# SAFEGUARDS

SGS CONSUMER TESTING SERVICES

HARDLINES

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## CARB REQUIREMENTS ON THE VOC<sup>1</sup> FROM AUTOMOTIVE WINDSHIELD WASHER FLUID<sup>2</sup>

The California Air Resources Board has the authority to regulate a wide variety of chemical based consumer products that may pose chemical exposure risk to the general public under its Consumer Products Regulation. CARB establishes limits on the Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) content of consumer products for reducing the amount of pollutants released into the atmosphere. The list of consumer products are chemically formulated products used in homes or institutional occupancies, including "detergents; cleaning compounds; polishes; floor finishes; cosmetics; personal care products; home, lawn, and garden products; disinfectants; sanitizers; aerosol paints; and automotive specialty products"

The Automotive Windshield Washer Fluid (AWWF) has been regulated in California since 1993. In AWWF, VOCs are functional compounds that help clean the windshield as well as act as an anti-freeze reducing the temperature at which the fluid will freeze in cold weather. AWWF is sold in two forms, pre-mixed (ready to use) and in highly concentrated form that is diluted by the end user. The AWWF statute allows higher VOC limits for certain higher elevation regions (designated Type A) of the state that often experience sub-freezing temperatures. The higher VOC content in the AWWF allows it function when ambient temperature falls below the water freezing point.



<sup>1</sup>Volatile Organic Compound

<sup>2</sup><http://www.arb.ca.gov/consprod/regact/awwf/awwf.htm>

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The below table describes the VOC limits set for AWWF sold in Type A and non-Type A regions of the State according to the form in which the washer fluid is sold.

CA Region	AWWF Type	Container Size	VOC Limit
Type A	Pre-Mixed	> 1 Quart	< 25%
		< 55 Gallons	
	Concentrated (Diluatable)	< 1 Quart	< 25%
		< 10 Gallons	
All Other Areas (non Type A)	Pre-Mixed	> 1 Quart	< 1%
		< 55 Gallons	
	Concentrated (Diluatable)	< 1 Quart	< 1%
		< 10 Gallons	



California Type – A Areas  
 Counties of Del Norte, Siskiyou, Modoc, Trinity, Shasta, Lassen, Plumas, Sierra, Nevada, Amador, Alpine, Eldorado, Tuolumne, Mariposa, Mono, Inyo, and parts of Sacramento, Calaveras, Placer counties

SGS will follow up and inform interested parties as developments on CARB regulations occur.

Throughout our global network of laboratories, SGS provides a range of services, including analytical testing and consultancy for VOCs in consumer products for the US and worldwide markets. Please do not hesitate to contact us for further information.

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