

Defining Architectural Paint Products for the Purposes of the Assessment

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Architectural paint is defined under the Paint Stewardship Program as:

Interior and exterior architectural coatings sold in containers of five gallons or less.

Architectural paint does not include:

Industrial maintenance (IM), original equipment manufacturer (OEM) or specialty coatings.

In order to distinguish between what is an architectural coating for the purpose of the assessment and what coatings should not be assessed the fee, we are using definitions and terminology from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, California Air Resources Board and other state and local Architectural and Industrial Maintenance (AIM) rules.

In order to determine the products on which the fee is assessed, and the products on which the fee is not assessed, a company should follow these steps:

- A. Start with the type of coating. If the coating is an architectural coating, go to B. If the coating is not an architectural coating, it is not assessed a fee.
- B. If the coating meets the definition of architectural coatings (see below), does not meet the definition of Industrial Maintenance Coatings (also below), and is not specifically excluded, it is assessed a fee.

I. Architectural Coatings

Architectural coating means a coating recommended for application to stationary structures and their appurtenances, portable buildings, pavements, curbs, fields and lawns. This definition excludes adhesives, aerosol coatings and coatings recommended by the manufacturer or importer solely for shop applications or solely for application to non-stationary structures, such as airplanes, ships, boats, and railcars.

II. Industrial Maintenance Coatings

Industrial Maintenance (IM) coating means a high performance architectural coating, including primers, sealers, undercoaters, intermediate coats, and topcoats formulated and recommended for application to substrates exposed to one or more of the following extreme environmental conditions in an industrial, commercial, or institutional setting:

1. Immersion in water, wastewater, or chemical solutions (aqueous and non-aqueous solutions), or chronic exposure of interior surfaces to moisture condensation;
2. Acute or chronic exposure to corrosive, caustic, or acidic agents, or to chemicals, chemical fumes, or chemical mixtures or solutions;
3. Repeated exposure to temperatures above 120 °C (250 °F);
4. Repeated (frequent) heavy abrasion, including mechanical wear and repeated (frequent) scrubbing with industrial solvents, cleansers, or scouring agents; or
5. Exterior exposure of metal structures and structural components.

One of the primary ways AIM rules distinguish IM coatings from other architectural coatings is the manufacturer's recommendation for restricted usage. IM coatings must be labeled under the rules as:

1. "For industrial use only."
2. "For professional use only."
3. "Not for residential use" or "Not intended for residential use."

Thus, if the product is not intended for and not labeled as an IM coating, it should be deemed a covered architectural coating and the fee should be assessed, unless it is specifically excluded (see next page).

III. Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) Coatings

Shop application means that a coating is applied to a product or a component of a product in a factory, shop, or other structure as part of a manufacturing, production, finishing or repairing process (e.g., original equipment manufacturing coatings).

Since OEM (shop application) coatings may be intended but not labeled for industrial or professional use, and may be sold in containers of 5 gallons or less, if a company can clearly document that the coating was sold exclusively for OEM use, the fee should not be assessed. However, if this coating can be sold to a consumer or contractor for other than shop application and/or the use cannot be distinguished via the method of sale, the fee should be assessed.

IV. Specialty Coatings

Lastly, in order to identify Specialty or Special Purpose Coatings, we have used the definition from the Federated Society of Coating Technology's Coatings Encyclopedic (since AIM rules don't have a definition), which states that these coatings include arts and crafts, and automotive refinish coatings. These products should be easier to distinguish, however, as they are clearly called out as non-assessed products on the list below. The fee should not be assessed for these coatings.

Assessed Products (maximum container size of 5 gallons)

- Interior and exterior architectural paints: latex, acrylic, water-based, alkyd, oil-based, enamel (including textured coatings)
- Deck coatings, floor paints (including elastomeric)
- Primers, sealers, undercoaters
- Stains
- Shellacs, lacquers, varnishes, urethanes (single component)
- Waterproofing concrete/masonry/wood sealers and repellents (not tar or bitumen-based)
- Metal coatings, rust preventatives
- Field and lawn paints

Non-Assessed Products (regardless of container size)

- Paint thinners, mineral spirits, solvents
- Aerosol coatings
- Auto and marine paints
- Art and craft paints
- Caulking compounds, epoxies, glues, adhesives
- Paint additives, colorants, tints, resins
- Wood preservatives (containing pesticides)
- Roof patch and repair
- Asphalt, tar and bitumen-based products
- 2-component coatings
- Deck cleaners
- Traffic and road marking paints
- Industrial Maintenance (IM) coatings
- Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) (shop application) paints and finishes