



Drywall Primer-Surfacers

June 2012

Purpose

The purpose of this notice is to clarify that “Drywall Primer-Surfacers” are included in the PaintCare program. As part of the program, manufacturers of these products must register with PaintCare and collect and remit the Assessment (“PaintCare Fee”) as with other architectural paints in states with active paint stewardship programs.

Background

In order to assist companies with determining what coatings were architectural coatings subject to the PaintCare Fee and what coatings were not, PaintCare developed a factsheet detailing what factors should be taken into consideration when making these determinations. In addition, the factsheet listed examples of PaintCare products and examples of non-PaintCare products (products that should not be assessed the fee). PaintCare, however, relies on individual manufacturers to determine what products are part of the program and what products are not, depending on their specific product lines. In some cases, PaintCare helps with this determination based on individual calls with manufacturers. In the case of Drywall Primer-Surfacers, based on these calls, it has come to our attention that some manufacturers were assessing the fee believing they were program products and some were not assessing the fee believing that they were non-program products. It appears that confusion arose when trying to distinguish drywall primer from drywall compound.

In order to ensure that all manufacturers are on a level playing field and the PaintCare Fee is indeed placed on all products subject to the assessment, PaintCare herein clarifies that Drywall Primer-Surfacer is considered a PaintCare product and the PaintCare Fee must be assessed and remitted by all manufacturers of Drywall Primer-Surfacers. The reason for including this category under the architectural coatings that are subject to the program is as follows:

- The Drywall Primer-Surfacer products are primers. Primers are considered architectural coatings.
- MSDS sheets, either in their title and or elsewhere in the product description, for these products indicate that they are paint or primers.
- MSDS sheets indicate that they contain some type of binder or resin.
- Marketing information published by manufacturers for their own products indicate that they are vapor barriers or coatings.

- Information published by manufacturers for their own products indicate that they are vinyl, acrylic, and/or latex-based.
- Competitors have reported that they make and sell equivalent products that are not excluded by PaintCare.
- Consumers with leftover/unwanted Drywall Primer-Surfacers may bring them to a PaintCare collection site for proper recycling/disposal.

Action

Starting August 1, 2012, manufacturers of “Drywall Primer-Surfacers” need to ensure that these products are registered with PaintCare and add the PaintCare Fee to the wholesale price of these products to all distributors and retailers. Manufacturers are not required to pay the fee on past sales because the fees were not charged to distributors, retailers, or consumers.

More Information

For more information about the PaintCare program and the responsibilities of manufacturers, please visit PaintCare.org or contact:

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