

Technical Brief

'Not For Retail Sale' / 'Manufacturing Use Only'

Background

Several states regulate the level of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) in certain categories of consumer chemical products, ranging from personal care to cleaning and maintenance. These regulations are called Consumer Product VOC Regulations. It is important to understand that the term 'consumer product' includes not only those products sold for household use, but also Industrial and Institutional (I&I) products. I&I products are those "designed for use in the maintenance or operation of an establishment that manufactures, transports or sell goods or commodities or provides services for profit". However, a few types of industrial use products are exempted from the regulations if they meet specific requirements.

What are the requirements?

Products are exempted from the consumer products regulations if they meet all three requirements:

- The product is a General Purpose Degreaser or a Lubricant (including multi-purpose lubricants, silicone-based multi-purpose lubricants, and penetrants) – and –
- The product is sold exclusively to establishments which manufacture or construct goods or commodities. – and –
- The product contains specific labeling statements (see below)

Labeling requirements (**updated**)

Under the original consumer products regulations, manufacturing use lubricants and degreasers had to be labeled with the phrase 'Not for Retail Sale' in order to meet the exemption. Recently, California amended its regulation and now requires these products, manufactured after 12/31/2012, to be labeled exclusively for "use in the manufacturing process only". The other 16 states with consumer products VOC regulations still require the 'Not for Retail Sale' labeling. Therefore, products sold nationally will need to meet both requirements.

What is the distributor's responsibility?

It is the 'sale' of the product that is regulated. This means that the distributor, retailer, or any other seller is responsible for selling VOC compliant products for use in regulated states. It is also the responsibility of the seller to make sure that products labeled 'Not for Retail Sale' or 'Manufacturing Use Only' are only sold to manufacturing establishments. Failure to comply could result in a fine or other enforcement action against the seller.

What does CRC offer as a Solution?

CRC has a wide variety of VOC compliant lubricants and general purpose degreasers to meet the needs of all your customers. CRC also offers some 'Not for Retail Sale' / 'Manufacturing Use Only' products for manufacturing customers who need certain heavy duty degreasers or specialty lubricants. CRC publishes a handy Product Compliance Guide on our website to help you easily determine which products are VOC compliant for everyone and which products are restricted to manufacturing facilities. Please visit our website at www.crcindustries.com, and see the "VOC Information" page for more information.