

John Therriault - IImplementationdatefinal.doc

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STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board



PC #6
R08-17

October 8, 2008

Clerk's Office
Attention Docket #2008-017
Illinois Pollution Control Board
James R. Thompson Center
100 W. Randolph, Suite 11-500
Chicago, Illinois 60601

**RE: Illinois EPA Architectural and Industrial Maintenance (AIM) Coatings;
Docket #2008-017; NPCA Comments**

To Whom it May Concern:

[1]

The National Paint and Coatings Association (NPCA) submits the following comments on the final draft amendments to the Illinois EPA (ILEPA) AIM rulemaking. NPCA appreciates the changes that ILEPA has made to the AIM rulemaking in response to our comments.

It is our understanding that before the AIM rulemaking can be adopted it must first go through a first and second notice period. Further, it is our understanding that the first and second notice period could take several months to complete and it likely that the final adoption of the rule may occur simultaneously with or after the currently proposed January 1, 2009 implementation date. Thus, NPCA respectively requests that the current implementation date be extended to at least July 1, 2009 to allow IL adequate time to finalize and adopt the amendments to the AIM rule, and more importantly, provide adequate time for industry to make necessary changes in order to comply with the amendments.

With the new AIM amendments, in addition to changing thousands of formulations paint manufacturers need to develop and print new labels for the reformulated products. Since labels and manufacturing costs are very expensive, paint manufacturers try to manage changes to products to prevent costs associated with obsolete products and labels. Further, most paint manufacturers now utilize extensive computer systems that need to be upgraded to prevent shipment of "non-compliant" products into areas with new VOC limits. In addition, it will take significant time for manufacturers to properly communicate the new VOC limit changes to all distributors, customers and specifiers in order to ensure their compliance with the new products.

It is impossible for manufacturers to make these necessary changes and properly communicate the details of the IL AIM rule without having a final adopted rule in hand, particularly, as additional changes may occur between first notice and final adoption.

NPCA strongly believes that to allow IL adequate time to complete the first and second notice periods, and to allow industry adequate time to meet all of the new rule requirements, as well as changing computer systems, notifying supply chains, and making label changes and other administrative procedures that accompany a new rule, the implementation date must be moved to July 1, 2009.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

/s/

David F. Darling, P.E.,
Director, Environmental Affairs

/s/

Alison Keane
Counsel, Government Affairs

*** Sent via email and in hard-copy ***

[1]

NPCA is a voluntary, nonprofit trade association representing some 350 manufacturers of paints, coatings, adhesives, sealants, and caulks, raw materials suppliers to the industry, and product distributors. As the preeminent organization representing the coatings industry in the United States, NPCA's primary role is to serve as ally and advocate on legislative, regulatory and judicial issues at the federal, state, and local levels. In addition, NPCA provides members with such services as research and technical information, statistical management information, legal guidance, and community service project support.