

EU ban on paint strippers containing DCM

The marketing and use of dichloromethane (DCM) based paint strippers gradually being restricted under REACH Regulation.

The new restriction on the placing on the market and use of dichloromethane (DCM) based paint strippers will gradually affect the manufacture, supply and use of DCM-based paint strippers in Europe.

The restriction conditions mainly cover supply of DCM based paint strippers to the general public and professionals. The restriction will be phased in over the next two years.

Restriction Conditions		What does this mean?
Paint strippers containing \geq 0.1% DCM (by weight)	Cannot be placed on the market ¹ for the first time for supply to the general public or to professionals after 6 Dec 2010.	The first transfer of paint strippers onto the EU market is not permitted after <u>6 Dec 2010</u> . <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any EU company importing DCM-based paint strippers from outside the EU, for supply to the EU consumer or professional market, is no longer permitted to do so since 6 Dec 2010. • After 6 Dec 2010, the first placing on the market of DCM-based paint strippers for supply to industrial installations is still permitted.
	Cannot be placed on the market for supply to the general public or to professionals after 6 Dec 2011.	Existing stocks of paint strippers on the market in the EU before 6 December 2010 can continue to be placed on the market up until <u>6 Dec 2011</u> . <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any EU company with existing stocks of DCM-based paint strippers can continue to place these on the market for supply to consumers and professionals until the 6 Dec 2011. • After 6 Dec 2011, the supply of DCM-based paint strippers to consumers and professionals is banned. However supply to industrial installations is still permitted.
	Cannot be used by professionals after 6 Dec 2012.	The use of DCM-based paint strippers by professionals is no longer permitted after <u>6 Jun 2012</u> . <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional use of DCM-based paint strippers is allowed until the 6 Jun 2012. • After 6 Jun 2012, professionals are banned from using DCM-based paint strippers. However, DCM based paint strippers can continue to be used in industrial installations, provided a minimum set of conditions are met (see below).

Notes: 1: Placing on the market means any supply of DCM-based paint strippers or making them available, whether for payment or free of charge to a third party. Import is also deemed to be placing on the market.

Industrial installations

The use of paint strippers containing DCM in concentrations equal to or greater than 0.1% by weight is permitted in industrial installations, provided a minimum set of conditions are met. These conditions are: effective ventilation in all processing areas, measures to minimise evaporation from strip tanks, measures for the safe handling of DCM in strip tanks, personal protective equipment and the provision of adequate information, instruction and training of operators.

Obligations on manufacturers, importers, suppliers and users of DCM based paint strippers

Irish companies manufacturing, importing and supplying paint strippers and professional and industrial users of paint strippers are responsible for ensuring they comply with this ban.

An EU company is an 'importer' if it imports DCM-based paint strippers from outside Europe. An EU-based company sourcing paint strippers from within the EU is a 'recipient'. An EU company supplying DCM-based paint strippers to the European market is classed as a 'supplier'.

For the purposes of this restriction, 'professional' means any natural or legal person, including workers and self-employed workers undertaking paint stripping in the course of their professional activity. 'Industrial installation' is a facility used for paint stripping activities. One company/person could be all of the above.

What you need to do

If you are a manufacturer, importer, supplier or user of paint strippers, you should check whether these contain DCM (CAS number 75-09-2; EC number 200-838-9). This can be done by checking the label on the paint stripper container or the Safety Data Sheet, which accompanies the paint stripper. Alternatively you can request information on whether the paint strippers contain DCM, from your non-EU or EU suppliers.

Details of the full restriction can be found in entry no. 59, contained in [Regulation EU No. 276/2010](#) amending Annex XVII to the REACH Regulation. REACH stands for Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals.

For further information on REACH please visit: www.hsa.ie/eng/Sectors/Chemicals/REACH/