

NOTICE OF DECISION

To: Office of the Secretary for Resources
General Counsel's Office
1416 9th Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: SCAQMD
Planning, Rule Development & Area Sources
21865 Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, CA 91765

Subject: Filing of Notice of Decision in compliance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15252(b) and SCAQMD Rule 110(f)

Project Title: Final Environmental Assessment (EA) for Proposed Amended Rule 1168 - Adhesive and Sealant Applications

Lead Agency: South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD)

SCH Number: 2017081031

Date Certified: October 6, 2017

SCAQMD Number: 08162017DT

Contact Person: Diana Thai

Telephone Number: (909) 396-3443

Project Location: The proposed project will affect facilities located within the SCAQMD's boundary. The SCAQMD has jurisdiction over all of Orange County, the urban portions of Los Angeles and San Bernardino counties southwest of the San Bernardino and San Gabriel mountains, and nearly all of Riverside County, with the exception of communities near the state border.

Project Description: Amendments to Rule 1168 were adopted in order to reduce emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), toxic air contaminants, and stratospheric ozone-depleting compounds from adhesives, adhesive primers, sealants, and sealant primers. The amendments to Rule 1168 clarified the applicability; revised, deleted, and added various definitions; lowered the VOC limits for certain categories and allowed a three-year sell-through and use-through; added new product categories with corresponding VOC content limits; required products marketed for use under varying categories to be subject to the lowest VOC limit; prohibited the storage of non-compliant products, unless for shipment outside of the SCAQMD; added test methods for analyzing VOC content; added labeling requirements; included reporting requirements for manufacturers, private labelers, big box retailers, distribution centers, and facilities that use a 55 gallon per year exemption; prohibited the use of Rule 102 Group II exempt solvents, except volatile methyl siloxanes; included a technology assessment for certain product categories; removed, modified, or added various exemptions.

Rule 1168 is expected to result in approximately 1.38 tons per day of VOC emission reductions. While the reduction of VOC emissions will be expected to create an environmental benefit, the activities that manufacturers may undertake to reformulate products to comply with Rule 1168 may also create secondary adverse environmental impacts. However, analysis of Rule 1168 in the Final EA did not result in the identification of any environmental topic areas that would be significantly adversely affected.

This is to advise that the SCAQMD has prepared and certified the Final EA pursuant to the provisions of CEQA and approved the above-described project, and has made the following determinations:

1. The Final EA was prepared and certified pursuant to the SCAQMD's Certified Regulatory Program in CEQA Guidelines Section 15251(l) and SCAQMD Rule 110.
2. The Final EA concluded that the project will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment.
3. Because the Final EA concluded that the project will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment, mitigation measures were not made a condition of the approval of this project. Thus, a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan, pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21081.6 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15097, was not required or adopted for this project.
4. Findings pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15091 and a Statement of Overriding Considerations pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15093 were also not required or adopted for this project.

The Final EA, supporting documentation, and record of project approval may be examined at: SCAQMD, 21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765.

Date Received for Filing

Signature: _____

Barbara Radlein
Program Supervisor, CEQA
Planning, Rule Development, and Area Sources