

August 4th 2017

STATEMENT AND FAQ: LIQUITEX SPRAY PAINTS AND SPRAY VARNISHES IN CANADA

We are contacting you regarding the 2-Butoxyethanol regulation in Canada (SOR/2006-347). We have been notified by our toxicology provider that Liquitex Spray Paint and Liquitex Spray Varnish for sale in Canada contain 2-butoxyethanol above the permitted level for Canada, 0.1%. It is therefore not permissible to sell these products in Canada. We have been in contact with ECCC (Environment and Climate Change Canada) who have us advised us to voluntarily recall the impacted products from stores in Canada.

We take the health and safety of our products very seriously and as a responsible company we have prepared the following information to help communicate this situation to our retailers and consumers who may have questions.

Why is this issue limited to Canada?

The products impacted by the Canadian regulation are safe for use in the USA, Europe and Rest of the World. Under European regulations, 2-butoxyethanol is considered harmful only if swallowed in large quantities. Under the Art and Creative Materials Institute ("ACMI") program for toxicological evaluation, 2-butoxyethanol would only carry a Cautionary Label seal (marking products which contain potentially toxic ingredients) when present in quantities much larger than present in these products. However, different countries regulate chemicals in different ways and, in contrast to the EU and US authorities, the Canadian authorities have decided to regulate the use of this chemical.

What is 2-butoxyethanol?

2-butoxyethanol is an organic solvent which is part of the glycol ether family. Its main use is as a surfactant. It is used in Liquitex Spray Paints and Spray Varnishes in very small amounts.

Why are we recalling Liquitex spray paints and varnishes in Canada?

We are voluntarily recalling Liquitex spray paints and varnishes as they contain 2-butoxyethanol at greater than the limit allowed. The current limit is 0.1% for aerosols; whilst the levels vary across the range of Liquitex spray paints and varnishes, they do not exceed 0.16% (+/-10% tolerance). To put the issue in context, the level permitted for use in aerosols in Canada is extremely small and the permitted levels in other common household goods are much higher (for example, laundry stain remover can contain up to 22% of the same chemical).

However, to ensure we are fully compliant with the very stringent standards applied to aerosols, we have decided to recall these products in Canada. The recall does not affect any other countries and the product is safe to sell and use in the US, EU and the rest of the world.

How do I dispose of the products?

We would recommend that you dispose of the product as per your local regulation/authority states for aerosol disposal. There are no additional disposal requirements for these products save for those applicable to all aerosols.

I used the product in the past - should I be concerned?

Our recall is a precautionary measure to comply with extremely stringent regulations which are specific to Canada. The products are deemed safe in all other countries except Canada.. However, if you are concerned, we have Safety Data Sheets available for Liquitex Spray Varnish and Liquitex Spray Paints that you can read and discuss with a medical professional if needed. We can also provide information regarding formulation directly to your medical professional should they have any questions. We are not aware of any injuries or illnesses relating to the presence of this chemical in our products and, as the product meets equivalent regulations in all other countries, we do not anticipate any such issues arising.

Has this product been assessed independently?

All our art material products that are on sale in North America go through the ACMI certification program where independent board-approved toxicologists at Duke university assess them for ACMI certification and LHAMA evaluation for the (US) and Canada. We are confident that the independent toxicological assessment of our products is accurate and that the products on sale are safe for use.

What about other Liquitex products?

No other Liquitex products are impacted by the Canadian regulations and none of our other products contain 2-Butoxyethanol.

What should I do if I have a question?

If you have any other questions then please do not hesitate to contact your local Colart representative or call our Customer Service team on 1-800-445-4278. Alternately you can submit a question via the Liquitex contact us page on the website.

<http://www.liquitex.com/Contact/>