

French VOC regulations

The French government issued regulations on emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) and formaldehyde for several kinds of products. The first regulation limits four special substances of concern (CMR), the second regulation specifies a compulsory VOC emissions label

French VOC regulations are based on European Construction Products Directive (CPD), requiring that no construction products shall impair human health. In the lack of precise definition of what that means, national laws can interpret it. In Germany, DIBt agency operates an approval scheme for floor coverings and some other construction products, following AgBB approach (published by a group of German health authorities) that is very similar to French AFSSET guideline.

4 CMR VOCs limited

Since 1. Jan 2010, construction products may be sold in France only if they show 28 days emission of trichloroethylene, benzene, DEHP and DBP below 1 µg/m³ each, tested in line with ISO 16000 and calculated for the European Reference Room (TC 351). Unfortunately the specified test method cannot detect such low levels of DEHP and DBP and gives some problems with benzene.

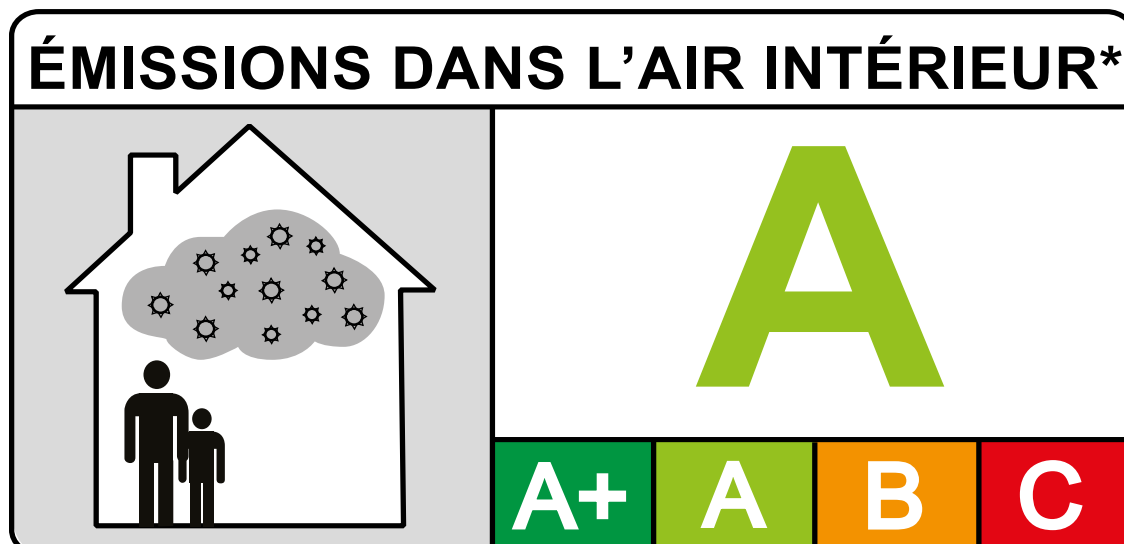
VOC emissions class labelling

Another French regulation requires a mandatory emissions class labelling of all construction products and other products used indoors, based on emission testing, starting in 2012. This includes:

- Walls, ceilings, floor coverings and coatings,
- Panels for rooms partition suspended ceilings,
- Insulation products,
- Doors and windows,
- All products used for the installation of the products listed above.

The regulation does not include untreated metal or glass, lockers, iron, screws etc.

This regulation must not be confused with the French AFSSET guideline which is a non-binding guidance that you may use or not, depending on what the market requires.



*Information sur le niveau d'émission de substances volatiles dans l'air intérieur, présentant un risque de toxicité par inhalation, sur une échelle de classe allant de A+ (très faibles émissions) à C (fortes émissions).

French VOC labelling regulation foresees that from 1 January 2012, any covered product placed on the market has to be labelled with emission classes based on their emissions after 28 days, tested in line with ISO 16000 standards and calculated for the European Reference Room (TC 351). Products that are in French market before that date need to be labelled from 1 September 2013 on. The limit values for the emission classes are listed on this page.

The label on the products includes a letter indicating the highest (worst) emissions class of the listed individual substances and the TVOC.

There are detailed rules on how the label has to look like. An example is given on first page of this flyer.

Classes	C	B	A	A+
Formaldehyde	>120	<120	<60	<10
Acetaldehyde	>400	<400	<300	<200
Toluene	>600	<600	<450	<300
Tetrachloroethylene	>500	<500	<350	<250
Xylene	>400	<400	<300	<200
1,2,4-Trimethylbenzene	>2000	<2000	<1500	<1000
1,4-Dichlorobenzene	>120	<120	<90	<60
Ethylbenzene	>1500	<1500	<1000	<750
2-Butoxyethanol	>2000	<2000	<1500	<1000
Styrene	>500	<500	<350	<250
TVOC	>2000	<2000	<1500	<1000

Compliance testing

Eurofins offers testing

- either just an ISO 16000 test for showing compliance with French regulations,
- or the same test but analyzing all VOC, not only those in the regulation,
- or any one of these tests, but supplemented with another test method with lower detection method for DEHP and DBP because of the

doubts whether the specified test method cannot detect such low levels of DEHP and DBP.

The test program can be expanded such that the same test can be used also for other regulations and labels in Europe - this will be much cheaper than if you order both tests separately. Reporting is possible in French, in English or in German, or in other languages upon request.

Eurofins is the world market leader for VOC emission chamber testing with more than 20 years experience in delivering reliable test results, but also in adapting any testing programme to the specific needs of each client, for optimizing the ratio of output and costs. Eurofins emission chamber testing is ISO 17025 accredited and approved by many labels throughout the world.



www.eurofins.com/france-voc

Testing laboratory:

Eurofins Product Testing A/S

- Smedskovvej 38, 8464 Galten, Denmark, Phone +45 7022 4276
- 2425 New Holland Pike, PO Box 12425, Lancaster, PA 17605-2425 Phone +1-717-556-7398

Contact our offices in

China (Shanghai, Shenzhen) - Denmark - France - Germany - Hong Kong - Italy - Netherlands - Thailand - UK - USA

via our common email address

voc@eurofins.com