



South Coast
AQMD

SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
PRESS RELEASE

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South Coast AQMD reaches \$1.37 million settlement with coating company for selling products that exceed emissions levels

DIAMOND BAR – Axalta Coating Systems, LLC (Axalta) has agreed to pay \$1.37 million for selling auto primer products containing levels of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) above agency limits, which can negatively impact air quality and public health.

The Axalta products were sold to local auto body and repair shops across the Southland and were then used for automotive coating. The penalty will settle 26 violations that occurred from January 2017 through October 2021. As part of the settlement, Axalta has recalled the product.

“Companies must ensure that their products meet all required emissions thresholds,” said Wayne Nastri, South Coast AQMD’s Executive Officer. “Not only do these limits help reduce air pollution, but they are meant to avoid health impacts to the public and workplace exposure and help our region achieve state and federal air quality standards.”

South Coast AQMD [Rule 1151](#) (Motor Vehicle and Mobile Equipment Non-Assembly Line Coating Operations) prohibits the supply, sale, possession, or application of automotive coating primers that contain VOCs in excess of 250 grams per liter (g/l). The products sold by Axalta exceeded the Rule 1151 VOC limit by more than 30%.

Axalta is a global supplier of liquid and powder coatings for light and commercial vehicles, industrial, and refinish applications. They are headquartered in Pennsylvania but distribute their products for sale within the South Coast AQMD’s jurisdiction and are subject to the agency’s rules and regulations.

Solvents, paints and other coatings in the region emit a total of 10.6 tons of VOCs per day--equivalent to VOC emissions from more than 2 million cars. VOCs combine with nitrogen oxides to form ground-level ozone, a pollutant responsible for a wide range of health effects from increased school absences and hospitalizations to increased risk for asthma.

South Coast AQMD is the regulatory agency responsible for improving air quality for large areas of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties, including the Coachella Valley. For news, air quality alerts, event updates and more, please visit us at www.aqmd.gov, download our award-winning app, or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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