

Criteria for allergy-friendly wall paint (Interior)

BACKGROUND

Allergies may have several different triggers. Ingredients of wall paints, for example, may cause allergic symptoms, promote allergies or increase problems for people suffering from respiratory allergies due to emitted vapors.

ECARF certified wall paints do not contain critical ingredients above a certain threshold value and showed that they were tolerated by people suffering from respiratory allergies in an application study.

Prerequisite for the ECARF Seal of Quality is the compliance of the wall paint with the following criteria.

1. CRITERIA

1.1. Ingredients

The special utilities of the formulation derive from the ingredients with known empirical characteristics. This is proven by one of the following possibilities:

- Allergenic materials are **generally reduced** ("Concept of minimum recipe").
- Ingredients that may be problematic for allergy sufferers **are not used**.
- The recipe has a **reduced hazard potential** (e.g. „free from preservatives“).
- The concentrations of ingredients are **below certain critical threshold values**, known from experiments or clinical examinations.

2. CRITERIA

2.1. Necessary Product Features

- The manufacturer shall provide proof (through test results from recognised external and independent testing institutes) on the basis of documents (test protocols, safety data sheets, product information, manufacturer's declarations) with regard to the following parameters:
- Without preservatives (isothiazolinones 2-methyl-4-isothiazolin-3-one (MIT, MI); 5-chloro-2-methyl-4-isothiazolin-3-one (CIT, CMI); octhilonone (OIT)).
- Compliance with the critical limit values in accordance with VDL Guideline 11 (Guideline on requirements for low-pollutant and high-quality coating materials for interiors (as of July 2023 (4th revision))). Chemicals Regulation on the Limitation of Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) by Restricting the Placing on the Market of Solvent-Based Paints and Varnishes (Solvent-Based Paints and Varnishes Regulation - ChemVOCFarbV)); VdL Guideline 01

'VdL Guideline Declaration of Coating Materials' Guideline for the declaration of varnishes, paints, glazes, plasters, fillers, primers and related products (as of June 2024 (9th revision)).

- All product properties must be documented by the manufacturer and verified by ECARF.

2.2. Subject testing

Through user tests, it is shown that the product is acceptable for persons with highly sensitive respiratory tracks. This is tested according to normal product use by at least 20 subjects with bronchial asthma. The period of use for the test varies according to product type. If over the course of four hours no deterioration of the physical/bodily condition is noted in any of the subjects, the product is generally considered acceptable for persons with sensitive respiratory tracks.

3. QUALITY CONTROL AND COMPLAINT MANAGEMENT

The manufacturer has established a functional system of quality control that responds effectively to consumer complaints. The system ensures the following:

- The manufacturer's contact details, such as the address, telephone number and/or email address, are clearly visible on the product packaging;
- Consumer complaints are handled and followed up in an appropriate manner by qualified and experienced personnel of the manufacturer;
- The assessment of consumer complaints and, if applicable, any inferred areas of improvement are reapplied to product quality and safety. The manufacturer agrees to make this data available to ECARF on an ongoing basis.