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NEWS RELEASE

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Air Board to Consider Rules on Industrial Coating Activities

SALT LAKE CITY – Small manufacturers would be required to use low-polluting chemicals in industrial coating activities under a proposal that the Air Quality Board will consider when it meets at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday (June 7) at the Utah Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), located at the Multi Agency State Office Building, 195 N. 1950 West.

The rules already apply to large manufacturing operations but the air quality staff is recommending that all businesses use products that produce low levels of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), a contributor to Utah's smog-forming pollution.

In addition, the board will consider a new "solvent rule" that would require businesses that use 55 gallons or more of cleaning solvents a year to use low-VOC products or use solvent formulations that emit low levels of VOC's.

VOCs are commonly found in coating activities that when emitted into the air, combine with other chemicals that form small particulate pollution (PM_{2.5}) during the winter and ozone in the summer. DEQ has until December 2017 to submit a plan to the Environmental Protection Agency on emission-reduction strategies that bring the Wasatch Front, Tooele and Box Elder counties into compliance with the federal health standard for PM_{2.5} by 2019.

Industrial coating activities are commonly used by the following businesses:

- Graphic arts;
- Auto body refinishing;
- Wood and metal furniture manufacturing;
- Large appliance manufacturing;
- Flat wood panel manufacturing;
- Aerospace manufacturing and rework facilities; and
- Coating of miscellaneous metal parts and products, paper, film, foil, fabric, vinyl, magnet wire, metal containers, closures, coil and plastic parts.

"Many states have already enacted VOC-limitations on a wide-range of products to help address air quality. Less-polluting products are effective and available in the marketplace that will help improve Utah's air," said Bryce Bird, air quality director.

Public hearings would be held in July should the board decide to propose these rules.

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About DEQ

Established in 1991, the Utah Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) mission is to safeguard and improve Utah's air, land and water through balanced regulation. DEQ implements state and federal environmental laws and works with individuals, community groups and businesses to protect the quality of Utah's air, land and water. For more information, visit www.deq.utah.gov, follow DEQ on Facebook ([utahdeq](https://www.facebook.com/utahdeq)) and Twitter ([UtahDEQ](https://twitter.com/UtahDEQ)), or call 1-800-458-0145.