

Environment Information Sheet 4

Spray Painting on Airports

**All spray painting on any Sydney Metro Airport
must be carried out in a spray booth**

Why worry about spray painting?

A range of facilities and practices have arisen at airports in relation to spray painting – Not all comply with relevant legislative requirements. Chemicals associated with spray painting can be harmful to human health as well as damaging to the environment.

Background

Use and storage of chemicals such as paints, lacquers, solvents, varnishes and adhesives is the main source of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) emissions. VOCs which readily vaporise at room temperature are flammable, often smelly and can be harmful to human health. They also cause air pollution in the form of photochemical smog.

Poor spray painting practices and equipment maintenance can lead to pollution in the form of paint overspray and VOCs escaping into the environment.

What the law says

The NSW Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2001 stipulates that an employer must ensure that 'Spray painting is carried out in a spray booth' (Clause 177(a))

Even so 'an employer may carry out spray painting other than in a spray booth if the employer **proves** that compliance with that clause is not reasonably practicable' (Clause 178(1)). In this case the legislation specifies a number of **conditions that must be met** if spray painting is conducted (Refer the NSW OHS Regulations 2001 at www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/nsw/consol_reg/ohsr2001364/).

What does this mean on a Sydney Metro Airport?

All spray painting on airport must be carried out in a spray booth.

Where spray painting is conducted in other than a spray booth the operator must prove it is not reasonably practicable for the spray painting to be conducted in a spray booth and any such spray painting must be conducted in accordance with legislative requirements.

Spray painting booths should comply with;

AS/NZS 4114.1:2003, Spray painting booths, designated spray painting areas and paint mixing rooms – Design, construction and testing.

AS/NZS 4114.2:2003, Spray painting booths, designated spray painting areas and paint mixing rooms – Installation and maintenance.

Electrical apparatus and wiring located in and around a spray paint booth should comply with; AS/NZS 2381.1:2005, Electrical equipment for explosive gas atmospheres – Selection, installation and maintenance – General requirements.

Development approval

Development approval from SMA and Building Approval from the Airport Building Controller is required for all spray painting booths.

Things to know when operating a spray paint booth

Material Safety Data Sheets: Paints, solvents, varnishes, stains and adhesives are all classified Dangerous Goods. If you store or use any of these products at your premises you must hold an up to date MSDS for them (Refer Environmental Information Sheet 5 – Hazardous and Dangerous Goods). You must ensure that such products are stored, used and disposed appropriately.

Maintenance: Regularly inspect and maintain your filtration system, ventilation system, air intake and vent stack to make sure they are working efficiently. Keep records of inspections and maintenance procedures. Follow manufacturer's instructions for service and maintenance requirements. You must ensure that maintenance of equipment is conducted appropriately.

Training; Ensure that any person operating in a spray booth understands the risks and hazards associated with spray painting, know how to operate the spray paint booth properly, know how to read and use a MSDS and has been issued with and uses appropriate Personal Protective Equipment. You must ensure that staff use spray paint products and equipment appropriately.

Further Information

1. For information on the law relating to spray painting refer to the;
NSW Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000 and Regulations 2001
(www.austlii.edu.au/databases.html#nsw)
2. For information on the potential health effects of spray painting and guidance on managing your responsibilities in relation to the hazards associated with spray painting refer to the;
WorkCover NSW, Spray Painting Safety Guide 2001 (www.workcover.nsw.gov.au and enter 'spray booths' into the advanced search) and to
Comcare at http://www.comcare.gov.au/publications/fact_sheets/spray_painting
3. For information on the environmental effects of spray painting and how to effectively operate a spray paint booth to minimise such effects refer to the;
Environmental Action for Manufacturers of Furniture & Timber Products, Information Sheet 4, Air Emissions – Volatile Organic Compounds and Odours (www.environment.nsw.gov.au and go to Sustaining our Environment/Industry and Business Sectors/Furniture and Timber Products/Information sheet 4)

DISCLAIMER

The information provided in this sheet is of a general nature and may or may not apply or be appropriate to your particular circumstances. It is not legal advice nor is it a substitute for obtaining legal or other professional advice from a qualified person. It is the responsibility of every tenant and occupier of land on the Airport to comply with the Airports Act, all airport related Regulations, and all other laws relating to occupying land at the Airport and the conduct of a business on that land. To understand your obligations you should make your own inquiries and consult a professional or other qualified advisor regarding your particular circumstances and situation.