
British Coatings Federation (BCF) Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) Globe Scheme

January 2022

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1. Scope

The 'VOC Globe' scheme, originally devised by B&Q, is a voluntary scheme available to all manufacturers and suppliers (not just BCF members), and may be used to communicate VOC content for the following consumer products:

- paints and varnishes;
- primers, undercoats, sealers and stabilisers;
- timber treatments, wood stains and dyes;
- damp sealers, water sealers, roof sealers and stain blockers;
- patio sealers, paving block sealers and drive sealers (but not patio and path cleaners);
- algae and bacteria treatments for garden furniture, timber & greenhouses;
- waxes and polishes;
- wood oils and wood fillers;
- thinners, brush cleaners and paint strippers; and
- any of the above products delivered by aerosol.

2. Labelling (with notes on definitions)

The scheme encompasses the following 'VOC Globe' symbols and phrases, to be used on product packaging, labelling and literature. The guidance has been updated to **remove** the requirement of including the phrase '**VOC Content 0.X%-0.Y%**' on the globe. Therefore, the percentages stated below are only for guidance to help determine which globe should be selected for the product. Responsibility for using the correct label and statement rests with the manufacturer / supplier of the product – the BCF does not take any responsibility for incorrect use of these symbols or statements.



'TRACE' = VOC CONTENT <0.1%



'MINIMAL' = VOC CONTENT 0.1 - 0.29%



'LOW' = VOC CONTENT 0.30 – 7.99%



'MEDIUM' = VOC CONTENT 8 – 24.99%



'HIGH' = VOC CONTENT 25 – 50%



'VERY HIGH' = VOC CONTENT more than 50%

Note (i) When choosing the most appropriate VOC Globe for a particular product the total VOC content must be calculated. This should be calculated by establishing the weight of VOC in grams per litre of product in a ready to use condition and divide this by 10 and expressed as a percentage to cross reference against the above guidance and the most appropriate VOC Globe selected.

Note (ii) ‘Volatile organic compound (VOC)’ refers to any organic compound having an initial boiling point less than or equal to 250°C, measured at a standard pressure of 101.3 kPa.

Note (iii) ‘Organic compound’ means any compound containing at least the element carbon and one or more of hydrogen, oxygen, sulphur, phosphorus, silicon, nitrogen or a halogen, with the exception of carbon oxides and inorganic carbonates and bicarbonates.

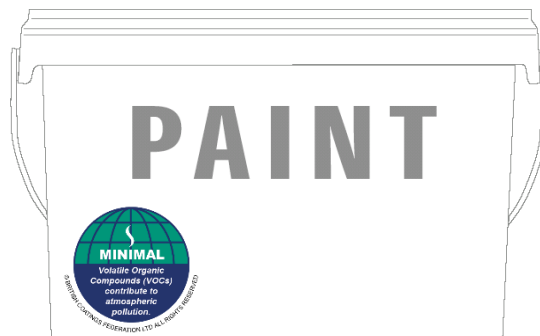
Note (iv) It should be noted that referring to the calculation as a percentage is not strictly mathematically correct, as it is expressing the grams VOC per litre of product and the density of the paint has not been taken into account within this calculation. However, as the scheme has been established following such an approach for many years it has been decided (by the BCF technical committee) to retain the % sign in the reporting and categorising of the paints without altering the calculation method.

Note (v) In addition to the ‘Globe’ symbol, all paint products which fall under the scope of the ‘Paint Directive on VOCs’, adopted into UK law as SI 2012- 1715, ‘The Volatile Organic Compounds in Paints, Varnishes and Vehicle Refinishing Products Regulations 2012’, must conform with all three labelling requirements contained in this UK regulation viz.

- (a) reference to the sub-category of the product and the relevant VOC limit values measured in grams per litre (g/l), as set out in Schedule 2 of the Regulations;
- (b) the maximum content of VOC in g/l of the product in a ready to use condition;
- (c) the maximum VOC content may be calculated, or for decorative paints < 15% content and without reactive diluents, measured in accordance with BS ISO 11890-2, as indicated in Schedule 3 of the regulations.

3. Label sizes according to pack type and size

In this section, the sizes of labels shown are the most appropriate size for the relevant containers.



Sizes for packaging

For use on 2.5 litre and above



36mm *



For use on 2.5 litre to 125 ml
containers



24mm *



For use on containers smaller than 125 ml



15 mm *



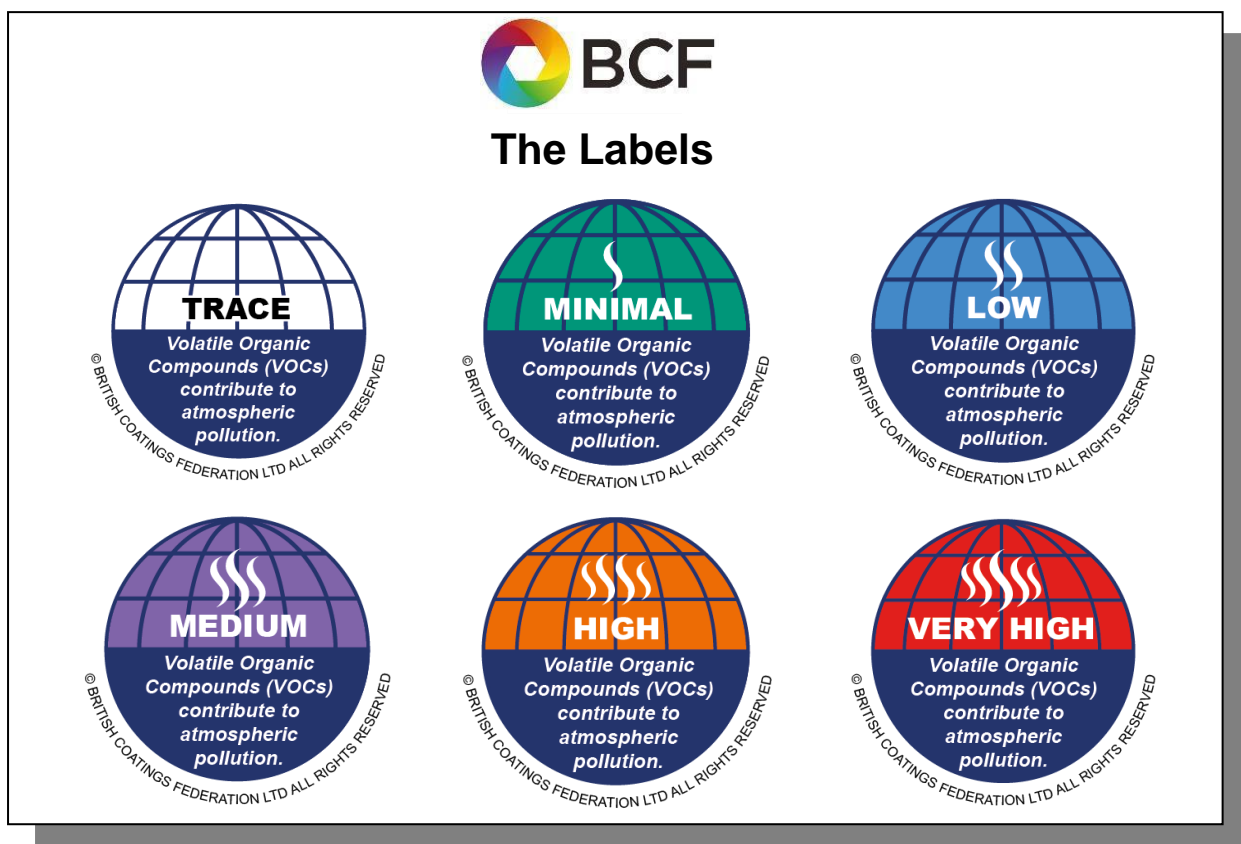
* Note the measurements are for the globe diameter, excluding the copyright statement.

4. Colour Card Text

The following text has been suggested for use on colour cards, which should hold customer educational information. This information can be adjusted to suit your own company’s practical style but should remain clear for consumers.

‘We wish to provide you with clear and accurate information about solvent levels, or to be more specific, the Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) in the paint products that you buy. VOCs are released into the atmosphere during application and drying of paints and contribute to atmospheric pollution.

To help you make an informed choice regarding the product to purchase, please look out for one of the following six labels to see the VOC content of the product’.

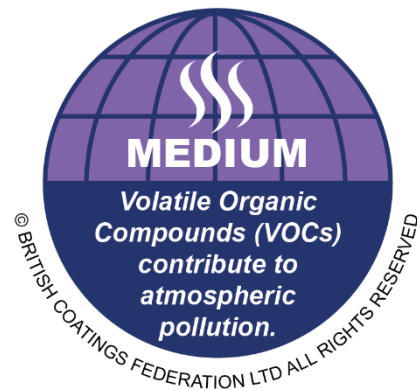
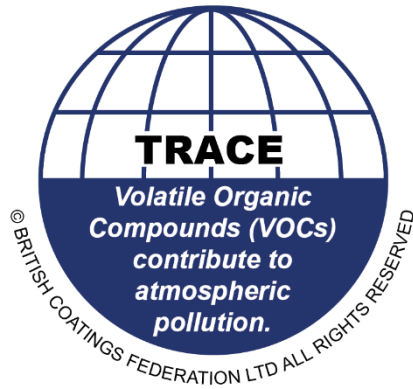


5. Full Globe label design detail and specification

This section indicates the correct label design for each category.

These labels must reflect the pantone colour (see 5 (iii) below) of the label design when incorporated into livery i.e. the label colour must not change irrespective of livery design. The background colour of the main globe (i.e. lower half and lines) may be changed to black’, however the pantone colours stated below can not be amended (see (ii) below). The label needs to include a reference to the copyright: © and with the words ‘British Coatings Federation Ltd All Rights Reserved’ to acknowledge the licensing agreement with the British Coatings Federation.

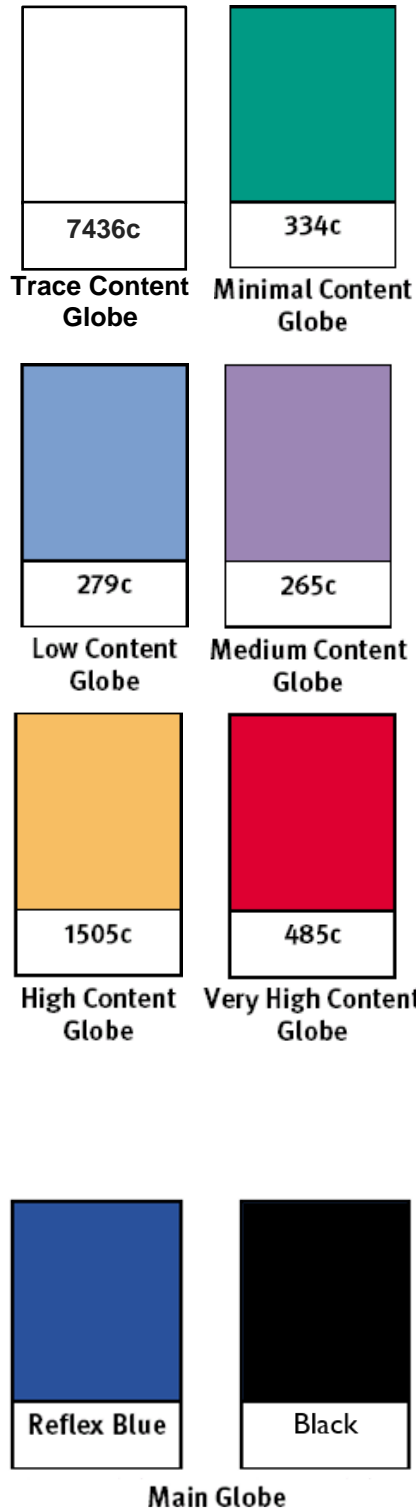
- i. The labels with copyright protection surround, to be used by all licensees, under agreement with the British Coatings Federation (copyright transferred from B&Q TO British Coatings Federation in September 2018).



ii. A choice of blue or black for background colours



iii. The correct pantone colours



iv. The typefaces

Arial Black

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

0123456789

Arial Bold Italic

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

0123456789

Arial Regular

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

0123456789

v. The artwork



TRACE

Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) contribute to atmospheric pollution.

MINIMAL

Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) contribute to atmospheric pollution.

LOW

Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) contribute to atmospheric pollution.

MEDIUM

Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) contribute to atmospheric pollution.

HIGH

Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) contribute to atmospheric pollution.

VERY HIGH

Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) contribute to atmospheric pollution.

6. License Agreement form

To apply for a license to use the VOC Globe, please e-mail a scanned signed copy of this page to the British Coatings Federation at info@bcf.co.uk, or contact us through our website www.coatings.org.uk.

LICENSE TO USE THE VOC GLOBE

This Licence is made on:

Day _____ Month _____ Year _____ between

(1) British Coatings Federation (BCF),
whose registered address is: **British Coatings Federation Ltd, Spectra House, Westwood Way, Westwood Business Park, Coventry, CV4 8HS**

(2) _____ (The
Licensee) whose registered address is

IT IS AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

- (a) British Coatings Federation is the owner of the VOC Globe scheme.
- (b) In consideration of the sum of (one) £1.00, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, BCF Ltd hereby licences the Licensee to use the VOC Globe Scheme for bona fide purposes of correctly applying such labels to their paint products in such a way as to assist consumers in choosing their purchase of products. Such licence will remain in operation of the life of the copyright.
- (C) The Licensee will advise BCF Ltd in writing within seven days if he becomes aware of any errors made in applying such labels (by himself or any other party) or any abuse of the use of the VOC Globe Scheme whatsoever.
- (D) The Licensee will indemnify BCF Ltd against all actions, claims, costs and liabilities of any nature arising out of or incidental to The Licensees use of the VOC Globe Scheme.
- (E) Permission to use the Labelling Scheme will only be given when BCF Ltd have received this signed and dated Licence Agreement.

Signature _____

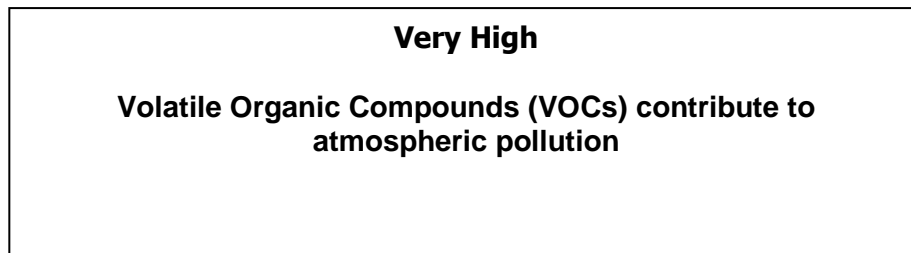
Name (please print) _____

Title _____

For & on behalf of _____

Annex: The ‘box’ option for informing consumers regarding VOC content

Example:



The dimensions of the box are not prescribed.