

CARB VOC Compliant Cleaner

Do you have replacement for the 99.953% pure anhydrous Isopropyl Alcohol (IPA) that complies with California Air Resource Board (CARB) VOC limit?

A quick recap on key points of the California VOC Limit:

Isopropyl Alcohol
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ General all-purpose cleaner.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Safe on plastics.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Extra effective with the use of M.G. Cat.#'s 852 and 853 Hog Hair cleaning brushes.
<p>Cat. No. 824-450G</p> 

1. Electronics cleaners are limited to 75% VOC content, whether in aerosol or liquid.
2. The non-VOC ingredients that are primarily available are water, acetone, HFC 134a aerosol propellant, and HFC 152a aerosol propellant.
3. Most aerosol cleaners in this industry that are currently on the market are ok, as long as they are clearly marked as being for electronics (as opposed to electrical cleaners or general purpose cleaners, which have lower VOC limits).
4. Most liquid cleaners currently on the market that are rated as safe on plastics are not ok. In some cases, formulas or packaging can be updated to comply; in other cases users will have to switch to aerosol.
5. The regulation only applies to products produced after January 1, 2007. Products produced before that may be sold up to Dec 31 2009, providing they have a valid batch code indicating the date (which should be in the format of YYDDD, where the first two digits indicate the year in which the product was produced, and the last three indicate the day of that year on which the product was produced).

Pure Isopropyl Alcohol (“IPA”) is 100% a VOC. This means that pure IPA packaged after January 1, 2007 will not comply with CARB VOC limits. Not being able to use pure IPA is a great concern for many in the electronics industry. IPA is a cost effective, plastic safe electronics cleaner. Cleaning electronics with IPA diluted with water can lead to corrosion, and IPA diluted with acetone can attack plastic components, therefore, many electronics warranties are void when using anything other than pure IPA in servicing. Also, IPA diluted with water cannot be used for cleaning fiber optics.

In order to allow customers to continue to service electronics and fiber optics without voiding warranties, MG Chemicals has introduced 99.9% pure IPA in aerosol form (cat. no. 824-450G), which is compliant with CARB VOC rules. The aerosol propellant evaporates instantly on application, allowing the user to apply 99.9% pure IPA directly onto their application. To clean fiber optics, simply spray the IPA onto a lint free cloth, and then wipe.

Users with applications where water is acceptable may use our 70/30 IPA / Water blend (cat. no. 8241-20L).

For a more complete overview of California VOC limit, refer to a previously written article from our MG Insider Newsletter, “The Impact of VOC Regulations”.

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