

**Submission of the Consumer Council to the
Subcommittee on Air Pollution Control (Volatile Organic Compounds)
(Amendment) Regulation 2009 of the Legislative Council
on “Air Pollution Control (Volatile Organic Compounds)
(Amendment) Regulation 2009”**

1. The Consumer Council (“CC”) is pleased to make the following submission on the Air Pollution Control (Volatile Organic Compounds) (Amendment) Regulation 2009 [“the Regulation”].
2. CC supports the government's policy objective of improving the environment and human health through reducing VOC emissions in Hong Kong. CC is however aware of news reports of grave concern of the industries, especially the vehicle refinishing industry, that the implementation of the Regulation would impact heavily on operating costs and that consumers might be limited in their choice of products available under the Regulation.
3. CC is of the view that it is of prime importance to increase public awareness of the benefits of using products in compliance with the Regulation in terms of improving indoor air quality (IAQ). The Council has encountered cases in which complainants complained about poor IAQ after renovation or refurbishment of their premises. Problem with poor IAQ might be alleviated if consumers are aware that greener alternatives are available and can be specified before renovation or refurbishment work starts.
4. More talks and seminars on the availability and correct application of these products should be organized for personnel in the related industries as well as members of the public to help boost demand for these products.
5. CC also believes that the government should take the lead in complying with the new VOC requirements in all its projects whenever possible in order to set an example and also demonstrate that compliant products are practicable.

Consumer Council
30 June 2009