

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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1<sup>st</sup> November 2006

## **International Paint & The Biocidal Products Directive (BPD)**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- The Biocidal Products Directive (BPD) is a new directive which will affect the sale of antifouling products in all EU countries
- BPD is a harmonised approach to the regulation of biocidal products across Europe
- The current range of International Paint will remain unaffected prior to BPD implementation
- **International Paint will continue to provide industry-leading, high performance products across the European market following BPD implementation.**

### **DETAILED INFORMATION**

The Biocidal Products Directive (BPD) is a new directive which will affect the sale of biocidal products on the market in all EU countries, which will include Antifouling Paints. This directive was implemented to allow a harmonised approach to the regulation of biocidal products across Europe and to ensure that those products do not represent an unacceptable risk to either man or the environment when in use. The directive requires that all antifouling and the biocides used in them are reviewed by government authorities before they are registered and allowed for use.

Although the Directive came into force in April 1998 its impact is only now beginning to be felt by the yacht paint industry, due to a phased approach to the assessment of the key biocides used. April 2006 was the deadline for the submission of extensive dossiers to enable the assessment of active ingredients which are commonly used in antifouling paints. The substantial cost (into the millions of euros) of BPD data requirements, required so that an active ingredient may be used in an antifouling, has meant that some manufacturers have decided not to support their active ingredients for use in this area. This then leads to a ban on their use post-BPD implementation.

The current range of International Paint will remain unaffected for the time being. For those active ingredients that were supported under the BPD a full environmental and human risk assessment will be conducted by the EU authorities that will determine which active ingredients are considered acceptable to use. This decision is anticipated to be made by the start of 2008 and, as International Paint uses only biocides for which extensive data is available and which have minimal impact on the environment, we do not expect any of the biocides we use to be banned. It is possible, however, that the use of certain biocides used in antifouling paints could be restricted once the review is complete.

The potential implications of the BPD for the antifouling paint industry are significant; depending on the approach taken by governments in their review and the severity of the risk assessments that are applied. Should the regulatory authorities take an over-conservative approach, the number of active ingredients available to a paint formulator will be dramatically restricted.

If regulatory authorities do not take a practical and pragmatic approach in their evaluations, the availability of efficacious, affordable antifouling products could be drastically reduced, with consumers seeing a significant reduction in the number of products available to them. This will affect all antifouling paints used in the pleasure craft industry, from the 'Do It Yourselfer' to professional applications made to superyachts.


International Paint is working hard to ensure that its current product range will be supported under the BPD. We have established close working relationships with our active ingredient suppliers to assist them in supplying the most realistic and relevant dossiers to the authorities for review to give the active ingredients we use the best chance of receiving a

fair and accurate assessment by the authorities. This collaborative work with our suppliers and a significant investment of Research and Development time and money on producing new products with novel biocide chemistries will ensure that **International Paint will continue to be able to provide an effective compliant product range which will meet the wide variety of requirements that our customers have.**

For further information call or visit our website [www.yachtpaint.com](http://www.yachtpaint.com)

#### Notes to the Editor:

International Paint, based in Felling, Newcastle upon Tyne provides the latest antifouling paints, epoxy resins and associated boat maintenance products for the refurbishment and new build of all pleasure boats. International Paint is a leading supplier of high performance Marine Coatings and is a part of Akzo Nobel, a market driven, technology-based company. Akzo Nobel, based in the Netherlands, serves customers throughout the world with healthcare products, coatings and chemicals. Consolidated sales for 2003 totalled EUR 13 billion. The Company currently employs approximately 64,500 people in more than 80 countries.

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