

Specification for

Solvent-based paint remover

Confirmed
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Committees responsible for this British Standard

The preparation of this British Standard was entrusted to Technical Committee STI/3, Paints media and related products, upon which the following bodies were represented:

- British Coatings Federation Ltd.
- European Resin Manufacturers' Association
- FOSFA International
- Ministry of Defence
- Oil and Colour Chemists' Association
- Seed Crushers' and Oil Processors' Association

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Foreword

This British Standard has been prepared by Technical Committee STI/3. It supersedes BS 3761:1986 which is withdrawn. This British Standard was first published in 1964 as a composition specification, which was subsequently revised in 1970. The latter edition reduced the number of grades specified in the 1964 edition to a general-purpose product of medium consistency, but the specification continued to rely on a composition requirement. Nevertheless, in the 1970 edition it was recognized that, to allow for product improvement, the specification had to be based on performance criteria, although at that time it had not proved practicable to define a suitable reference paint surface on which to carry out a test for paint-removing properties. This was overcome, and the 1986 edition included a test for assessing the paint-removing property. It also covered dichloromethane¹⁾-containing paint removers conforming to this standard. Although paint removers manufactured in accordance with this standard can be considered non-flammable in their general use, the Technical Committee responsible for this standard decided in 1986 that the term “non-flammable” should be deleted from the title of the standard. It was believed that the term could lead to laxity and abuse by users, particularly as there were no means of ensuring that containers of these paint removers were closed against loss of dichloromethane. Attention is drawn to the hazards associated with the chlorinated hydrocarbons in these paint removers, and to the precautions, including the need to avoid smoking and naked flames and the necessity for good ventilation that have to be taken during their use.

The water rinsability test was modified in 1986 and it is emphasized to users that, after application of paint removers conforming to this standard, it is essential to wash the surface thoroughly free from waxy and other residues. These residues comprise constituents of the paint remover, which will, if left on the surface, inhibit the drying of a subsequent paint coating. Solvents other than water may be used to wash the surface, but the hazards associated with these solvents have to be considered before their use in confined areas.

Paint removers conforming to this standard are not considered suitable for use on items where attack of metals, caused by reaction between the metal and the paint remover, is regarded as critical (e.g. metallic surfaces of aircraft and electronic equipment). Furthermore, a number of plastics surfaces may also be seriously affected by constituents of these paint removers.

After application to a painted surface, the paint remover is allowed to remain undisturbed until the paint film has become softened, swollen or blistered overall. It is subsequently removed, together with the affected paint film, by scraping, followed by washing with water or a suitable solvent, such as white spirit, or a solvent compatible with the coating system to be applied. More than one application of the paint remover may be necessary.

Certain types of coating, such as some stoving, cold-cured or polymeric materials, may not be readily acted upon by these paint removers. For the removal of such special coatings, or if the substrate is attacked by constituents of the paint removers, manufacturers should supply removers appropriate to the specific case, although these would not necessarily conform to this standard.

In the drafting of this British Standard it has been assumed that the tests described in this standard will be used by those who are appropriately qualified and experienced.

¹⁾ Dichloromethane is commonly known as methylene chloride.

WARNING NOTE. Paint removers conforming to this standard contain dichloromethane. Particular attention is drawn to the hazards associated with dichloromethane, which is classified as harmful by inhalation, by contact with the skin or if swallowed; it is also classified as a class 3 carcinogen with the possible risk of irreversible effects.

It is essential that products containing this material are packaged in accordance with current national regulations.

A British Standard does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users of British Standards are responsible for their correct application.

Compliance with a British Standard does not of itself confer immunity from legal obligations.

Summary of pages

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, pages i to iv, pages 1 to 10, an inside back cover and a back cover.

This standard has been updated (see copyright date) and may have had amendments incorporated. This will be indicated in the amendment table on the inside front cover.

