

**Environmental Protection (Metal Coating) regulations 2001**

The Environmental Protection (Metal Coating) Regulations 2001 commenced on 19 October 2001. The Regulations apply to metal coating premises on which metal products (excluding vehicles) are spray painted, powder coated or enamelled where the production or design capacity of those premises is equal to or exceeds 1,000 litres per year (paint or powder).

The Regulations create the following obligations on operators of metal coating premises:

- Spray painting booths must be used if possible;
- Where spray painting occurs in the open, paint over spray must not escape from the premises;
- All powder coating must be carried on in a powder coating booth;
- To ensure that no visible dust or powder escapes from the premises;
- Not to discharge liquid waste into the environment and ensure that such discharge does not occur; and
- Dispose of solid waste at a landfill site or licensed waste treatment facility.

The Regulations also prescribe standards for the design, construction, installation, maintenance and ventilation of spray painting and powder coating booths as well as standards for the construction of compounds in which to use or keep chemicals that can cause pollution. Failure to comply with the Regulations is an offence which may result in a maximum penalty of \$5 000.

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**Forests Management Plan**

A discussion paper outlining the development of a new Forest Management Plan (FMP) for south-west WA was released on 24 January 2002. The discussion paper has been released for comment until 25 March 2002 and is available from the Conservation Commission Website ([www.conservation.wa.gov.au](http://www.conservation.wa.gov.au)).

A draft FMP is to be provided to the EPA for assessment in December 2002 and is to be considered by the Minister for the Environment for approval in mid 2003. The proposed FMP will replace all existing FMPs.

**Weed Plan**

Agriculture WA has released a State Weed Plan which is aimed at guiding efforts in relation to reducing the impact of weeds in Western Australia. Copies of this plan are available from [www.agric.wa.gov.au/swp](http://www.agric.wa.gov.au/swp).