Claims

1. An aqueous liquid colorant composition having a volatile organic content up to 50g/l and suitable for colouring aqueous or solventborne architectural coatings and base paints comprising based on the total weight of the composition,

i) from 1 to 26% of non-volatile organic liquid having a vapour pressure up to 1.3 N/m^2 at 25°C and comprising a mixture of polyethylene glycol (PEG) and polypropylene glycol (PPG)
ii) from 2 to 13% of stabilising agent
iii) from 4 to 77% of colour pigment
iv) from 0 to 8% of rheology modifying clay
v) from 0 to 20% of extender

wherein the ratio of the combined weight of iii)+iv)+v) : the combined weight of i)+ii) is from 0.8 to 2.75:1 and
the combined weight of the non-volatile organic liquid i) and the stabilising agent ii) is no greater than 28% and
the combined weight of the rheology modifying clay iv) and the extender v) is at least 2% when the amount of colour pigment is less than 51 %.

2. A colorant composition according to claim 1 wherein the non-volatile organic liquid comprises from 4 to 25wt%, preferably from 4 to 19.5wt%.

3. A colorant composition according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the PEG has a molecular weight of at least 200 Daltons, preferably of from 200 to 800 Daltons, more preferably of 400 Daltons.

4. A colorant composition according to any one of the previous claims wherein the PPG has a molecular weight of from 300 to 1200 Daltons, preferably of from 400 to 1000 Daltons.

5. A colorant composition according to claim 4 wherein the PPG is selected from PPG400, PPG725 and PPG1000.

6. A colorant composition according to any one of the previous claims wherein the PEG: PPG ratio based on the total weight of the non-volatile organic liquid is from 8:2 to 2:8, preferably from 7:3 to 3:7.

7. A colorant composition according to any one of the previous claims and which is free of polymeric binder.

8. A colorant composition according to any one of the previous claims wherein the stabilising agent consists of surfactant and wherein the colorant is free of dispersant.

9. An architectural coating composition comprising or consisting of at least one colorant according to any one of the preceding claims and at least one base paint.

10. A tinting scheme comprising or consisting of at least one base paint and at least one colorant according to any one of claims 1 to 8.

11. A tinting machine for in-store tinting of base paint, comprising or consisting of at least one colorant according to any one of claims 1 to 8, in a container, the container being fitted or connected to an exit nozzle.

12. A tinting machine according to claim 11 wherein the exit nozzle is of the open nozzle type.

13. A tinting machine according to claim 11 or claim 12 wherein the colorant is packaged in a container having a volume of from 0.5 to 5 litres.

14. A tinting machine according to any one of claims 11 to 13 wherein the base paint is packaged in a container having a volume of from 0.5 to 25 litres.

15. A method for in-store production of architectural coating including the steps of dispensing at least one colorant selected from a tinting machine according to any one of claims 11 to 14 into a base paint.