



The Weekly Word

To: All Lithco Reps and Dealers
From: George Hammond (ghammond@lithcoinc.com)
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South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) Rule 1171 Revised

I can hear it now – “I don’t live or work in the affected area (Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside or San Bernardino Counties, CA). Why should I care?” Other than being a responsible inhabitant of the planet Earth, it is time that we realize that what happens in one area DOES affect other areas. These happenings can be naturally occurring or man-made. The Mt. St. Helens eruption affected weather patterns around the globe – naturally occurring. Acid rain caused by industry in the Midwest killed forest areas on the east coast – man-made. Don’t forget that most of the “bad air” areas of the U.S. take their lead from what happens in southern California. It may be the SCAQMD today, but rest assured that it will be in your city or state soon!

SCAQMD Rule 1171

Rule 1171 regulates all solvent cleaning activities within the district – everything from dry cleaning to printing. Its purpose is to reduce volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions into the atmosphere, thereby reducing air pollution and smog. Rule 1171 regulates the amount of VOC in any solvent cleaning activity.

Changes in Rule 1171

Rule 1171 was originally adopted in 1991 and over the years it has been amended, making the rule stricter on the amount of VOC permitted in a solvent cleaning operation. The rule changes that go into effect on January 1, 2008 are the strictest yet. Here is a brief synopsis; please refer to the actual rule for complete details.

- For clean up of rollers and blankets in lithographic ink application equipment using conventional inks, and the clean up of screen printing equipment, the VOC limit of 100 grams per liter (equivalent to 0.83 lb/gal) will be implemented on January 1, 2008 as currently required in Rule 1171.
- The implementation of the 100 gram per liter for the cleaning of ultraviolet and electron beam inks will be delayed by six months. This delay covers ink application equipment, metering rollers, dampening rollers and printing plates used in conjunction with UV/EB inks.
- Screen printers may continue to use solvents that comply with the current 500 gram per liter for an additional six months for on-press cleaning of screens. Clean-up solvents used for screen reclamation must comply with the 100 grams per liter limit beginning on January 1, 2008.
- If a solvent is intended to be diluted with water in order to comply with the limitations of the rule, dilution information must be provided in a technical data sheet, material safety data sheet or on the product label.

Dealers – How Rule 1171 now affects YOU!

A new provision to Rule 1171 was added to include solvent suppliers. A solvent supplier is defined in Rule 1171: “Solvent Supplier is any person who delivers or arranges to deliver solvent cleaning materials to a solvent cleaning operation subject to this regulation.” According to the rule, solvent suppliers must maintain records in an approved electronic format that include:

- The product name
- Name and address of the solvent cleaning operation
- Dates and quantities of the solvent supplied
- VOC of the product as supplied
- Maintain these records for three years

Do not despair

Varn Products has recently introduced a new line of washes that meets the 100 gram per liter limit. They are:

- MicroKleen 1101 for UV inks
- MicroKleen 1102 for all Sheet Fed presses
- MicroKleen 2101 for Heat Set Web applications
- A metering roller cleaner and a plate cleaner will be added in the near future

If you would like more information on these Varn products as well as other products available from Lithco that comply with the new regulations, send me an e-mail at ghammond@lithcoinc.com and put Rule 1171 in the subject line.

An important point to remember is that the new Rule 1171 compliant washes are not fast drying. They will need to be rinsed off with water and then rag-dried in most instances.