



Compliance Assistance ADVISORY

SUBJECT: Compliance Reminder for Graphic Arts Operations & Printing Plants

Advisory #09-05

October 2009

NEW VOC LIMITS FOR THE GRAPHIC ARTS INDUSTRY

On October 23, 2008, the Board of Directors of the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD) adopted amendments to SMAQMD Rule 450, *Graphic Arts Operations*, in an effort to reduce the emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOC) to the atmosphere. Rule 450 establishes emission limits and other operating requirements for printing operations. The purpose of this advisory is to inform owners and operators of important new requirements of this rule.

Effective October 23, 2009, clean up solvents used for the following purposes must contain less than 25 grams/liter of VOC:

- Cleaning of removable press components at lithographic and letter press printing operations
- Cleaning of application equipment at flexographic printing operations
- General solvent cleaning (includes maintenance, repair, and wipe cleaning) at all printing operations

In addition to the new VOC limits for clean up solvents, certain printing operations also may be subject to new VOC limits for fountain solutions effective October 23, 2009, including a prohibition of the use of fountain solutions containing alcohol in coldset web offset lithography.

Given that violations of air pollution regulations are subject to penalties, you are advised to contact the SMAQMD if you have any questions concerning these requirements. The complete text of Rule 450 and exemptions is available at the SMAQMD's website at www.airquality.org. You also may call the SMAQMD's *Compliance Assistance Hotline* at (916) 874-4884 for free, confidential assistance on any SMAQMD requirement.

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