Gecko® Tobacco

Solvent based printing inks for flexible packaging

Ink system for cigarette packaging

Description

A full range of highly pigmented nitrocellulose based printing inks designed for printing carton boxes, softpacks, bundle paper and inner-frames. Ink formulations meet the requirements of the tobacco industry. Ingredients are listed and evaluated according to the relevant regulations, e.g. BfR IX, 2002/72 EEC, Synoptic Document. Basic formulations are approved by leading cigarette manufacturers

Applications

Suitable for cigarette packaging printed on coated and un-coated paper and board.

Print Process

Surface print rotogravure and Flexographic

Properties

Ink adhesion	4-5	Rub resistance	4
Heat resistance	160 °C - 180 °C	Light fastness (BWS)	≥ 5

Rating scale (1 to 5 based on Gecko product range) 1 = worst value, 5 = best value
Note: All resistance properties are a guideline only
Printed ink films have low content of residual solvents, even with high ink coverage.

Substrates	paper	coated paper	metal paper	primed alu

Print viscosity

Diluents	**Flexographic**		**Gravure**	
	20-25 s DIN 4		15-20 s DIN 4	
Slow	N.Propanol/N.Propyl Acetate	9:1	N.Propanol/N.Propyl Acetate	3:1
Standard	Ethanol/Ethylacetat	9:1	Ethanol/Ethyl Acetate	3:1
Fast			Ethanol/Ethyl Acetate	1:1
Retarder	Ethoxypropanol		Ethoxy Propanol	

Auxiliaries

Metallics	a full range of Gecko® gold and silver inks is available
Additives	solvents/retarders see above
	For printing on films or Aluminium, appropriate additives or primers are available
Lacquers	for modification of surface properties a wide range of dispersion lacquers is available

Instructions for the use of printing inks for the production of primary food packaging

For information on the use of printing inks for the manufacture of food packaging please refer to the respective „**Statement of Composition**“. This information is provided to allow the calculation of possible levels of migration of evaluated substances in a worst case situation.

Migration tests at **huber**group laboratories with printed samples made from commercially available OPP film (film thickness 35 µ, printed weight 6 g/m², with ethanol as the food simulant) and paper (type: Uniset, printed weight 6 g/m², with Tenax® as the food simulant) showed no migration of substances above legal limits. Based on the results of these migration tests, we expect that the printed inks enable the final printed products to comply with the legal requirements for packaging for all kinds of foodstuff.

The manufacturer of the finished article and the filler have the legal responsibility to prove by appropriate migration testing that it is fit for its intended purpose.

In order to maintain low residual solvents concentration in the printed film, the printer must ensure sufficient drying of the inks, especially when retarders have been added. Residual solvent content must be regularly monitored.

The inks must not be used in the manufacture of packaging where the printed ink layer is intended to come into contact with foodstuff (direct food contact).

There are restrictions for the use of printing inks for applications where temperatures above 120 °C for extended periods of time are applied. For details, please see document “Food Packaging Inks for High Temperature Applications”.

Health & Safety

The material safety data sheets contain all relevant information for the generation of appropriate internal plant instructions. The user is responsible for all local legislation requirements.

Ink Handling

Please refer to General Guidelines for handling inks for flexible packaging.