



Waste water from printing houses

Printing inks and varnishes and the various additives and auxiliaries used with them are substances that pose a danger to ground water and water supplies. Every country has its own specific statutory requirements with respect to the discharging of such substances into the sewage system or their strictly monitored disposal by accredited companies specialised in the disposal of hazardous wastes.

The German version of this Technical Information sheet goes into this subject matter in some detail, citing the Federal German legislation relating to the standardisation of waste-water discharge practices by printing houses (Appendix 56 of the Law on Waste Water (Abwassergesetz, Anhang 56) that came into force on June 1, 2000). It describes criteria and limits (e.g. for the AOX value) relating to the discharge of fount solution and fount solution additives (e.g. biocides used to control microorganisms) and potential measures for ensuring these substances comply with the limits laid down for waste water constituents (e.g. UV radiation, filtration).

From the suppliers' point of view, the hubergroup recommends that used fount solution and/or fount system cleaning solution currently be disposed of as waste that is subject to regular monitoring – unless the printing house can come to some other arrangement with the local authorities.

Since the very nature of the offset process means that the fount solution employed is used up, fount solution and/or cleaning solution only arise(s) as waste water when the fount solution system is cleaned. 500 litres twice a year ... – this argument can be employed as a bargaining point when talking to the relevant authority.

If you would like more information in this regard, we recommend that you contact the environmental protection agency in your own country.