

RF-K Process Inks Correspond to New Reduced OEL Values



Alfred Brunner
Technical Director

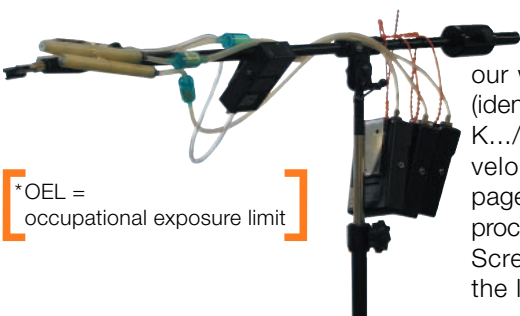


OEL* values for complex hydrocarbons have been changed. Thus the Professional Association Print & Paper wanted to carry out limit value measurements to determine if these limit values are met. We, Coates Screen Inks GmbH, offered to use our printing centre for these extensive and time-consuming measurements. 8 printing ink systems of different manufacturers were printed according to a pre-determined procedure. Printing and measurements were carried out from January 12th - 16th 2004.

The purpose of these measurements was to determine if solvent based screen printing ink systems correspond to the changed limit value requirements. Values have to be below a sum index of 1.



from right to left:
Mr. Dr. Cuno, Mr. Smolny and Mr. Büscher
(Professional Association Print and Paper)



*OEL =
occupational exposure limit

Ink types of Coates tested were our well-known process ink RF-K.../73 (identical chemical composition like RF-K.../75-03) as well as our newly developed process ink RF-K.../84 (see page 16). RF-K.../84 is a solvent based process system with a low odour. Coates Screen Inks offers an ink system with the lowest possible potential hazards.

Measurements were carried out directly at the machine and also personal measurement. The interesting results obtained are:

Ink Quality	Measurement at machine target value < 1,0	Personal measurement target value < 1,0
RF-K .../73	0,78	0,71
RF-K .../84	0,52	0,49




Definition of limit value:

The OEL value (maximum workplace concentration) is the highest concentration of a substance as gas, vapour or dust, which is admissible as content in the air around the workplace. According to present technical knowledge this concentration generally does not present a health hazard or present an inadequate nuisance to the employee even with repeated and long-term, usually 8-hours/day exposure with an average weekly working time of 40 hours (42 hours a week in four weeks for shift workers.)

Results of these measurements show that according to present estimates these ink systems present the lowest possible health hazard. If you use the mentioned process inks of Coates Screen Inks GmbH you can refer authorities like professional agencies to these results. Coates Screen Inks GmbH naturally will continue to do everything, that customers will only receive products corresponding to strict legal requirements.



Alfred Brunner

-  +49 911 64 22-241
-  +49 911 64 22-283
-  alfred.brunner@coates.com

