



Tilman Goerttler,
Environment, Health,
Product Safety

NEW IMPORT RESTRICTIONS FOR CHINA

CHINESE STANDARD GB 38507-2020:

What does it mean for us?

Ten years ago, when I was asked about safety data sheets of our products in Chinese, I could only smile mildly at the then exotic request. The times are long gone to be able to smile away Chinese requirements, since then the Chinese market, our Chinese customers and end-users of our printing inks and auxiliaries have become much too important.

From our point of view, environmental legislation, and regulations on hazardous materials in China have undergone a rapid development and, as a manufacturer of printing inks, we and our customers are constantly confronted with regulatory challenges.

The Chinese Standard “National Standard of the People’s Republic of China (GB 38507-2020) - Limits of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in printing ink, Issue date: 2020-03-04” was published in March 2020 and became effective on April 1st, 2021. Conformity of this standard is mandatory, so that it can be counted as a regulation by German values.

- **Scope:** The standard applies to printing inks. It does not apply to auxiliary agents such as thinners, retarders, hardeners, and cleaning agents.
- Contents of volatile organic compounds (VOC, „solvents“) are limited for certain printing ink categories.
- Packaging must be marked showing printing ink category and compliance with VOC threshold values („Packaging mark“).
- The use of certain solvents is prohibited (e.g. xylene).
Note: In Europe and many other regions, the use of xylene in printing inks is not limited.

XYLENE-FREE ALTERNATIVES FROM COATES SCREEN INKS GMBH

Some printing inks from Coates Screen Inks GmbH contain xylene as a formulation component, so that xylene-free alternatives have been developed for these inks (-XF). The quality of these xylene-free inks matches that of the original ink. Other existing ink types have always been xylene-free.

For an overview of the different ink categories according to Chinese standard GB 38507-2020, please refer to the following table:

Coates Screen Inks GmbH will always offer you a good solution for any printing ink problem you may have. Just ask us!

Conformity to Chinese Standard GB 38507-2020					
Product-description	Product category	Limit of VOC %	Xylene free	Compliance	Remarks
CX	Solvent-based Screen ink	≤ 75	YES	PASS	
HG					(1)
PO-XF					
PP-XF					
TP 218/GL					
TP 218/XF					
TP 247					
TP 253					(2)
TP 260					(3)
TP 273					
TP 300					
TP 305-XF					
TP 307					
TP 313					
TP 318					
TP 400					
TP E-HF					
TP/PP-XF					
TZ					(4)
Z-XF					
80UV	Energy curing Screen ink	≤ 5	YES	PASS	
SVC					
UV/GL					
UVX2					
O	Solvent-based Screen ink	≤ 75	NO	FAIL	
PO					
PP					
TP 218					
TP 303					
TP 305					
TP/PP					
Z					
B (Bronze)	Additive	n.a.	n.a.	Out of scope	
ZUSATZMITTEL A					
ZUSATZMITTEL B					
TP 219					
other additives					
TP/UV-P	Other ink	n.a.	n.a.		(5)

(1) HG 30/NT-NEU and HG/W50 are not compliant. Use HG 30/XF and HG/W50-XF instead

(2) TP 253 is compliant since production date 2020-10-01

(3) TP 260 is compliant since production date 2020-11-01

(4) TZ is compliant since production date 2020-10-01

(5) Hybrid ink

n.a. = not applicable