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Siegwerk India accelerates sustainable packaging with launch of AQUAGEN water-Based ink technology

New water-based ink technology cuts solvent content by over 90%, helping converters improve safety, compliance, and sustainability in flexible packaging production



New Delhi, November 12, 2026: Siegwerk, one of the world's leading global providers of printing inks and coatings for packaging applications and labels, has introduced **AQUAGEN** in India, a water-based printing ink technology developed for gravure reverse lamination on flexible packaging films. The technology reduces reliance on solvents while maintaining the print quality and performance required for demanding flexible packaging applications.

India's packaging industry faces challenges related to high temperatures, solvent handling, operator exposure, food safety, and environmental requirements. As converters and brand owners address these issues, water-based technologies offer a practical way to reduce solvent use in flexible packaging production.

AQUAGEN replaces conventional alcohol- and ester-based solvents with a predominantly water-based formulation, significantly reducing solvent content. Reduced solvent use helps lower pressroom fire risks, VOC emissions, operator exposure to solvents, and residual solvent levels in finished packaging—an important consideration for food-contact applications.

AQUAGEN delivers strong bond strength and print performance and is compatible with both solventless and solvent-based lamination adhesives. It is suitable for high-volume packaging applications, including staples, snacks, confectionery, detergents, and other consumer products. By reducing solvent consumption and residual solvent levels, the technology supports converters and brand owners seeking to improve workplace safety and address solvent-related requirements in their packaging supply chains.

Developed over several years of research, development, and commercial validation, AQUAGEN reflects Siegwerk's commitment to making water-based gravure printing a practical option for the flexible packaging industry. Achieving the required performance for full-color reverse lamination applications while remaining commercially competitive involved extensive collaboration between Siegwerk's technical teams, converters, and industry partners.

The technology has been successfully validated on commercial converter presses, and packaging produced using AQUAGEN is already available in the market. These commercial validations demonstrate that water-based gravure printing can achieve the quality, productivity, and performance standards expected by converters and brand owners.

Beyond the ink technology itself, Siegwerk supports converters throughout the transition from solvent-based to water-based printing with technical assistance covering prepress optimization, color management, ink management, process standardization, and pressroom operations. “At Siegwerk, we see water-based technology as a practical way to reduce solvent use and support safer

working conditions while maintaining the print quality and production performance converters require. AQUAGEN reflects years of work with converters and brand partners to make that transition practical and effective on the shop floor," said Ashish Pradhan, President Siegwerk Asia

With AQUAGEN now available in India, Siegwerk is working closely with converters and brand owners to accelerate the adoption of water-based printing technologies, beginning with applications and structures that have already demonstrated successful commercial performance.

Media contact



Nathalie Müller-Samson
Manager Corporate Communications

Tel: +491622002727
Email: nathalie.mueller-samson(at)siegwerk.com

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