New UV Flexo Series

SICURA Flex ORBIS is a new generation UV flexo ink series developed for pressure sensitive paper and film labels, unsupported films and shrink sleeve applications. This series is formulated for high color strength and low viscosity, which is intended to improve print performance at higher speeds. As a monochromatic base ink series, it provides a wider expanded color gamut that will increase productivity through fast and more accurate color matching. It also does not yellow, which has been a common problem for LED white.

OMNIRAD-369 Reclassification

OMNIRAD-369 is an efficient photoinitiator widely used to initiate the photopolymerization of polymers in UV inks. As recent researches have revealed, this substance can be hazardous to health and has been voluntarily banned in the printing industry, according to the EuPIA Exclusion Policy. Reformulation or product substitution is under way to phase out the ‘369’ photoinitiator in UV Flexographic, UV Offset and UV Screen formulations. Learn more by reading our Q&A.

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Center of Printing Excellence Expands Reach

Siegwerk CUSA’s Center for Printing Excellence (COPE), located in Des Moines, IA is a world class facility dedicated to ink product development, as well as, co-development with customers and suppliers on specific projects. The pilot press allows for accelerated trialing and commercialization of new products/technologies. Worldwide, the COPE has one of two Siegwerk pilot presses.

Siegwerk recently installed a GEW UV curing system on the DCM press. The UV curing unit features a simple cassette change over between a 450 W/inch mercury arc lamp (traditional UV curing) and a 25 W/cm water cooled LED array. Switching from mercury arc to LED takes less than one minute. To remove any excess heat, a chilled roller is mounted under the UV unit. This allows very thin substrates (0.5 mil, 12.7 microns) and very heat sensitive substrates to be printed and cured. The press is now capable of testing mercury cured UV (ultra-violet), LED and hybrid ink systems. The press has been a traditional solvent and water press, but is now capable of using UV inks with this addition.

By adding this feature to the COPE, Siegwerk has the ability to test printability, cure and properties of UV and LED inks on press in house prior to taking them to customer presses. It also gives the ability to troubleshoot inks that are at a customer location without taking them away from their production times. This is also a huge improvement from a testing inks on a lab scale, as it can be operated and printed in full production graphics.