



Statement on

Methylethylketone (MEK) in printing inks and worker's safety

MEK (2-butanone, CAS 78-93-3) is a solvent used by the ink industry worldwide for packaging gravure products such as coloured inks, primers and heat-seal varnishes. It is necessary for achieving the economical and technical performances required by the printing and packaging industry.

As with all solvents, MEK as well requires preventive measures in the printing shop to safeguard worker's health. Siegwerk delivers safety data sheets which are specific for the actual ink product. For all solvents including MEK, they give full information on the specific air concentration thresholds and protective equipment demanded by the local regulations.

Current industry practice shows also for MEK that these requirements can be met by state of the art equipment and in-process safety measures at the printers.

Under normal circumstances, avoidance of MEK or even elimination from printing ink formulations appears thus in no way justified.