



CANADIAN PRINTING INK MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION STATEMENT ON SCRAP INKS

Occasionally printing ink manufacturers must deal with customers requesting to return unused or contaminated printing inks to the supplier rather than dispose of the product themselves. Under the Ontario Ministry of Environment (MoE) Regulation 347 (last amended October 2009 by O. Reg 337/09), every business producing waste must be licensed with the MoE as a registered waste generator. For further information please visit the Ontario Ministry of Environment website at: <http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/envision/land/HWIN.htm>

Printing ink from the ink fountain is often contaminated with fountain solution, paper dust, reducing solvents or other press additives. The contamination affects the ink's physical properties, hue and consistency making it potentially unusable by the printer. At this point the unusable ink becomes a waste product that must be disposed of in a proper and legal manner. Such waste ink is technically a "liquid industrial waste" under the criteria of MoE Regulation 347 (amended). An MoE registered waste carrier must be contracted to transport this waste to a certified disposal facility. The removal and disposal must be well documented to the government to ensure that the waste is disposed of in a proper manner. This situation is even more complex with solvent-based liquid inks due to the toxicological and flammability properties of these inks. Ink companies are not registered waste-haulers and therefore cannot legally remove or receive waste for the printer.

However, if the printing ink is substandard or off-spec, the customer may return the product to the manufacturer for modification into a usable product.

Waste will always be a factor to deal with and control. It is in the best interest of all parties involved that the printer through good housekeeping practices and refined ink estimating calculations control the generation of waste. Printers should consult a registered waste carrier for classification and disposal of their waste. C.P.I.M.A. member companies are willing to provide sound advice to help printers reduce and control the waste generated during the course of using their products.

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C.P.I.M.A.