New classification for N-vinyl caprolactam (NVC)

Product labeling and raw material replacement

In January 2014, a classification and labeling change of N-vinyl caprolactam (NVC) has been advised by REACH. NVC is a key substance widely used by manufacturers of UV curing ink systems. The new labeling leads to significant changes in the classification of those products. Printcolor will implement these changes in coordination with the organizations and their members **by the 1st May 2014**.

Danger of serious damage to health

Prolonged exposure through inhalation of NVC causes the danger of serious damage to health. This is the result of long-term tests by raw material suppliers. Therefore, every printing ink which contains **more than 10 percent** of NVC must be marked with R48/23 ("Toxic: danger of serious damage to health by prolonged exposure through inhalation.") and a skull icon in the future. Formulations containing **less than 10 percent** of NVC will be classified with R48/20 ("Harmful: danger of serious damage to health by prolonged exposure through inhalation.") and the sign *Xn*.

NVC will be replaced in affected ink series

For health and safety reasons we strongly believe in the manufacturing of nonhazardous printing inks. NVC containing ink series are currently being reformulated under pressure by our experts. As no technical equivalent is available on the market at this time, the replacement may cause slightly different product characteristics.

Until the replacement process is finished, please strictly adhere to the safety phrases in our Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS). On our website and in our monthly newsletter we will continuously inform you on new developments regarding this issue. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

Overview of reclassification valid from 1 May 2014

Classification according to Directive 67/548/EWG & Directive 1999/45/EG

Formulation ratio: < 10 percent

R48/20 Harmful: danger of serious damage to health by prolonged exposure through inhalation.

Formulation ratio: > 10 percent

R48/23 Toxic: danger of serious damage to health by prolonged exposure through inhalation.

Classification according to GHS

Danger

H302 Harmful if swallowed.
H317 May cause an allergic skin reaction.
H319 Causes serious eye irritation.
H372 Causes damage to organs through prolonged or or repeated exposure.

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