

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

WATCHDOG

CLEANUP SOLVENT UPDATE

The clock continues to tick as we approach the deadline (December 31, 2007) that lithographic printers in the South Coast Air Quality Management District will not be able to use roller and blanket wash over 100 grams per liter.

Is this possible? It depends to whom you talk. SCAQMD believes it is possible for hand-wipe blanket wash, although it does admit that automatic roller and blanket wash systems present unique challenges for success. Moreover, there are some printers in the area who have successfully transitioned to low-VOC solvents on automatic systems through hard work or equipment modification.

While we have focused on trying to find an acceptable solvent, we have pointed out to the SCAQMD that a solution may also lie with changes in equipment and material—for example, a non-absorbent rubber for the rollers and blankets so as to eliminate the takeup and release of solvent by the rubber, which we believe would eliminate the problems experienced with washing rollers.

We'll continue our investigations. If you have had success, please let us know.

NEWSPRINT CERTIFICATION REMINDER

All newsprint consumers (e.g., California printers and publishers) must ensure that at least half of the newsprint they annually use is recycled-content newsprint (RCN).

Each year all newsprint consumers must

POST OSHA FORM 300A

OSHA requires that, between February 1 and April 30, 2007, employers post a summary of the total number of job-related injuries and illnesses that occurred last year. Employers are only required to post the Summary (OSHA Form 300A), not the OSHA 300 Log.

The summary must list the total numbers of job-related injuries and illnesses that occurred in 2006 and were logged on the OSHA 300 form. Employment information about annual average number of employees and total hours worked during the calendar year is also required. Companies with no recordable injuries or illnesses in 2006 must post the form with zeros on the total line. All establishment summaries must be certified by a company executive.

The form should be displayed in a common area wherever notices to employees are usually posted. A copy of the summary must be made available to employees who move between work sites, such as construction workers, and employees who do not report to any one location on a regular basis.

Employers with 10 or fewer employees are normally exempt from federal OSHA injury and illness recordkeeping and posting requirements.

You can download the forms from the Cal/OSHA website at www.piasc.org under the Human Resources icon.

certify by March 1 to the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) the amount of RCN their businesses used in the past year. In California, only newsprint that contains at least 40 percent post consumer material by weight is classified as RCN.

Analysis of the 2005 RCN certifications submitted by the consumers and manufacturers provides the following statistics:

- 64 percent of all the newsprint used in California was RCN. This represents a 3 percent decrease from 2004.
- 100 percent of the newsprint consumers submitted certification re-

ports on time, representing the highest compliance rate since the program began in 1991. Only 15 percent of the consumers requested exemptions; however, this is an increase of 3 percent over 2004.

- Total newsprint use decreased by 3 percent from 2004, from 1,574,009 to 1,528,816 metric tons.

Companies that don't submit the certification report or submit it late face the following penalties:

45- 90 days late	\$ 500.00
90 or more days late	\$1,000.00

For a copy of the certification packet, call Gerry Bonetto at 323-728-9500, Ext. 248.



Affiliated Associations:

Printing Industries of California

Printing Industries of Northern California www.pinc.org

Printing Industries Assn. of Southern California www.piasc.org

Printing Industries Assn. of San Diego, Inc. www.piasd.org

(323) 728-9500

(415) 495-8242

(323) 728-9500

(858) 571-6555

LAST NOTICE: REQUIRED POSTERS

PIC has available for members 2007 updated state and federal notices in a handsome, laminated three poster set for all your compliance requirements. It combines all state and federal notices (24" x 39"), industry specific wage orders #1, manufacturing, and #4, administrative (24" x 39"). We also have the unchanged but required Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (8½" x 11"), in case you don't have one.

The posters are attorney-approved and meet all your general state and federal posting requirements. The set is available to PIC members for the well-below market price of \$49.80, which includes shipping material, postage, and tax.

Some companies may be required to post additional notices depending on their operation, such as forklift safety, safe lifting, and lockout/tagout. We have those also.

The easiest way to order the posters is online at www.piasc.org under the icon Labor Law Posters, or by calling Genie Medrano at 323-728-9500, Ext. 211.

EMPLOYER SPONSOR TEMPORARY DISABILITY BILL

The California Coalition on Workers' Compensation (CCWC), of which PIC is a supporter, has introduced legislation to correct a flaw in the 2004 workers' compensation reform package.

The reform set temporary disability (TD) benefits payable to injured workers at 104 weeks. This is being interpreted to mean that an injured worker is only eligible for 104 weeks of TD benefits, beginning on the first day they are paid benefits. Thus, if an injured worker is paid one day of TD benefits their 104 weeks of eligibility for benefits continues to run even if they return to work. So, if that person returns to work for a whole two years after that one day of receiving benefits, they are not eligible to receive benefits even in the event that they have surgery.

The CCWC is sponsoring a bill to correct the problems with the TD cap. The bill

2007 CALIFORNIA SALES AND USE TAX

County Sales	Tax Rate	*Special Tax Rate
Alameda	8.75%	
Contra Costa	*8.25%	*8.75% in City of Richmond
El Dorado	*7.25%	*7.50% in City of Placerville, 7.75% in City of So. Lake Tahoe
Fresno	*7.975%	*8.275% in City of Clovis
Humboldt	*7.25%	*8.25% in City of Trinidad
Imperial	7.75%	
Inyo	7.75%	
Lake	*7.25%	*7.75% in Cities of Clearlake, Clear Lake Park & Lakeport
Los Angeles	*8.25%	*8.75% in City of Avalon (Catalina Island)
Marin	7.75%	
Mariposa	7.75%	
Mendocino	*7.25%	*7.75% in Cities of Fort Bragg, Point Arena, Ukiah & Willits
Merced	*7.25%	*7.75% in City of Los Banos
Monterey	*7.25%	*7.75% in City of Sand City
Napa	7.75%	
Nevada	*7.375%	*7.875% in Town of Truckee
Orange	*7.75%	*8.25% Laguna Beach
Riverside	7.75%	
Sacramento	7.75%	
San Benito	*7.25%	*8.00% in City of San Juan Batista
San Bernardino	*7.75%	*8.00% in City of Montclair
San Diego	*7.75%	*8.25% in City of El Cajon
San Francisco	8.50%	
San Joaquin	*7.75%	*8.00% in City of Stockton
San Mateo	8.25%	
Santa Barbara	7.75%	
Santa Clara	8.25%	
Santa Cruz	*8.00%	*8.25% in Cities of Capitola & Santa Cruz
Solano	7.375%	
Sonoma	*7.75%	*8.00% in Cities of Luther Burbank, Roseland, Santa Rosa & Sebastopol
Stanislaus	7.375%	
Tulare	*7.25%	*7.75% in City of Farmersville & 7.50% in City of Visalia
Tuolumne	*7.25%	*7.75% in City of Sonora
Yolo	*7.25%	*7.75 % in Cities of Broderick, Bryte, Davis, & West Sacramento
All Other Counties	7.25%	

would allow for 104 weeks of aggregate TD benefits within either three years of the first date of TD, or four years of the date of injury, whichever comes first.

HEALTH CARE

The California legislature is back in session. Most bills, however, won't be introduced until the two weeks before the introduction deadline, which is Friday, February 23.

It is clear, however, that one focus will be health care for the uninsured.

George Skelton, in the *L. A. Times*, outlines the Governor's State of the Union proposal as follows: The Governor pro-

poses "to sock doctors and hospitals with a new tax to help pay for universal healthcare in California. The docs would pay the state 2% of their receipts and the hospitals 4%, raising an estimated \$3.5 billion."

Moreover, "The governor is proposing that businesses with at least 10 employees offer health insurance or send Sacramento an amount equal to 4% of the payroll. That estimated \$1 billion would be dumped into a state pool and used to help buy the workers' coverage."

The Governor calls the 4% cost a "fee." However, you and I know what it really is; it's a "tax," pure and simple.