

RULEMAKING FACT SHEET
TITLE 5 MRSA § 8057-A

AGENCY: Department of Environmental Protection

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CHAPTER NAME AND RULE TITLE: Chapter 161 Lithographic and Letterpress
Printing

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Title 38 MRSA § 585-A

DATE AND PLACE OF PUBLIC HEARING: August 6, 2009
9:00 AM
Holiday Inn/Ground Round
Augusta, Maine

COMMENT DEADLINE: August 16, 2009 5:00 P.M.

PRINCIPAL REASON OR PURPOSE FOR PROPOSING THIS RULE:

Many inks, fountain and cleaning solutions used in graphic arts contain volatile organic compounds (VOC), which are precursors to ground-level ozone formation. This regulation restricts the VOC emissions from offset lithography and letterpress printing operations. Under Section 184 of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, the State must submit plans to control VOC emissions from all sources covered by a Control Technique Guideline (CTG) issued by US EPA.

This regulation is based on a CTG issued by US EPA on September, 2006 (published on October 5, 2006, 71 FR 58745) and provides emission control standards for reducing VOC emissions stemming from the use of fountain solutions, cleaning materials and inks. It requires all sources within this category to determine their emission levels and implement reasonable options for keeping such emissions at a minimum, in a cost effective way that includes: control technology approaches, VOC composite vapor pressure limits and standards for work practices. The rule provides a variety of approaches for managing VOC emissions and complying with the limits stipulated in the rule with flexibility for sources to implement the limits in the manner that is most suitable for their facility.

ANALYSIS AND EXPECTED OPERATION OF THE RULE:

As part of the regional effort to address the Federal 1997 8-hour NAAQS for ozone, the OTC commissioned a study (MACTEC Report February 2007) to quantify the emission reduction benefits from potential new controls, which they deemed to be reasonable. The Department's proposed amendments are based on the OTC control measure summary (which serves as guidance to OTC member states to use to develop rules), included in the MACTEC Report and RACT regulations in other northeast states. Maine is proposing to adopt emission limits that will minimize VOC content of fountain solutions and cleaning solutions for facilities that use more than 800 gallons or emit more than 3 tons per rolling calendar year. Facilities will make an initial determination of their facility emission levels and then adopt product substitution strategies through the use of low VOC chemicals and/or install control technology systems.

FISCAL IMPACT OF THE RULE:

Compliant fountain solutions and cleaning solutions are available at prices comparable to high alcohol/VOC content mixtures. Therefore, there should be negligible or no additional cost to purchasers of solutions who may currently purchase high VOC content mixtures.

BENEFITS OF THE RULE: Volatile organic compounds (VOC) contribute to ground-level ozone formation or smog which aggravates respiratory ailments such as asthma, bronchitis, and emphysema. The presence of ozone impedes the breathing of even healthy people. This amendment is intended to reduce the VOC emissions from paving and maintenance operations.