



Edwin Tafelmeier
Laboratory Manager

UV inks from Coates Screen Inks GmbH now free of TPO!

Diphenyl (2,4,6-trimethylbenzoyl) phosphine oxide, or in short better known as "TPO", has been used as effective photo initiator for curing UV inks for many years. As so many times during the recent years this substance was re-classified in the first quarter of 2024 and thus was then classified as reprotoxic Cat. 1B (H360, may damage fertility. May damage the unborn child).

We stopped using TPO in our inks

End of 2023, we stopped using the substance TPO in our ink formulations. All products produced since beginning of 2024 are free of TPO. TPO-free products can be easily identified by the label on the ink containers and date of manufacture.

Why did we exchange TPO even before the new classification became effective?

In the first place it is and has always been our top priority to protect printers using our products and our employees from potentially hazardous substances. In addition, the substance TPO was already added to the Candidate List of Substances of Very High Concern (SVHC) by the ECHA (European Chemicals Agency) in summer of 2023.

We always pay utmost attention that our products do not contain any SVHC substances, so we have completed the replacement of TPO as timely as possible. It is unusual that a substance is added to the Candidate List ECHA before reclassification and labelling modification have become effective.

We can do without TPO

The laboratory team of Coates Screen Inks GmbH had already started working on a possible substitution of TPO back in 2020. At that time, however, for a completely different reason.

Caused by the Corona lockdowns and the resulting disruptions in the supply chain, at times we were faced with a shortage of the raw material TPO. So, we made emergency plans in case we could not obtain this important material. Fortunately, we had planned well and foresightful so that even during the raw material crisis we were able to supply UV inks to our customers. During the past three years, we conducted extensive tests and refined our backup solutions for the substitution of TPO. There are no differences in processing conditions and properties of our UV inks.

This has been confirmed by numerous internal comparison tests and by evaluations carried out by selected customers who received TPO-free trial version at an early stage of the substitution project.

A big thank you to all our numerous partners. Your cooperation helps us and our customers to assure process reliability throughout the entire production chain, even in the most challenging times.

