Print Technology For Hazard Communication Labels

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Introduction

Today's regulatory compliance professionals are challenged not only to effectively communicate hazards but in many cases to coordinate with internal stakeholders and adhere to branding requirements. Since labels are affixed to each and every product package, Hazard communication labels are they key component to assist in this process. Print On-demand technologies offer effective, and effiecient methods to meet regulartory requirements and maintain brand recognition across all product lines. Outlined below are the most widely used technologies. Each contains challenges and advantages. A well-informed decision in print technology is of paramount importance when making a determinatino regarding hazard commuincatino labels. Today's technologies include: laser print technology, pigment-based inkjet technology, Memjet based inkjet technology, and thermal transfer printing. Each technology requires a unique label formulation for the technology used, along with desired label aesthetics and durability. Today's available technologies offer improved hazard communication, improved branding abilities, and low overall labeling costs.

Abstract

Which print technology is most effective for you? The dual goals of improved hazard communication and lower overall labeling costs are at the forefront of all SCHC members minds. Brandywine will highlight the advantages and challenges associated with available print technologies in the world of hazard communication. Technologies include: laser print technology, pigment based inkjet technology, Memjet based inkjet technology, and legacy print platforms still in use today. Highlighting the advantages and challenges of each will inform SCHC members of options available inclusive of cost considerations. As brand recognition has emerged as a priority for most organizations, it is imperative that regulatory compliance specialists are aware of all available technologies. Brandywine will provide recommendations to lower overall labeling costs, improve hazard communication, and improve brand recognition. Included in the analysis are options for labels from drums and totes, to small containers and sample labels. Brandywine will provide resources for regulatory compliance specialists to implement industry best-practices, while highlighting available print technologies.

Methods

- Laser Print Technology
- Pigment Based Inkjet Technology
- Memjet Based Inkjet Technology
- Thermal Transfer

Laser Print Technology

Meets BS5609 Sections 2 and 3
GHS Compliant Gloss Finish
Sheeted and Roll-to-Roll Configurations
High Speed
Commonly used for GHS Label printing

Thermal Transfer

Can Meet BS5609 Sections 2 and 3
often paper label substrate
Fan-folded and Roll-to-Roll Configurations
limited to two- color printing

Tips for Choosing Print Technology

- Determine durability requirments
- Review latest technologies
- Determine cost per print
- Ensure proper media configuration
- Review options side by side

Conclusions

The proper print technology can provide companies with a convenient and cost effective way to achieve the dual goals of communicating product hazards while simultaneously maintaining brand identity and leveraging the most up-to-date technology.

Pigment Based Inkjet Technology

Meets BS5609 Sections 2 and 3
GHS Compliant Matte Finish
Sheeted and Roll-to-Roll Configurations
High Speed
Lower overall cost than traditional laser printers

Memjet Based Inkjet Technology

Does NOT meet BS5609 requirements
Matte/Gloss finish options
Edge to edge printing
Roll-to-Roll Configurations
High Speed
Lower overall cost than traditional laser printers