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## Running a Print Shop? Know Your Ohio EPA Regulations

If you run a print shop, it's important for you to know the environmental regulations that may apply to your business. Many different types of printers are subject to Ohio EPA's regulations, including lithographic, flexographic and screen printers. Under Ohio EPA regulations, you may be required to get permits for air and wastewater discharges. You may also be required to notify Ohio EPA of your hazardous waste generator activities or complete other reports. Complying with some regulations, such as getting an air or wastewater permit for example, may take some time. So, the earlier you look into your responsibilities under the rules, the better.

**It's important that you know the regulations and comply with them because your company can face violations or penalties if you are found out of compliance.**

This fact sheet summarizes some of the major Ohio EPA requirements that could apply to your print shop. It will provide you with a starting point in identifying areas where your business might be subject to regulation. It may not cover every environmental requirement, though, and should not be used as your sole source of information on the regulations.

### Air Pollution Sources

You may be required to obtain air permits for your presses, depending on your operations and material usage. Potential sources of air pollution at print shops include materials that contain volatile organic compounds (VOCs) such as:

- inks (including some water-based inks);
- coatings;
- adhesives;
- fountain solution;
- clean-up chemicals.

Many printers need to get air permits. The required permits include a permit-to-install (PTI) and permit-to-operate (PTO) for each press. The permits will establish emission limits for VOCs and will also require record keeping and reporting of material usage or production rates.

There are, however, some exemptions from the air permitting requirements. For example, if you have or plan to install a non-heatset or sheet-fed press which emits less than three tons per year of VOCs, you may be exempt from air permitting requirements.

There are also other exemptions from permitting for small air pollution sources (called "de minimis sources"). These sources are exempt if they emit a very small amount of air pollutants. Some print activities may be de minimis. This usually depends on factors such as how much VOC containing material is used in the operation each day.

*Contact your local Ohio EPA district office, Division of Air Pollution Control or Small Business Assistance Program at (614) 644-4830 for more information on the de minimis exemption or air permitting requirements.*

### Managing Hazardous Wastes

Any company that generates a waste must determine if that waste is a hazardous waste. Wastes that are ignitable, corrosive, reactive or toxic are defined as characteristic hazardous wastes. In addition, there are specific lists of hazardous wastes in Ohio EPA's regulations. If you have a waste that possesses a characteristic or is on one of lists, then your waste is a hazardous waste. Many print shops generate hazardous wastes. Some of the common hazardous wastes generated include:

- waste inks and adhesives;
- spent process chemicals such as washes and alcohol;
- spent cleaning solvents;
- solvent contaminated wipers;
- spent film or plate processing chemicals;
- used fluorescent bulbs (containing mercury).

If your business generates hazardous waste, you are required to follow Ohio's hazardous waste regulations. These regulations include properly managing your hazardous waste on-site and keeping certain records. Hazardous waste must be sent to a permitted hazardous waste facility for treatment or disposal and CANNOT be disposed of in your trash dumpster. In addition, if your company generates more than 100 kilograms (or 220 pounds) of hazardous waste in a month, you must obtain a generator identification number from Ohio EPA. A permit is not required to generate hazardous waste.

*Contact your local Ohio EPA district office, Division of Hazardous Waste Management for more information on the hazardous waste requirements.*

## Water Pollution Control

### Sanitary Wastewater

Sanitary waste includes waste and wastewater from bathrooms, sinks, etc. Options for managing sanitary waste include discharging it to a public wastewater treatment plant (also called a POTW) or discharging it to an on-site sanitary waste treatment system.

If you need to construct a sanitary waste treatment system for your business (e.g., septic tank and leach field or an extended aeration wastewater treatment system), this activity requires a permit-to-install (PTI) from Ohio EPA. In addition, if there is a discharge from the treatment system to surface water, such as a stream, river or lake, this activity requires a discharge permit (an NPDES permit) from Ohio EPA.

### Industrial Wastewater

Many print shops generate industrial wastewater from film processing, plate processing, screen reclamation, equipment cleaning, floor washing and other sources. Different requirements apply to industrial wastewater depending upon if your print shop has a direct discharge or an indirect discharge.

### Direct Discharges

Any discharge of industrial wastewater, including cooling water, to “waters of the state” will require a discharge permit (an NPDES permit) from Ohio EPA. Examples of waters of the state include streams, rivers, lakes, ponds, marshes, watercourses, waterways and springs. Wastewater discharges entering a conveyance system (like a ditch or storm sewer) that leads to a waterway can also require an NPDES permit.

Direct dischargers are usually required to treat wastewater to remove harmful contaminants (e.g., chemicals, oils or grease) before it is discharged. If treatment is required, a permit-to-install (PTI) is needed to construct any wastewater treatment units.

### Indirect Discharges

If your business is connected to a public wastewater treatment plant (POTW), you may be able to discharge your industrial wastewater to the POTW. However, even large wastewater treatment plants are not generally designed to handle industrial wastes like chemicals, metals, oils, etc. They are designed to handle sewage-related wastes and wastewaters.

Before you discharge any industrial wastewater to your local POTW, you need to contact them directly for permission to do this. You may be required to obtain a permit before you can discharge your wastewater to the POTW. You may also be required to conduct “pretreatment” to remove contaminants (e.g., metals, oil, solids or chemicals) before discharging your wastewater. If you are required to install wastewater treatment or storage units, this activity requires a permit-to-install (PTI) from Ohio EPA.

#### \*\* IMPORTANT NOTE \*\*

**Ohio EPA's regulations DO NOT allow for the discharge of industrial wastewaters into on-site treatment systems, like septic tanks. Know where your floor drains go. Don't let industrial wastewater go to a septic system. You also cannot discharge any wastewater directly onto the ground. Contact your local Ohio EPA district office, Division of Surface Water for more information on the wastewater discharge and permitting requirements.**

## Keeping Chemicals On-Site

### Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know (EPCRA)

If your company has chemicals on-site, you may be required to complete reports under the EPCRA regulations. The EPCRA reporting requirements apply to a company that has more than:

- 10,000 pounds of a *hazardous chemical* or;
- more than the reportable quantity of an *extremely hazardous substance* on-site.

A *hazardous chemical* is any chemical required to have a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) under OSHA. Almost all chemicals fall in this category. An *extremely hazardous substance* is any of 360 chemicals on a specific list in EPA's regulations.

A print shop will not usually have chemicals on-site that would be classified as extremely hazardous substances. However, inks, solvents or other chemicals you have on-site would likely be classified as hazardous chemicals. If you have a total of over 10,000 pounds of any of these chemicals on-site at any time, the EPCRA reporting requirements would apply to your business.

Contact Ohio EPA, Right-to-Know Office at (888) 644-2260 for more information on the EPCRA reporting requirements.

### Drinking Water Requirements

If your business has its own well that supplies water for drinking, cooking, washing hands, washing dishes or bathing, it may meet Ohio EPA's definition of a public water system. A public water system is one that has at least 15 service connections or regularly provides water to 25 or more people for 60 or more days a year.

Under these regulations, if a company wants to install a new well or make changes to an existing well system, plans for these activities must be sent to Ohio EPA for review. In addition, well systems must be tested periodically and test results reported to Ohio EPA.

*Contact your local Ohio EPA district office, Division of Drinking and Ground Waters for more information on well system requirements.*

### Pollution Prevention

You can likely save money and reduce your regulatory burdens if you find ways of preventing pollution. This can include recycling or reducing waste streams and emissions. Pollution prevention options for print shops can include:

- using non-VOC or low VOC fountain solution;
- using non-hazardous solvents and cleaning materials;
- using inks, coatings and adhesives with low VOCs;
- using good housekeeping practices to minimize spills and leaks;
- recycling materials when possible.

*Contact Ohio EPA's Office of Pollution Prevention at (614) 644-3469 for more information on pollution prevention opportunities for your business.*

### Additional Information

This information sheet is a starting point to help you understand and comply with the environmental regulations. If you have questions about forms, permits, registrations or need more information about your potential responsibilities, please contact Ohio EPA's Small Business Assistance Office at (800) 329-7518 or (614) 728-8573 for FREE and CONFIDENTIAL help. You can also contact your local Ohio EPA district office for assistance. See map for the district office which covers the county where your business is located.

