

Proposal to include Printing Works as Listed Activity in terms of the National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act 39/2004

On the 24 July 2009 the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) published a proposed list of activities and their associated minimum emission standards in a draft schedule. (Government Gazette 32434 – Notice 1001). This is in terms of Section 21 of the Act.

Members of the public are invited to submit written representations and/or objections within 30 days of publication of the notice in the gazette.

Printing Works have been included under Part 3 Minimum Emission Standards, Section 13 Category 6 Organic Chemicals Industry, Sub-Category 6.2 (Page 26 of the Gazette)

Subcategory 6.2: Printing Works

Description:		Processes in which publication rotogravure, product and packaging rotogravure, wide web flexographic printing presses or any other printing methods are operated.	
Application:		Installations with solvent consumption equal to or more than 25 tons per annum	
Substance or mixture of substances		Plant status	mg/m ³ under normal conditions of 6% O ₂ , 273 Kelvin and 101.3 kPa.
Common name	Chemical symbol		
Total Volatile Organic Compounds		New	75
		Existing	90

The Printing Industries Federation of South Africa have offered their services to facilitate and co-ordinate responses from the industry. Letters advising printers of the minimum standards for installations with a solvent consumption of more than 25 tons per annum were sent out on the 24 July 2009.

All comments and replies will be used to prepare an industry response to the schedule.

DEA have given existing plants a five year time period to comply with the emission thresholds for existing plants shown above. However existing plants must comply with the standards for new plants within eight years from the date that the final schedule is published. New plants must comply with the emission standard on the date of publication.

The schedule also contains sections on emission measurement, postponement of compliance time frames, compliance monitoring, reporting requirements, upset conditions, start-ups and shut-downs, as well as a separate schedule for methods for sampling and analysis

The Draft Schedule for comment can be downloaded from the documents section, Notices, July 2009 on <http://www.gov.za/>,