



Mutoh printer printing Indoor Air Comfort Certificates.

UNIQUE CERTIFIED SOLUTION FOR INTERIOR DECO PRINTS

Mutoh & Grafityp acquire Indoor Air Comfort Certificate

By Ton Rombout

Wide format digital printer manufacturer Mutoh and wide format media manufacturer Grafityp recently announced that they have acquired an Indoor Air Comfort Certificate (IAC) for Grafityp Ecological non-PVC self-adhesive film (GEF-ES) printed with Mutoh Universal Mild Solvent (UMS) inks.

The Indoor Air Comfort product certificate is issued by Eurofins (see box), an independent testing body and global market leader for Volatile Organic Chemical (VOC) product emission testing. It guarantees full compliance with all regulations on VOC emissions into indoor air, applicable in any EU Member state. It is the first pan-European low emission certificate for digitally printed self-adhesive films meeting the most stringent EU requirements for indoor air comfort.

Mutoh & Grafityp working together

Grafityp & Mutoh recently initiated a unique collaboration in developing and choosing a media and ink selection compliant with low VOC emission criteria for all relevant European legal specifications for ink and media issued by authorities in the EU, including European REACH legislation, European directives and laws, and national registrations and laws. Currently included criteria are the

Belgian, French (A class), German (AgBB =Ausschuss zur gesundheitlichen Bewertung von Bauprodukten) and imminent Lithuanian regulations and the E1 classification. The combination is recommended for the production of interior decoration and/or decoration of large objects for interior use such as furniture (formaldehyde content does not exceed 8mg/100g.).

Pan-European effort

Indoor Air Comfort is a pan-European effort, as many industries operate at an international level and want to adopt an internationally accepted standard. The main objective is to have a lever in order to align sales efforts with purchasing processes. The problem is that regulation, and most low VOC labels, apply at a national level, which means that similar properties – low VOC emissions – have to be substantiated in various ways. Fortunately, the similarities in testing methods make it possible to combine them into one test set-up, although the limit values remain different. That is why Eurofins tests

start on the basis of the worst case scenario in order to eventually deliver a single Indoor Air Comfort label for the whole of Europe. “Several EU member states require documentation of VOC product emissions. CE marking of construction products and wall coverings, including



Logo Indoor Air Comfort.

digitally printed self-adhesive non-PVC film, is expected to follow soon,” stated Reinhard Oppl, Head of Eurofins’ Certification body. “Our Indoor Air Comfort certification programme aims to provide a single label for the whole of Europe. Tests are based on ISO 16000 standards and are performed in accordance with the harmonized CEN/TS 16516 horizontal testing method for VOC emissions,” Oppl continued.

Unique certified solution for interior deco prints

Graftyp and Mutoh initiated their collaboration in order to obtain Eurofins Indoor Air Comfort certification, as new European laws will be introduced for the use of materials inside living and office environments. Moreover, further certification is required for government tenders and eco-friendly buildings (e.g. BREEAM and LEAD building codes). This unique joint project to get the printed end result certified led to the acquisition of an Indoor Air Comfort Certificate for Graftyp GEF-ES ecological film combined with Mutoh’s Universal Mild Solvent Ink: it is currently the only pan European certificate for interior deco prints. It enables end-users to offer a Certified Printed solution. Certification required test chamber testing of the printed film with maximum ink coverage, measurement of some 200 VOCs after 3 and 28 days, and an in-depth third party audit of the production sites.

Mutoh inks and printers

“This product certificate demonstrates Mutoh’s commitment to supplying digital printers and inks that deliver safe application and environmental responsibility,” said Stephan Heintjens, Mutoh Belgium’s Product

Development Manager. “Our UMS inks have been specifically formulated to offer a unique and innovative blend of high quality durable colour pigments, a new mix of resins and, last but not least, a new combination of milder, non-aggressive solvents”. Heintjens continued: “This IAC certificate will offer ValueJet series printer owners and print buyers complete peace of mind with respect to long term consumer protection after installation of the final digitally printed products, and full compliance with green building programmes and ecological regulations for indoor air quality. UMS inks provide up to three years outdoor UV resistance without lamination. They offer an unrivalled colour gamut and unique gloss preservation. The CMYK ink set covers 83 % of the Pantone C® colour chart. The inks are fixed and dried at temperatures below 50°C and are suitable for both high quality and high speed printing.”

Graftyp media

“Here at Graftyp, we are delighted with this significant environmental acknowledgement,” explained Harald Jumelet, Graftyp’s Sales & Marketing Manager. “This pan-European IAC product certificate ensures that wide format prints produced on our Graftyp Ecological Film with Mutoh UMS inks will enhance the comfort and well-being of building occupants. Building owners, brand owners, planners, indoor decorators and architects will be able to select low polluting products and achieve good Indoor Air Quality”. GEF-ES, the latest development within Graftyp’s COLIBRI range, is an environmentally friendly PVC free film with a thickness of 135 microns. It comes with a high quality print coating, which has been specifically developed for solvent (eco-mild-hard) inks.

With this new eco film Graftyp meets the ever increasing demand for alternative, environmentally friendly solutions. Combined with COLIBRI laminates, the film offers a unique environmentally friendly solution for all kinds of large format printing applications.

Indoor Air Comfort versus Greenguard

‘Green’ certificates usually only apply to part of the combination of ink and substrates. There are now two standards for printed self-adhesive films: Indoor Air Comfort and Greenguard Gold both target long term consumer protection after installation of the final (printed) product. But Greenguard for printing inks only targets inks during the printing process, whilst Indoor Air Comfort also takes media in account. Furthermore, Greenguard Gold uses limit values set in the USA whereas Indoor Air Comfort combines the limit values used in Belgium, France, Germany and Lithuania. Indoor Air Comfort is consequently better for use in Europe as it guarantees compliance with legal requirements in European countries.

More info:

www.mutoh.eu

www.graftyp.com/gef-serieUK.html

www.eurofins.com/iac-certified

About Eurofins

With more than 17,000 staff and approximately 200 laboratories across 36 countries, Eurofins Scientific is the world leader in food and BioPharma product testing and in several other fields. The Danish branch, Eurofins Product Testing A/S, is the world leader in VOC testing and runs the ‘Indoor Air Comfort’ certification programme for products with low VOC emissions into indoor air.

Why Eurofins certification is important:

- Recognition by numerous labels in many different countries.
- Independent product testing with high quality and targeted consulting.
- Eurofins certification promotes public confidence in low emission statements.
- Eurofins certification makes life easier by combining specifications from different countries and different labels into one certificate.
- Eurofins is a global partner for independent testing, documentation and certification.



Result: cooperation Graftyp – Mutoh.