

Case study: Alpha Anodising

Alpha Anodising improves safety and eliminates spillages with the SAFE-TAINER™ system

Benefits

- No spillages during transfer
- No exposure during transfer
- Compliant
- Less solvent consumption
- No transfer losses
- Extended solvent life



Solvent: Trichloroethylene (NEU-TRI™ E)

Equipment: SAFE-TAINER system

Application: Open top degreasing systems

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Mark Lavis, Managing Director, SIS Chemicals

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Customer requirements

Alpha Anodising is one of the UK's market leaders in the field of quality metal finishing, offering a range of mechanical and chemical finishes for aluminium alloys. The company uses an open top degreasing system to clean engineering components at its finishing plant in Marlow, Buckinghamshire. The objective was to upgrade the system to improve safety and avoid spills during solvent transfer. It was also important to keep solvent consumption below 1 MT per annum to ensure compliancy with the Solvent Emissions Regulations.

What we did

In view of Alpha's low solvent consumption, SIS Chemicals recommended a SAFE-TAINER™ closed-loop system to ensure compliancy by exemption, thus allowing the continued use of Trichloroethylene at relatively low cost. This system ensures the safe and sustainable use of chlorinated solvents by fulfilling all legislative requirements regulating the use of these solvents.

The results

The SAFE-TAINER system was installed in February 2006. The steel shells and leak-free, dry-break couplings have eliminated the risk of spillages during solvent transfer. Solvent consumption has been reduced and remains below 1 MT pa, and the entire degreasing process has been made safer. Mark Lavis, SIS Chemicals' Managing Director, said: "We recommended the SAFE-TAINER system to enable compliance by exemption at very low cost, while allowing continued use of Trichloroethylene. The system is also entirely suitable for use with other chlorinated solvents."

SIS Chemicals will consult Alpha Anodising to comply with the requirements of the Voluntary Industry Commitment for the sustainable use of Trichloroethylene.

The SAFE-TAINER™ system

The SAFE-TAINER system consists of two separate, specially designed containers - one for fresh and one for used solvent. Each container is delivered with a standard drum inside. The steel container protects the drum, preventing damage or spills. A special base construction allows easy transport with a forklift truck or pallet lifter. Both containers can be locked.

Special leak-free, dry-break couplings prevent spills and vapour emissions during solvent transfer to the cleaning machine. When transferring used solvent from the cleaning machine to the SAFE-TAINER system, a dry-break coupling adapter and a vapour return connection prevent emissions.

SIS Chemicals Ltd:

SIS Chemicals is one of the UK's leading suppliers of industrial degreasing solvents and safe handling systems. We supply an extensive range of high performance chlorinated, fluorinated and non-chlorinated solvents, as well as general industrial chemicals, including inorganic mineral acids.

We provide expert advice on compliance with solvent legislation, including the Solvent Emissions Regulations 2004 (commonly known as SED). Our customers come from the aerospace, automotive, electronic, metal finishing and general engineering industries and include Airbus, Rolls Royce and GKN Westland Helicopters.

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