

Case study: Meggitt Avionics

Meggitt Avionics reduces solvent consumption and stays compliant with the SAFE-TAINER™ systems

Benefits

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



Solvent: Methylene Chloride

Equipment: SAFE-TAINER systems

Application: Open top degreasing systems

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Customer requirements

Meggitt Avionics, of Fareham, Hampshire, specialises in the design and manufacture of aircraft avionics and systems. The company required improvements to two open top degreasing systems used to clean cockpit instrumentation components. The main objective was to reduce consumption of Stabilised Methylene Chloride while ensuring solvent emissions remain below the 1 ton pa threshold of the Solvent Emissions Regulations 2004.

What we did

SIS Chemicals conducted a detailed review of Meggitt Avionics' system and requirements. An alternative, fluorinated solvent was considered but this was ruled out due to the high costs of the solvent and associated equipment.

Instead, SIS recommended two SAFE-TAINER™ closed-loop solvent delivery systems for fresh solvent with the option of adding a SAFE-TAINER system for waste solvent in future. The SAFE-TAINER system ensures the safe and sustainable use of chlorinated solvents and significantly reduces wastage and fugitive VOC emissions.

The results

The SAFE-TAINER systems were installed in September and October 2006. Each system has reduced solvent consumption and improved solvent transfer and storage. Kerrill Grealy, Environmental Technician, Meggitt Avionics, said: "It's fantastic. We have seen a reduction in consumption of Methylene Chloride and it is easier and safer for the operators to decant. Previously, operators pumped or man handled Methylene Chloride into the degreasers. The SAFE-TAINER systems have improved transport as well as storage." Other benefits include extended life of the solvent and compliancy with DEFRA's Groundwater Protection Code. Meggitt Avionics plans to install a SAFE-TAINER system for waste solvent in the near future.

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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