



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
BUREAU OF MATERIALS MANAGEMENT & COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE
WATER PERMITTING AND ENFORCEMENT DIVISION
860-424-3018**

Environmental Permitting Fact Sheet

2008 Modifications to the General Permit for the Discharge of Minor Printing and Publishing Wastewater

Reissued February 15, 2008; Expiring February 15, 2018

The *General Permit for the Discharge of Minor Printing and Publishing Wastewater* (Printing and Publishing general permit) authorizes the discharge to sanitary sewer of “minor printing and publishing wastewater” which is “wastewater generated by letterpress, flexography, screen, digital and/or lithography printing, including but not limited to: photo processing; CTP processing; nonmetallic plate making; and printing operations with water-based and non-water based inks, water-based coatings, and adhesives; but does not include wastewater generated by gravure cylinder preparation, metallic plate making, gravure printing, chromate bleach or dichromate based etch solutions, or solutions containing cyanide.”

Discharges under this general permit are only allowed to sanitary sewer and not to surface water or ground water. As with other general permits, it provides an alternative to an individual wastewater discharge permit for a common industrial discharge. The *General Permit for the Discharge of Minor Printing and Publishing Wastewater* was first issued May 24, 1995.

Reissuance of this general permit was necessary because the current general permit expired May 24, 2005. Modifications to the general permit have been made to bring its requirements up to date with technical changes in the printing and publishing industry. Movement to digital printing technology has decreased the volume of wastewater generated but changed its characteristics.

Summary of Modifications to the Printing and Publishing General Permit

- With the increased use of “computer-to-plate” (CTP) and “direct –to-plate” publishing technology since the original issuance of the permit, definitions for these processes and the ensuing wastewater from these processes were added to the general permit. Accordingly, many references to CTP as well as some specific requirements were added to the general permit, especially to “Section 5. Conditions of this General Permit.”
- The daily allowable discharge of photo processing and CTP wastewater under the permit was reduced from 25,000 gallons per day (gpd) to 5,000 gpd. Connecticut has a small number of large photo processing dischargers above 5,000 gpd, and these dischargers have individual pretreatment permits.
- New registrants (those not previously registered under the Printing and Publishing general permit that expired May 24, 2005) must receive written approval from the Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW, also known as a sewage treatment plant) the facility will be discharging to before their registration can be approved.

- At Section 4(a)(3) language was added requiring new owners or operators of a site previously registered under the Printing and Publishing general permit to “file a renewal registration on or before 30 days before the closing date of the site or business ownership transfer.”
- At Section 4(c)(1)(A) fees were reduced for small dischargers (max daily discharge of less than 40 gallons per day) from \$500 to \$100 (good until 2018).
- At Section 5(a)(10) language was added as requested by the Waste Engineering and Enforcement Division referring the permittee to the Connecticut Hazardous Waste Management Regulations for precious metals recovery.
- The limit for total VOCs in Table I at Section 5(b)(3)(A) changed from 1.5 mg/l to 5.0 mg/l, and individual VOC parameters were eliminated, consistent with our General Permit for Miscellaneous Discharges of Sewer Compatible Wastewater (MISC) and the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority limits.
- At Section 5(a)(3)(B) language was added stating, “If metallic replacement cartridges are used for silver recovery, at least two must be used in series preceded by a metering device to allow for adequate dwell time. If the silver recovery system is used in a closed-loop system and batch dumped, only one is required.”
- At Section 5(b)(1) language was added reminding permittees that they must follow the more stringent effluent limitation between those of the general permit or the POTW to which the wastewater will be discharged.
- At Section 5(b)(2) the high-end limit for pH changed from 10 to 11 Standard Units consistent with the MISC general permit.
- The effluent limits for metals at Section 5(b)(3) were raised to be equal to those for max daily concentrations for metal finishers as listed in section 22a-430 RCSA, consistent with the MISC general permit. The original limits were set at the average monthly limit (usually 1.0 mg/l), but this assumes weekly testing to meet a monthly average limit. The new limits (0.5 mg/l for cadmium, 2.0 mg/l for chromium, 2.0 mg/l for copper, 2.0 mg/l for nickel) are based on maximum daily metal finishing limits as sampling for this permit is based on an annual grab sample.
- The frequency of monitoring for silver in silver-rich wastewater in Section 5(c)(1)(C)(ii) changed from varied frequencies for different flows to annually for discharges of greater than or equal to one (1) gallon per week.