

S.T. Dupont

Lighters and Pens: degreasing according to the rules

The S.T. Dupont company was obliged to bring its degreasing activities into compliance with regulations, Cetim therefore proposed a set of solutions which will allow it to reduce its VOC emissions by 90%.



OUR CUSTOMER

Corporate name
S.T. Dupont

Sales turnover
63 million euro

Workforce
650 people

Activity
Founded in 1872 by Simon Tissot-Dupont, the company acquires in the thirties a unique know-how: the chinese lacquer on metal. Today, the trademark is the world's leader on luxury lighters, holding more than 70% of the market

In the production cycle of its lighters and pens, S.T. Dupont uses trichloroethylene. The company must thus propose the authorities a “setting in conformity plan of action”, to fulfill the requirements on atmospheric emission prescribed in its operating authorization decree. Moreover, since July 2002, this solvent is classified “carcinogenic category 2”, which impose deep modification of its use.

Circumventing the hurdle

Cetim's experts thus begin with setting up an assessment of the surface degreasing activities. This concerns the facilities' operation, the parts to be cleaned and their needs, which differ according

production steps. Emission measurements enables them to make up an assessment on solvents. Facing the difficulty of setting the company's activity in conformity, they rather turn towards substitutions to existing processes.

Satisfying the authorities

Starting from their observations, they established a progressive plan of actions which includes internal studies and tests to be realized, as well as the foreseeable investments. It constitutes the base of the file that S.T. Dupont will present the authorities after having taken a certain number of internal decisions. The precise solvent assessment led to the “solvents management plan”, presented to authorities.

Preparing changes

Indeed S.T. Dupont benefited from a complete study on possible solutions, with comparison of their technical performances, their adaptability to various workplaces and to their needs, the investment and operating costs, their waste management possibilities, etc. This study will allow to begin a constructive dialogue with suppliers, since simplified specifications are included in the report.

On the longer run, these recommendations, along with organisational advices, will allow the company to achieve at least a 90% reduction of VOC emissions. S.T. Dupont being forced to to put its activities of surface degreasing in conformity with the regulation, Cetim proposes a whole of solutions which will enable it to reduce its VOC emissions by 90%.



Cetim's asset

A follow-up of projects, until the equipment acceptance, including adequate diagnosis validated by Ademe, and performing feasibility tests on its own facilities. An complete independence towards the suppliers.