

SOLV (PRINTING – CONVERTING)

Swiss Organization for the solvent use of industrial enterprises in the packaging sector.

The SOLV is strongly committed to

The SOLV's objective is to ensure competitiveness at international / EEA level in the context of national environmental protection measures.

The SOLV represents the economic and technical interests of member companies regarding the enforcement of the Environmental Protection Act, the Ordinance on Air Pollution Control, the Ordinance on Volatile Organic Compounds, the Energy Act and the CO₂ Act.

The SOLV brings its interests and its expertise to the respective committees for elaboration and enforcement of ordinances. We are actively involved in the consultation process at federal level.

The SOLV in figures

The economic importance of the SOLV with some key figures:

- Annual **turnover** of member companies: more than CHF 1 billion
- Switzerland: 40%
- Export: 60%, 49% thereof EEA
- Employees: more than 2'400 employees (status as of 2017)
- Environmental investments: more than CHF 100 million since the beginning of the 1990's

The SOLV in short

The member companies of the SOLV are essentially active in the field of manufacturing flexible packaging materials for the food and pharmaceutical industry. Printing and converting (laminating, coating and extrusion) of packaging materials are essential elements of industrial activities. The SOLV also covers in some areas the needs of manufacturers of technical products like plastic foams, inks, adhesives for laminating and coating.

The production processes of high end products are complex and energy intensive and often requires the use of organic solvents – calling for the installation of a downstream air purification system. The subsequent thermal treatment of waste air on the one hand needs (supporting) energy, and on the other, produces significant quantities of combustion energy which becomes an important part of a factory's energy supply and can be recycled back into the production process. The efficient operating of air purification systems is essential for the energy supply of member companies and requires integral consideration in the entire production process.

The legal framework for production is based on the Swiss Environmental-, Energy- and CO₂-Act. **Our activities are mainly focused on assisting corresponding ordinances as well as implementation provisions.**

Environmental Act / Ordinance of Air Pollution Control / VOC Ordinance

Over the years, we have successfully negotiated a balanced interpretation of the VOC Ordinance

within the VOC commission of the Federal Department for Environment (FDE), in particular concerning article 9 and 21. Our efforts have decisively contributed to extend the transitional article 9 (2009-2012) as well as helped promoting the idea of its continuous application– thus preventing the VOC-tax on residual emitted VOC. End of 2008, we made a detailed proposal to the Federal Department for Environment how this could be achieved by technical qualification procedures. The proposal was tested under the chairmanship of the Department, accompanied by delegates of member-companies and corresponding cantonal authorities. The result of this work is now fully integrated in the periodical revision process of the VOC Ordinance, in particular therein VOCV article 9 (annexe 3).

2017 we have proposed to the FDE to end the current taxation system for emitted residual VOC by integrating the qualification process into the Ordinance of Air Pollution (LRV), thus eliminating costly administrative procedures at national government level! The proposal is based on the departments own statistical figures, showing that the taxation system, applied to emitted residual VOC, is no longer of particular significance on VOC reduction!

Energy- and CO₂ Act

In collaboration with the Energy Agency for Industry (EnAW) all member companies are committed to the CO₂ reduction targets, undergoing a coordinated monitoring. This ensures a uniform assessment of our industry's production processes. The annual audits are conducted under one leadership by a certified auditor. The results serve our members as an important energy platform as well as for preventing taxation on CO₂-output, if the commitment to CO₂-reduction is achieved and approved!

Mandates

Since its formation, SOLV is mandated by the SWISS “FLEXIBLE PACKAGING ASSOCIATION” (IGFV) in all areas represented by SOLV.

Organization

SOLV what for?

The SOLV was founded on 22.10.1992, largely as a reaction to the 1985 enacted Air Pollution Control and its amendment in 1991.

It was then the objective to find common environmental solutions for the application and the recovery of solvents as applied in the printing and converting packaging industry. Further on, the SOLV encourages the exchange of experience between the member companies, in a technical point of view.

Mission Statement

The association's members are committed to ecologically and economically acceptable solutions in terms of environmental protection and the most efficient use of energy. The SOLV members stand for open information among each other and with the authorities. The SOLV represents their technological and economic interests in front of lawmakers and the society.

The SOLV does not represent political opinions.