



AIR QUALITY

IN PRINT ROOMS

Printing is an essential element of the business process, especially in the banking, insurance, accounting and legal businesses. Often the official documents in these sectors have a legal value, whereby the original document must be printed, signed and physical filed in an archive. Because it is an essential element of their business, employees are printing and handling paper all over the office (often over 5,000 prints a month at the printer near their workspace). Office locations with a high level of air pollution due to toner- or paperdust are for example: archives, print areas (not only print rooms), administration and mailroom.

THE AIR QUALITY IN PRINT ROOMS

Many print rooms suffer from a poor air quality. Air pollution due to toner and paper dust seriously affects the health of employees. Some only have impact on the productivity such as: concentration problems, skin irritation and headaches. Others are much more harmful and link towards the cause of cancer.

The causes for this are:

- Emissions of harmful substances from copiers, laser printers and faxes.
- Poor ventilation (often walled, no natural ventilation).
- Insufficient cleaning up stuff and cables (cleaning).

TONER DUST

Much attention goes to the harmful effects of toner dust. Toner dust is a fine-grained mixture of resin particles, carbon black (heavy metals), pigments and magnetisable metal oxides.

Exposure results in respiratory irritation, watery eyes and unpleasant reactions on the skin. In the long term these symptoms develop into toner disease in the form of allergy (asthma, skin allergy). With the rising print quality, toner dust is becoming increasingly smaller and emissions are becoming stronger, leading to more health risks.



OTHER AIR POLLUTERS

In print rooms of course also other harmful substances appear, such as:

- (Fine) dust : penetrates into the airways and lungs. Can cause lung damage.
- Paper dust: removes moisture from the air. The effects include dry eyes and skin.
- Ozone (especially older devices): watery eyes, respiratory irritation.
- Bacteria, yeasts and fungi (mostly by people): irritations and allergic reactions.

In addition to the aforementioned air pollutants temperature, relative humidity and CO₂-content are of great importance to the working environment in print rooms.

AIR RESEARCH

At your request, air measuring companies can determine the concentration of harmful substances with pumps, filters, meters and strips. They test those values to the maximum allowable concentrations (or historical figures) which do not harm the health of the workers and their descendants. The limit values are determined by the Ministry of Social Affairs.



EUROMATE VISIONAIR AIR CLEANERS

The awareness for a clean air workspace is growing, even without the government regulations. Eventually it is a matter of responsibility of the employer to avoid the risks of health issues by offering a healthy workspace. For this responsibility the employer gets rewarded with happy, healthy and productive employees!

Whether or not as a result from air research, the best way to achieve an workspace where employees breathe clean air is to install a professional air cleaner. The Euromate VisionAir air cleaner is capable of removing any pollutants like toner and paper dust from the air. Independent air research and a perception survey of employees show that the situation in print rooms significantly improves. Employees experience indoor air as clean and encounter no more complaints.

