

Solvent recovery with SVM

AR INDUSTRIES TELLS FINISHING ABOUT OPTIONS FOR SAFE SOLVENT DISPOSAL

“**T**here’s a reason that many cleaning solutions and inks still contain solvents, even as environmental regulations governing their safe disposal proliferate,” says Joe of A.R. Industries. He says that for many industrial processes (not all) there is no effective alternative.

Joe acknowledges that the use of solvents does not come without environmental responsibility. Most solvents, including the highly volatile Methyl Ethyl Ketone (MEK), Toluene and Trimethyl Benzene, are classified as hazardous, and carry a ‘cradle-to-grave’ liability. This means that generators of solvent waste are liable for it from the time it is generated until it is disposed of, even if it is no longer in their custody.

Even newer, less aggressive solvents pose problems. As government regulatory bodies, both national and E.C continue to lower tolerated solvent levels in the environment, it is becoming harder to foresee which solvents will land on the hazardous list and which ones won’t. Still, solvents remain the best answer to processing requirements for many companies needs when properly handled and disposed of.

There are several options for safe, effective solvent waste disposal, including:

- Disposing of solvent waste off-site, for destruction by rotary kiln or incineration.

- Transporting the solvent waste to a treatment storage and disposal facility for recovery.
- Investing in an on-site recovery system.

The first two options are potentially hazardous, involving transport and an unacceptable level of human involvement. The fully integrated, fully automated range of on-site SVM Solvent Recovery Systems, now available from AR Industries is a safe, cost effective and reliable solution.



Irrespective of whether the customer generates 100 litres per day or 10,000 litres per day, AR Industries can provide a tailor made solution. The SVM Solvent Recovery System are stand-alone units, each equipped with a ‘password’ protected state-of-the-art PLC control panel. A finely machined cylindrical heating chamber is kept clean a self-adjusting scraper blade. Distillation residues are automatically discharged into 45 gallon drums. The SVM unit is truly continuous rather than ‘batch-to-batch’ giving each machine much high capacities. The whole process is carried out under vacuum to minimise energy consumption and more reliable operation. It also means higher boiling solvents can be recovered. Very little maintenance is required. The blades generally need replacement once a year depending on operating conditions.

The SVM requires very little operator involvement. The cycle is PLC controlled and in the vast majority of cases operating on a continuous basis. Joe points out that there more than 12 machines in the SVM range starting from 10 litres per hour up to 2000 litres per hour. For smaller capacity requirements the RG range of distillation are also available. In most cases, the low running costs of each machine can give a payback period of less than one year. Tel: 0113 2579092.