



Fascination With Alcohol- !

Gentlemen,

This topic is rivalling *Alcoholics Anonymous Forum!* for views. Having recovered from a surfeit of Alcohol, let me add that the introduction of IPA into lithographic fountain solutions began in the late 1940's, much as been written about IPA enriched F.S. on this forum, very little about its function in the Mechanics of Fluid Transportation, also its role in forming that crucial element – a *Stable Micro Emulsion of Ink and F.S.* from two very different fluids that need to be combined. IPA possesses many ideal properties for use in lithographic fountain solutions that present known *Surfactant Additives* such as *Glycols*' struggle to mimic.

On a personal note let me say that I was involved in converting the running of three Web Offset presses to Alcohol Free F.S during the early 1980's the primary reason for this decision, though aware of growing health and safety issues, was the dramatic increase in Insurance Premiums for the factory.

Many of the problems raised from the use of IPA, are from the operators of small offset presses using Polyester Plates, which require – *Thick Film Dampening and Inking* to print successfully on presses fitted with deficient dampening systems. Even large offset presses using the Dahlgren Dampening only succeeded in working using copious amounts of IPA enriched F.S. *In addition, some commercial dampening systems are particularly forgiving of mediocre fountain solutions and others are more demanding that the F.S. be optimized.*

Regards, Alois