



9.7. Exposure scenario 7: Service life (worker at industrial site) - Processing of silver containing films and photopapers at industrial sites

Market sector: Photography

Article categories:

AC 0: Other

(TARIC Codes 3704 (Photographic plates, film, paper, paperboard and textiles, exposed but not developed) and 3705 (Photographic plates and film, exposed and developed, other than cinematographic film))

Environment contributing scenario(s):		
CS 1	Processing of silver containing films and photopapers at industrial sites	ERC 12a
Worker contributing scenario(s):		
CS 2	Automatic processing in closed tanks including Cleaning and maintenance	PROC 21

Exposure scenario(s) of the uses leading to the inclusion of the substance into the article(s):

ES6: Use at industrial sites - Industrial use of silver chloride emulsion in the photographic industry

Further description of the use:

Silver (in the form of halides) is contained in photographic articles, such as films, plates and papers. During the photographic processing silver does dissolve from the film emulsion layer into the bleach or fixing or bleach/fixing solution (usually in the form of silver thiosulfate). The majority of silver containing photographic articles (films, plates, photopapers, etc...) are processed in fully enclosed automatic machines, called e.g. "minilabs", "dip and dunk machines", or "(wholesale) photofinishing machines". Few so called "table-top paper processors" are still in use and this use is rapidly decreasing. Operators do only have direct contact with the photographic article when the article is either dry and not yet processed, or dry after being processed. There is very limited contact with the uses liquid photochemicals. Exposure to silver containing liquids is only possible during occasional cleaning and maintenance operations. The instruction manuals prescribe that personal protective (gloves and safety glasses) need to be worn during such operations. This includes work on the opened, non-operating machine, such as removal of paper jams, changing waste containers or cleaning. The latter is only conducted a couple of times per year.

9.7.1. Env CS 1: Processing of silver containing films and photopapers at industrial sites (ERC 12a)

Assessment entity group used for the assessment of this contributing scenario: ERA

9.7.1.1. Conditions of use

Amount used, frequency and duration of use (or from service life)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of EU tonnage used at regional scale: = 10 %
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual use amount at site: <= 10 tonnes/year <i>All the amounts are expressed as Ag as this is the driver for the environmental risk assessment. In this scenario, no differentiation is made between the physical form (solid, in solution) and the chemical form (halides, thiosulfates..) of silver. Instead, the generic term "silver" is used.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daily use amount at site: <= 0.027 tonnes/day <i>Developing photo films can occur 365 days per year.</i>
Technical and organisational conditions and measures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The substance should not be released to air <i>Silver halides are only used in a gelatine matrix or in solutions as a result there are no emissions to air.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The substance should not be released to water <i>There is a very limited potential for emissions of silver halides to the environment from the uses of photographic film and paper. Recycling of silver containing photographic processing fluids from industrial and professional uses is obligatory in EU countries. The used photographic solution containing silver ions should be properly collected in closed containers and waste solutions returned to the chemical supplier or</i>



<i>professional recyclers. Appropriate containment measures should be taken to avoid spilling of used developers' fluid into the sewer system, when filling the recycling receptors.</i>
Conditions and measures related to biological sewage treatment plant
• Biological STP: Standard [Effectiveness Water: 80.1%]
• Discharge rate of STP: $\geq 2E3$ m ³ /day
• Application of the STP sludge on agricultural soil: Yes
Conditions and measures related to external treatment of waste (including article waste)
• Particular considerations on the waste treatment operations: Dedicated recollection infrastructure required <i>Recycling of silver containing photographic processing fluids from industrial and professional uses is obligatory in EU countries. The used photographic solution containing silver ions should be properly collected in closed containers and waste solutions returned to the chemical supplier or professional recyclers.</i>
Other conditions affecting environmental exposure
• Receiving surface water flow rate: $\geq 1.8E4$ m ³ /day

9.7.1.2. Releases

The local releases to the environment are reported in the following table. Note that the releases reported do not account for the removal in the modelled biological STP.

Table 9.42. Local releases to the environment

Release	Assessment entity	Release estimation method	Explanations
Water	Ag dissolved	Estimated release factor	Release factor before on site RMM: 0% Release factor after on site RMM: 0% Local release rate: 0 kg/day Explanation: The used photographic solution containing silver ions should be properly collected in closed containers and waste solutions returned to the chemical supplier or professional recyclers.
Air	Ag dissolved	Estimated release factor	Release factor before on site RMM: 0% Release factor after on site RMM: 0% Local release rate: 0 kg/day Explanation: Silver halides are only used in a gelatine matrix or in solutions.
Non agricultural soil	Ag dissolved	Estimated release factor	Release factor after on site RMM: 0% Explanation: No direct release to soil.

9.7.1.3. Exposure and risks for the environment and man via the environment

The exposure concentrations and risk characterisation ratios (RCR) are reported in the following table. The exposure estimates have been obtained with EUSES 2.1.2 unless stated otherwise.

Table 9.43. Exposure concentrations and risks for the environment and man via the environment

Protection target	Assessment entity	Exposure concentration	Risk quantification
Fresh water	Ag dissolved	Local PEC: 6.06E-6 mg/L RCR = 0.132	Final RCR = 0.132
Sediment (freshwater)	Ag dissolved	Local PEC: 1.155 mg/kg dw RCR = 2.64E-3	Final RCR < 0.01
Marine water	Ag dissolved	Local PEC: 1.91E-6 mg/L	Final RCR < 0.01



Protection target	Assessment entity	Exposure concentration	Risk quantification
		RCR = 2.22E-3	
Sediment (marine water)	Ag dissolved	Local PEC: 0.364 mg/kg dw RCR = 8.31E-4	Final RCR < 0.01
Sewage Treatment Plant	Ag dissolved	Local PEC: 0 mg/L RCR = 0	Final RCR < 0.01
Agricultural soil	Ag dissolved	Local PEC: 0.096 mg/kg dw RCR = 0.091	Final RCR = 0.091

9.7.2. Worker CS 2: Automatic processing in closed tanks including Cleaning and maintenance (PROC 21)

Assessment entity group used for the assessment of this contributing scenario: HHRA

9.7.2.1. Conditions of use

	Method
Product (article) characteristics	
• Physical form of the used product: Solid (material with no or very low dustiness) <i>The physical form "massive object" is used as surrogate to reflect the very low exposure potential of the coated paper/film articles.</i>	MEASE 1.02.01
• Percentage (w/w) of substance in mixture/article: <= 100 %	MEASE 1.02.01
Amount used (or contained in articles), frequency and duration of use/exposure	
• Duration of activity: <= 8 h/day	MEASE 1.02.01
Technical and organisational conditions and measures	
• Occupational Health and Safety Management System: Advanced	MEASE 1.02.01
• Local exhaust ventilation: No	MEASE 1.02.01
• Pattern of use: Non-dispersive use	MEASE 1.02.01
• Pattern of exposure control: Direct handling <i>To avoid stains and spots on the photographic end product, the films and papers are not touched directly with the hands. Instead, pliers or forceps are used.</i>	MEASE 1.02.01
• Contact level: Extensive	MEASE 1.02.01
Conditions and measures related to personal protection, hygiene and health evaluation	
• Dermal protection: Chemical resistant dermal protection with basic employee training. (effectiveness >= 90%)	MEASE 1.02.01
• Face/eye protection: Eye protection	
• Respiratory protection: No	MEASE 1.02.01
Other conditions affecting workers exposure	
• Place of use: Indoor	
• Operating temperature: <= 40 °C	

9.7.2.2. Exposure and risks for workers

The exposure concentrations and risk characterisation ratios (RCR) are reported in the following table.

Table 9.44. Exposure concentrations and risks for workers

Route of exposure and type of effects	Assessment entity	Exposure concentration	Risk quantification
Inhalation, systemic, long term	Silver chloride	0.05 mg/m ³ (MEASE 1.02.01) RCR = 0.062	Final RCR = 0.062
Dermal, systemic,	Silver chloride	0.141 mg/kg bw/day (MEASE 1.02.01)	Final RCR = 0.486



Route of exposure and type of effects	Assessment entity	Exposure concentration	Risk quantification
long term		RCR = 0.486	
Combined routes, systemic, long-term			Final RCR = 0.548

Risk characterisation

Potential dermal exposure to silver from the bleach or fixing or bleach/fixing solution is theoretically possible during cleaning and maintenance operations. If appropriate gloves are worn as foreseen no exposure to the skin needs to be expected. The eyes of the operators are protected by safety glasses.