



ARTICLE INFORMATION SHEET

1. **Article name:** Azura TS
2. **Article type:** Aluminium Offset Printing Plate
3. **Composition:**

Azura TS is an IR-sensitive (830 nm) offset printing plate mainly consisting of an anodised and electrochemically grained aluminium base, coated with a sub-micron polymeric layer. In order to provide the desired physical and sensitometric properties, relatively small amounts of other components, such as e.g. dyes, spectral sensitisers, fillers, binders, wetting agents, etc. can be added.

4. Health and Safety

- 4.1. Azura TS will not cause any special health or safety hazard, when it is used as intended.

When using Azura TS plates some coloration of the user's fingers may occur during handling. Agfa advises as a general precaution that elementary principles of carefulness and hygiene are observed when handling said plates, such as washing hands before eating and that workrooms are adequately ventilated.

It is recommended to avoid risk of cuts by handling printing plates with due care.

Monitoring air in the vicinity of an Acento S at overexposure conditions (250 mJ/cm² or 640 rpm @ 100%) or an Avalon LF (255mJ/cm² setting CP520), show that the measured concentrations of substances liberated during laser imaging are at least an order of magnitude below allowed occupational exposure limits and hence present no indication for health and safety risks for operating people.

The identified products are acrylonitrile and styrene. These substances are known degradation products of plate ingredients used.

Note that the odour threshold for styrene is <20 ppb, whereas under the described overexposure conditions for Azura TS 70 ppb was measured (Avalon LF). This means that a slight odour may be apparent, but this creates no risk to health, because this concentration is far below the Occupational Exposure Limit for styrene (50 000 ppb).

Some deposit of ablation debris – analysed to be consistent with the composition of the plate, i.e. primarily low molecular weight residues from the binder and trace amounts of the contrast and infrared dyes, which are components of the Azura TS plates – can build up inside the platesetter and on any air filters present in the platesetters.

When taking the necessary precautions of hygiene and care while removing the above-mentioned deposit from the inside of the platesetter or when replacing the air filter inside the platesetter and when disposing of it as chemical waste, no hazards to man or environment are to be expected in normal daily practice.

When Azura TS plates are properly exposed in state of the art equipment and following Agfa's recommendations, there will be no detectable release of any plate component to the atmosphere outside the platesetters. Under these conditions, there is thus no reason to expect any particular health risk for employees working in the recording room. Although the practical tests on recording were run with Azura TS plates in Acento S and Avalon LF, conclusions are also expected to apply to other brands of platesetters (e.g. Heidelberg, Screen, Luescher and Creo Lotem) working in similar conditions.

Agfa recommends that sufficient local and general ventilation is provided, with venting to the outside of the premises. This will ensure that Threshold Limit Values (TLV's) for individual thermal degradation products are not exceeded in the workplace, and will provide a sufficient degree of comfort for the operators.



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4.2. Fire hazard and extinguishing media: the anodised and electrochemically grained aluminium printing plate is no more a fire hazard than any other sheet of metallic aluminium.

5. Waste disposal

Used aluminium printing plates should be sent for recovery of aluminium by remelting.

6. Transport and labelling regulations

This product is not classified as dangerous in the meaning of the transport regulations. This product is not subject to labelling requirements in accordance with EU Directives or respective national laws.

7. Storage

No special measures required for health and safety reasons. For quality reasons, follow instructions of the work manual.

8. Other information

Articles are not subject to Directive 91/155/EEC (special information system for dangerous chemicals). Therefore, informations about health and safety are supplied as Article Information Sheets. It is recommended that these printing plates should be used with the appropriate Agfa Washout gum and pressroom chemicals.

The data given hereabove are based upon our best knowledge and current experience. This Sheet does not convey any warranty as to the properties of this Article. The Sheet provides information pertaining to health, safety and environment when the Article is used as intended in normal professional conditions.

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