

FIGHTING UNPLEASANT ODOURS

They occur in industrial plants, asphalt and plastic, sewage treatment plants, agricultural operations, refineries and medical cannabis production: We are talking about odour emissions, which can not only be a nuisance for local residents, but in the worst case can also be toxic and therefore harmful to humans and the environment. Step by step, EU member states are declaring war on odour emissions with new regulations. ACAT has a wide range of products and solutions for odour elimination in its portfolio.



Let's take a look at Italy

The first law clearly limiting odour emissions has been in force there since June 2023. This makes Italy the second country in the European Union, after Germany, to have a law against odour nuisance. In Italy, the standards have been clearly defined since last year:

The European Odour Unit (ouE), which represents the concentration of odorous substances, must not exceed 5 ouE/m³. By definition, one odour unit per cubic metre (1 ouE/m³) represents the concentration of odorous substances at the odour threshold that causes 50% of the population to notice an odour.

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In other EU countries, such as Austria, Spain or Greece, there are currently only regulations on what to do in the event of complaints from the public and guidelines to be followed to minimise the impact of odour emissions. But the tide is slowly turning: More and more countries are preparing binding regulations with threshold values to reduce and mitigate the impact of odour emissions on the population.

ACAT has been working intensively on odour control for many years, says Luca Faggionato (ACAT Milan): “From our point of view, this is a very important issue, especially for people who live near industrial and manufacturing sites and can therefore be affected by odour emissions every day”. Laws and regulations are the basis for regulating odour emissions.

“In my opinion, legislation plays a key role in the world of odour management because we finally have guidelines to follow. Companies having to commit to odour reduction and control will probably soon be the case”. However, odours can only be reduced and eliminated with the right solutions. “ACAT has the expertise and a wide range of products to effectively combat odours,” explains Faggionato.

These include the Ecosorb® products, which eliminate odours by breaking down and neutralising the odour molecules. These are non-toxic, plant-based products that are safe for people and the environment. Ecosorb® products are mixtures of natural plant oil extracts, food-grade emulsifiers and water. There are currently two product lines: one oil-based (essential oils + plant-based carrier) and one waterbased (essential oils + water-based car-

rier). The former are used as additives in areas such as asphalt, plastics and recycling. The latter are sprayed into the air to neutralise odours in industries such as sewage treatment, asphalt, plastics, fertilisers, refineries, tanneries and medical cannabis cultivation.

ACAT has also developed its own odour control systems for use with Ecosorb® products: These range from atomisation and evaporation systems to fog washing systems. ●



Odour emissions can only be tackled with the right solutions – this requires a lot of expertise and the right products.