Printing Industries of America
CENTER FOR TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH
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Ask the Technical Experts!

One of the benefits of membership is the technical expertise provided by Printing Industries of America. Our technical experts from the Center for Technology and Research discuss common production problems and issues. The Center for Technology and Research helps members with environmental, health, and safety concerns; consulting and on-site technical assistance; Technical Association of the Graphic Arts; technology training; and simulators.

Q. In Adobe Acrobat, I have to move my mouse to the lower left-hand corner of the page to see the dimensions in a PDF file. Is there a way to turn this on permanently?

A. Yes! You can set both Adobe Acrobat DC and the free Adobe Reader application to always display the dimensions of the PDF when opened. To set Adobe Acrobat DC (or even the free Adobe Reader application) to always display the page size, go to *Adobe Acrobat DC > Preferences > Page Display*. Under the *Page Content and Information* section, check the box for *Always show document page size*.

Q. We are noticing an ink film depositing on the guards and side frames of the press and a discoloration of the return air filters in our pressroom. What is causing the ink misting?

A. Ink misting occurs when small droplets or long filaments of ink are created when the ink film is split in the roller nips and becomes diffused in the pressroom air. This is more often seen on high-speed presses. Ink misting often occurs due to an excessive ink film on the rollers caused by poor ink/water balance and an ink with low pigment strength. Other causes include over-emulsified ink, ink with too low of a viscosity (over reduced), or excessive heat buildup in the ink rollers brought on by improperly set rollers or rollers with a high durometer. Presses equipped with water-cooled oscillator rollers remove excessive heat and keep the ink on the rollers at a constant temperature and viscosity. Contact you ink supplier for assistance.

Q. My newest publication customer is adding quality requirements to their multi-year contract and has asked me to supply the industry standard for registration tolerances. Does anything exist like that for heatset web offset printing?

A. I wish it did because then we'd have a better answer for the many questions we receive about standards and specifications for print quality. The truth, however, is that there are virtually no specific standards that cover print quality due to all of the different raw materials and the lack of quality standards for the materials. Each print job is custom manufactured usually at the lowest

bid with the least expensive materials. For commercial printing on coated paper a common tolerance would be one row of dots. Another definition for acceptable register or fit is that any mis-register should not be visible at a normal viewing distance. The Government Printing Office in their *GPO Contract Terms* publication defines defects and acceptable numbers of defects for various quality levels of work they purchase. Companies need to develop their own quality document for their print markets and their customers' expectations. This is more difficult when different quality levels of work are being produced (e.g., from annual reports to advertising inserts). The quality document may need to be customized for different markets or customers.

Printing Industries Resources:
Offering unbiased and confidential results, Printing Industries of America provides a range of testing and laboratory services to help solve printing-related problems. For more information, please contact Jim Workman at 800-910-4283, ext. 710 (direct 412-259-1710), visit www.printing.org/labservices or email labservices@printing.org or jworkman@printing.org.
