RIT’s HP Indigo Media Certification Program enables substrate manufacturers, suppliers, and HP Indigo digital press owners to evaluate substrate compatibility with HP Indigo Digital Offset Color™ presses.

The media certification procedure incorporates several procedures. After passing a short initial screening evaluation, the substrate is passed on for a more comprehensive evaluation looking at the performance of the particular substrate within the press. This checks for:

**Runnability**
- the ability of the substrate to run smoothly through the press.

**Ink-transferability**
- the quality of ink transfer from the blanket to the substrate as reflected in highlight dots, thin lines, heavy images and image edge integrity.

**Blanket-substrate compatibility**
- the interaction between the substrate and the blanket might cause a ‘Blanket Memory’ effect, reflected in gloss differences between solids and background areas of the previously printed image.

**Blanket-temperature operating window**
- the ability of the substrate to perform through a wide range of blanket temperatures. The wider the blanket temperature range, the greater the substrate’s compatibility.

**Ink-substrate interaction** (as reflected in):
- the degree of ink fixing to the substrate; the adhesion of the image to the substrate
- the resistance of the ink layer to abrasion (application dependent)
- the degree of flaking of the ink layer which reflects the printed substrate’s ability to withstand various post-press operations (optional test).

The procedure also ensures the substrate can be used in duplex and collation modes.

Once completed, a substrate’s compatibility is mapped, allowing prospective users to decide whether the substrate conforms to their needs. A comprehensive report is then generated for every tested substrate and given to the customer. Details of certified substrates will be published so HP Indigo users can develop awareness of approved materials and buying sources.

RIT’s Printing Applications Laboratory also provides a range of additional services to HP Indigo customer sites, including hotline telephone support on substrate issues. Please contact (585) 475-7857 for assistance.
**Fee**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Screen Evaluation</th>
<th>Commercial</th>
<th>$650.00 per substrate*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full Evaluation</td>
<td>$1550.00 per substrate*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interpolations</td>
<td>$100 per weight*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* To certify a range of weights of the same paper grade, two full evaluations would be conducted on the lowest and highest basis weight, if text and cover weights are manufactured on the same machine. One middle weight would have a screen evaluation performed and all other weights would be certified by interpolation, upon approval of the performed evaluations. This provides a cost effective way of ensuring that a full range of commercial media is certified. For weights manufactured on multiple machines, the diagram below shows an example of the proposed test plan:

![Diagram showing test plan for commercial media certification]

**Scheduling**

Scheduling depends on facility availability. Attempts will be made to accommodate all scheduling needs. To schedule qualification activity, please contact:

Barbara Giordano  
Operations Manager, Printing Applications Laboratory  
Rochester Institute of Technology  
Tel: (585) 475-2687  
E-mail: bagter@rit.edu

**Shipping**

All shipments must be coordinated through Barbara Giordano and be scheduled to arrive at RIT at least 3 days, but no more than 2 weeks, prior to the scheduled certification date. This allows the print media to acclimate to the laboratory environment.

**Packaging**

Materials shall be fully wrapped with moisture-barrier packaging material and protected against shipping damage.

**Labeling**

The samples must be clearly labeled with:
- Company/Contact Name
- Name of the substrate
- Grain direction for sheet material
- Grammage/Basis Weight/Caliper
- Suppliers reference or batch number

This information must be consistent with that on the Substrate Data Sheet.

Print media should be shipped to:

Barbara Giordano  
CIMS Building, Dock #3, Room 1425  
Printing Applications Lab  
66 Lomb Memorial Drive  
Rochester, NY 14623

For material originating from outside the U.S., the shipment must include an original commercial invoice, and/or a bill of lading. This will assist with clearing the material through customs and reduce shipping delays. **Shipping and Storage Fees:** Storage fees will be assessed 30 days after receipt of paper, if there hasn’t been notification about the disposal of the remaining paper. There is a charge of $8 per skid per month.
RIT/HP Resources:
Specifications (by Press)

Commercial / Specialty

**HP Indigo 5600 Digital Color Press (sheetfed) Specifications**

- **Substrate Dimensions:**
  - Preferred 13” x 19” / 330 mm x 480 mm (text)
  - Acceptable 12” x 18” / 305 mm x 460 mm (text)
    - less than 170 gsm – grain long
  - Preferred 19” x 13” / 480 mm x 330 mm (cover)
  - Acceptable 18” x 12” / 460 mm x 305 mm (cover)
    - greater than 170 gsm – grain short
  - Maximum Image Area: 12.48” x 17.7”

- **Substrate Thickness:** 3-18 pt

- **Number of Sheets Required:**
  - Screen Evaluation – 1,500 sheets
  - Full Evaluation – 6,000 sheets
  - Specialty Media – 1,000 sheets

- **Paper Weight:**
  - Simplex/duplex printing:
    - 80 – 400 gsm / 55 lb text to 130 lb cover (Coated)
    - 60 – 400 gsm / 40 lb text to 120 lb cover (Uncoated).

**HP Indigo 7000 Digital Color Press (sheetfed) Specifications**

- **Substrate Dimensions:**
  - Preferred 13” x 19” / 330 mm x 480 mm (text)
  - Acceptable 12” x 18” / 305 mm x 460 mm (text)
    - less than 170 gsm – grain long
  - Preferred 19” x 13” / 480 mm x 330 mm (cover)
  - Acceptable 18” x 12” / 460 mm x 305 mm (cover)
    - greater than 170 gsm – grain short
  - Maximum Image Area: 12.48” x 18.26”

- **Substrate Thickness:** 3-16 pt

- **Number of Sheets Required:**
  - Screen Evaluation – 1,500 sheets
  - Full Evaluation – 6,000 sheets
  - Specialty Media – 1,000 sheets

- **Paper Weight:**
  - Simplex/duplex printing:
    - 80 – 350 gsm / 55 lb text to 130 lb cover (Coated)
    - 60 – 350 gsm / 40 lb text to 120 lb cover (Uncoated).

**Labels & Packaging**

For Information related to HP Indigo ws4050 and ws6000 Digital Color Press (web) Specifications please see our Labels & Packaging Certification Program Brochure which can be found on our web site at

[http://printlab.rit.edu/services/media-certification/hp-indigo-program/](http://printlab.rit.edu/services/media-certification/hp-indigo-program/)
To initiate the certification process:

Please visit the Printing Applications Laboratory website for hp media certification at

http://printlab.rit.edu/services/media-certification/hp-indigo-program/

and follow the link to the online HP Indigo Media Certification Program Application.

Once the form is submitted we will contact you to make all the necessary arrangements for the evaluation(s).