

HP Indigo Commercial/Specialty Media Certification Program

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.

