

Quality assurance in the production of sheetfed offset inks

All European sites of Flint Group, manufacturing sheetfed offset inks, are certified according to the quality management system ISO 9001. The adherence of the guidelines of this standard are checked at regular intervals by internal and external audits – corresponding certificates are available upon request.

According to ISO 9001 all processes and course of business are defined exactly and are fixed in written form. Furthermore, the standard requires that the processes are controlled and a system for continuous improvement is introduced.

It is also agreed that agreements with raw material suppliers will be arranged, the specifications for quality relevant dates as also the methods for their determination are fixed. Additionally, all delivered raw materials, each intermediate and each ink batch is tested according to defined criteria in our quality control labs.

The testing of process inks comprises the criterion; tack, viscosity and grind. For each ink formula limits for these values are defined, which adherence is condition for the release of the ink batch. The constancy of the colour shades of the process inks is given by careful tests of the pigments and the fully automatic processing. As to experience the differences between the individual batches are below dE 3.

With spot colours, the colour coordinates and colour shade are visually inspected. As most of the spot colours are mixed from quality control approved base concentrates, this eliminates the need to measure viscosity and tack of these mixed inks. Viscosity and tack as well as the colorimetric values for colour intensity and hue are standardised measurements for all used base concentrates. Experience shows that the differences between the individual batches of spot colours, mixed from concentrates and checked by our experts in colour matching, are below dE 1.5.

Of all tested inks, reference samples will be kept for 2 years. The measuring values of the quality control are put into archives for 10 years. According to the guidelines set out in ISO 9001, our customers are free to look at the quality data bank.

By these measurements, it is ensured that we deliver products of constant quality.