

Certification program

Printing plates

Keywords

CtP, Printing plates, Process contro, ugra.swiss, swissPSO

Related documents

U/TD 17.0 Certification system

ISO 12218:1997 Graphic technology -- Process control -- Offset platemaking

Document control

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Change management

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1 Scope

For the production of the printing plates (CtP) no direct International Standard is applicable.

2 Specified requirements

- A1. The organization shall regularly maintain the entire system for the production of printing plates corresponding to the given specific configuration:
 - a. Workflow and RIP software,
 - b. CtP imaging unit,
 - c. Processor and/or washing unit,
 - d. Baking oven.

- A2. The organization shall schedule and carry out a systematic and regular check of the printing plates produced:
 - a. Measuring of tone value reproduction
 - b. Visual check for errors and defects
 - c. Assessment of the checks and preventive or corrective actions.

- A3. For the measurement a control bar shall be imaged on the printing plates. The measuring bar shall contain at least 10 measurement patches in order to represent a characteristic curve.

- A4. The printing plates shall contain at least the following information:
 - a. Job name or job number
 - b. Colour separation
 - c. RIP output conditions

- A5. During the audit an expert of the organization shall demonstrate the measurement of the printing plates using a measuring device and a software.

- A6. The software used shall be able to output a protocol. The measurement shall be recorded and archived.

- A7. The homogeneity of the tone value reproduction along the format shall be less than or equal to 2%. The auditor checks the requirement by measurement on-site.

- A8. The register accuracy of a four color printing plate set shall be less than 53 microns.

- A9. The PDFX-ready OUTPUT testform shall represent all test patches correctly.

A10. During the audit, an expert of the organization shall impose the 8 test pages of the “Visual Print Reference“ (VPR) for the later test print using an imposition software (Fig. 1 and 2). The imposed sheet created by an expert of the organization shall contain all the required marks for the printing and the print finishing such as:

- a. Lay edges
- b. Signature
- c. Signature mark
- d. Cuttign marks
- e. Register marks
- f. Print control bar

NOTE: The imposed sheet shall contain also the customized test page created by the organization.

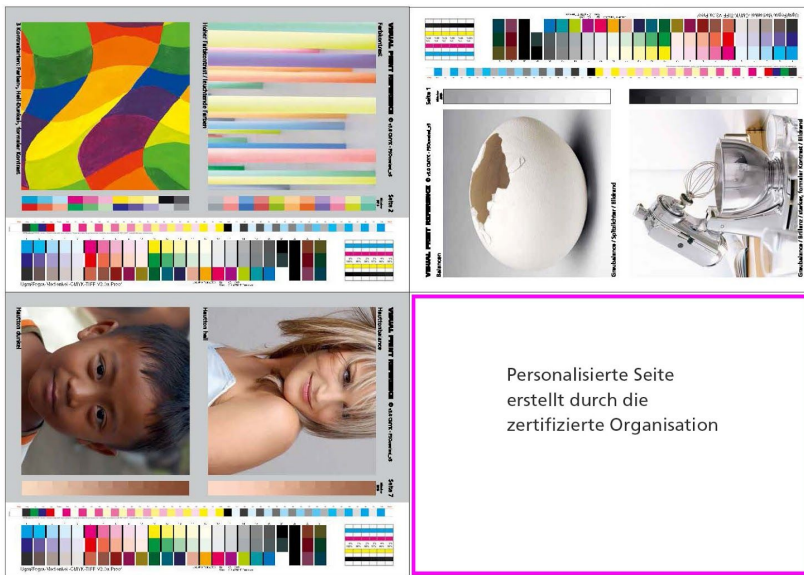


Fig. 1 – Imposed sheet 50 x 70 cm (4 pages short grain)

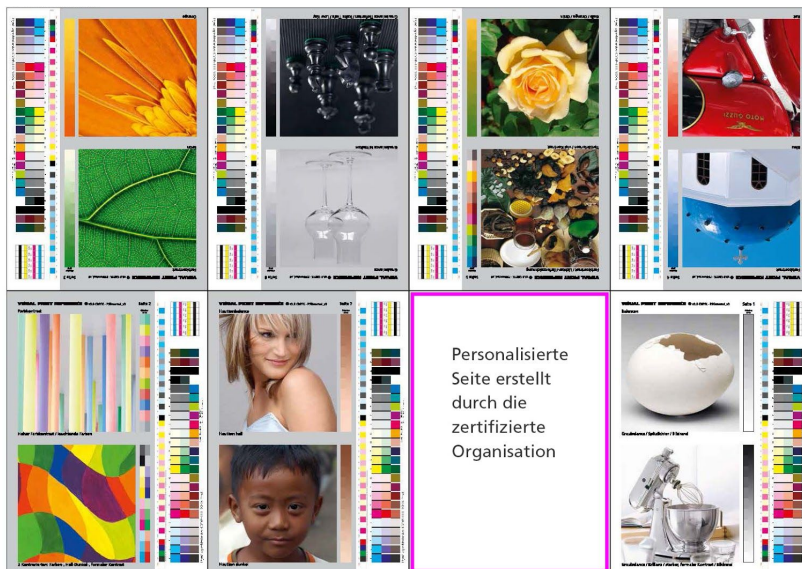


Fig. 2 – Imposed sheet 70 x 100 cm (8 pages long grain)

3 Conformity testing

The conformity testing of the specified requirements laid down in Chapter 2 shall be carried out by means of the following measures:

1. Inspection during audit
2. Interview (Q&A) during audit
3. Proof of competence by qualified person of the organization

All non-conformities are logged by the auditor and documented as open requirement. The organization must remedy the the non-conformities in due time but at the latest until the next surveillance audit.

3.1 Non-conformities

Non-conformities are documented by the auditor according to the following classification:

Table 1 – Classification of non-conformities

Classification of Non-conformities (NK)	Description
Critical non-conformity	A normative requirement is not compliant. Conformity must be mandatory complied to confirm the certification.
Major non-conformity	A normative or specified requirement is not compliant and therefore leads to a non-conformity.
Minor non-conformity	A normative or specified requirement is partially not compliant and therefore leads to a non-conformity.
Recommendation	A requirement is compliant, but can be optimized by means of recommended measures.

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