

## **GUIDELINES FOR THE PRINT DATA PREPARATION**

*In order to obtain the best printing results and to maintain safe and efficient data processing, please take account of the following guidelines before providing PDF files to be used for printing.*

### **PDF Files**

Please provide PDF/X-1a, PDF/X-3 or PDF 1.4 files, complying with ISO12647-2 standard.

Please provide just one PDF file for the inner pages of the book, set up as single pages (not double page spreads). If you need to separate the files, name them according to the pages contained, e.g. 001-020.pdf, 021-039.pdf. In case of further corrections, provide a PDF file for each page, named accordingly.

Other elements (such as cover, jacket, or case) must be supplied PDF as one page for the outside and one page for the inside, if printed.

For the endpapers we require one file for the front, and if different, one for the back ends.

In case of co-editions, provide a PDF file with the base colours CMYK (containing the images and all the common elements between the editions), and a separate file for each language change.

### **Images**

The recommended resolution for CMYK or greyscale images is 300 dpi (minimum resolution 150 dpi and maximum resolution 1200dpi). For bitmap images, the suggested (and maximum) resolution is 1200 dpi (minimum resolution 750dpi).

The final PDF file should include only CMYK images; any RGB images must be converted in four-colour process.

Ensure also that there are no images with a pre-existing FM screen, in order to avoid moiré effect on press.

### **Text/Font**

The font must be included in the PDF file. We suggest not to include text as image (but if necessary, please comply with the recommended resolution for the bitmap images) and not to set the black text out of 4 colours.

Black elements must be set in overprint (apart from special cases with non-standard inks or printing sequences).

### **Bleeds/layout**

There should be at least 3mm of bleed for the interior pages. For any other element we will give you a layout based on the size, number of pages, material and type of binding.

Do not place elements too close to the page edge. We recommend positioning them no less than 5 mm from the page trim.

## Colour Management – ICC Profiles

For the conversion of images and the production of colour proofs please use the correct ICC profile in accordance with the ISO 12647-2 standard:

- **ISOcoated\_v2\_300\_eci (FOGRA 39)** for coated paper with no or little optical brightening agents (OBA)
- **PSO\_Uncoated\_ISO12647\_eci (FOGRA 47)** for uncoated paper with no or little optical brightening agents (OBA)
- **PSO Coated v3 (FOGRA 51)** for coated paper with optical brightening agents (OBA)
- **PSO Uncoated v3 (FOGRA 52)** for uncoated paper with optical brightening agents (OBA)

These profiles are available in the [ECI profiles/Offset profiles](http://www.eci.org/en/downloads) folder on the website [www.eci.org/en/downloads](http://www.eci.org/en/downloads).

The certified colour proofs, if supplied by you, must contain the Fogra control scale to prove compliance.

## TAC (Total Area Coverage)

During the offset printing process, there is a limit for the ink absorption of the paper. We suggest not to exceed the value of 300% for the ink coverage, as indicated by Fogra and in accordance with the ISO standard.

Some kinds of paper have a substantially inferior limit (for instance all the uncoated papers); for these papers we will give you specific indications depending on the project.

The use of UCR / GCR can help compensate for the absorption limit of the paper.

## UCR/GCR

In case of B&W images or grey backgrounds made of 4 colours, we suggest using UCR/GCR for a more consistent result on press.

## Other suggestions

- We suggest strengthening the large black elements (backgrounds, big titles, etc.) with an addition of 40% CMY.
- Please note that any elements/lines with width lower than the minimum value for printing of 0.02 mm (thinlines) might not be printed or could result thinner than on the plotters and colour proofs.
- Do not use any alternative colour space in the PDFs.
- Do not use the registration colour for any printed element.
- In case of small/thin coloured elements (texts for example) and coloured backgrounds with elements set to knock-out, it is advisable to limit the colours to a maximum of three.

*In case of doubts, please send us a few test pages in PDF format, so that we can give you some feedback/suggestions.*