

THE IMPORTANCE OF ACHIEVING FOGRA CERTIFICATION

Claudia Bauer emphasises the relevance of standardisation in today's printing industry

The German Federation of Industrial Research Associations (Arbeitsgemeinschaft industrieller Forschungsvereinigungen/AiF) has launched a number of research and development projects aimed at cutting costs without compromising quality.

These projects are sponsored by the German Printing and Media Industries Federation (Bundesverband Druck) and the German Printing Institute (Deutsches Institut Druck/DID). These activities are driving standardisation for offset printing, flexographic printing, intaglio and screen-printing.



Marabu's Ultraboard UVBR inks have been tested in accordance with ISO-2846-4

THE ISO 12647 SERIES OF STANDARDS (FOR PRINTERS)

The ISO 12647 series of standards, developed and published by the International Organisation for Standardisation, applies to printers and describes processes, process parameters and tolerances for various printing methods and processes.

ISO 12647-2 and ISO 12647-3 are based on conventional workflows (i.e. film-based workflows), and are rooted in the process standard for offset printing.

This standard defines the parameters for print proofs and print runs.

THE ISO 2846-4 STANDARD (FOR SCREEN-PRINTING INK MANUFACTURERS)

ISO 2846-4 addresses manufacturers of screen-printing inks, and defines the colour and transparency of printing ink sets for four-colour printing. The standard describes a method for testing process colour inks to ensure conformance, and defines the substrate to be used in testing. The test is conducted using standardised parameters and a standardised dot gain curve. The 2846-4 series of standards has replaced Euroscale.

By complying with ISO 2846-4, the ink manufacturer enables screen-printers to



Ink colour

| 24100

The Fogra certification logo

comply with ISO 12647-5 (for screen printing) and ISO 12647-2 (for offset printing) when a standardised, defined dot gain curve is used. This allows printers to achieve highly consistent printing results, no matter what printing method is employed.

Defining and complying with standardised parameters, including dot gain curves, are both essential for achieving consistent printing results. This applies to all workflows – from the initial layout, to pre-press, through to the finished product.

Agencies have also started using Fogra certification, especially in the offset printing space, for selecting printers. By choosing Fogra-certified printers, they can rest assured that materials printed in different locations using different methods will be highly uniform.

MARABU IS CERTIFIED BY FOGRA

Marabu is the first manufacturer of screen-printing inks to be officially certified by Fogra. Its Ultraboard UVBR inks have been tested in accordance with ISO 2846-4. ■

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