
**Graphic technology — Process
control for the production of half-
tone colour separations, proof and
production prints —**

**Part 2:
Offset lithographic processes**

*Technologie graphique — Maîtrise des procédés pour la fabrication
des séparations de couleur en ton tramé, des épreuves et des tirages
en production —*

Partie 2: Procédés lithographiques offset



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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation on the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the WTO principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: Foreword - Supplementary information

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 130, *Graphic Technology*.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition which has been extensively revised. The revisions include the following:

- a) deletion of film-based requirements;
- b) changes in proof requirements;
- c) changes in printing conditions;
- d) changes in the colouration of the primary and secondary solids;
- e) introduction of new tone value increase curves;
- f) general clean up.

ISO 12647 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Graphic technology — Process control for the production of half-tone colour separations, proof and production prints*:

- *Part 1: Parameters and measurement methods*
- *Part 2: Offset lithographic processes*
- *Part 3: Coldset offset lithography on newsprint*
- *Part 4: Publication gravure printing*
- *Part 5: Screen printing*
- *Part 6: Flexographic printing*
- *Part 7: Proofing processes working directly from digital data*
- *Part 8: Validation print processes working directly from digital data*

Introduction

This part of ISO 12647 lists values or sets of values of the primary process parameters specified in ISO 12647-1 and related technical properties of a half-tone offset lithographic print. Primary parameters constitute a general printing condition and are defined here as the substrate description, the colorant description, the screening description, the tone value increase and the ink sequence. Since the printing ink to be used in this International Standard is to conform to ISO 2846-1, it is in general not necessary to name it as a primary process parameter.

Conformance to the specified values in proof and production printing ensures, in principle, a good visual match between specimens produced. A visual and in part measurement-wise “proof-to-print match” is essential for globally consistent printing and publishing workflows in general. A press proof print might be necessary when using specific printing conditions that use different types of surface finishing.

As the printing and publishing world has accepted former editions of this International Standard, it has struggled to implement the different paper types. The paper type specifications by means of tristimulus values, originally defined as a guideline for press proof prints, have been wrongly interpreted as an exclusive prerequisite for papers to be “in conformance with ISO 12647-2”. In addition, it has become evident that the paper types defined by this International Standard reflect market papers poorly. Therefore, some industry groups, while using the general principles of this International Standard, have established additional printing conditions with different paper specifications.

When revising this International Standard a new paper categorization was established. This was necessary since there is no agreed upon method to predict the printing behaviour based on colorimetric readings of the unprinted print substrate. When the visual printing characteristics of typical printed papers were analysed, different sets of colorant descriptions were identified. A closer look revealed that these sets corresponded to the surface (CIE whiteness, gloss, and coating) and mass per area characteristics (opacity).

A print is therefore in conformance with this International Standard when:

- the colorimetric aims of the process colours, defined by the general printing conditions and using typical means of inking, are achievable;
- by agreement between all parties, an additional printing condition is established and aim values for this printing condition are clearly communicated, for example by exchanging a characterization.

This International Standard addresses typical industrial printing under feasible economical constraints. The tolerance values have therefore been chosen to provide a reasonable balance between customer expectations (meaning small variations), technical production limits and production costs. Assuming agreements between all parties concerned, tolerances might be tightened especially when primary or secondary process parameters (e.g. paper) can be fixed in the planning stage.

Graphic technology — Process control for the production of half-tone colour separations, proof and production prints —

Part 2: Offset lithographic processes

1 Scope

This part of ISO 12647 specifies a number of process parameters and their values to be applied when producing colour separations, printing formes and print production for four-colour sheet-fed and web-fed offset printing presses excluding coldset offset lithography on newsprint.

The parameters and values are chosen in view of the typical process covering the process stages “colour separation”, “proof production”, “making of the printing forme”, “OK print” and “production printing” on all kinds of commercially available production substrates.

This part of ISO 12647:

- is directly applicable to press proof prints and printing processes that use colour separation printing formes as input;
- is applicable to press proof prints and printing processes with more than four process colours as long as direct analogies to four-colour printing are maintained, such as for data and screening, for print substrates and printing parameters;
- is applicable to printing on cardboard material for packaging;
- is applicable for all kinds of drying methods such as heat-set, infrared, and ultraviolet;
- provides references for quality assurance and quality management.

This part of ISO 12647 is not applicable to processes other than offset such as printing directly from digital data where there is no intermediate image carrier, or where the image carrier can be refreshed for each impression and thus each impression can be different in content.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 2846-1, *Graphic technology — Colour and transparency of printing ink sets for four-colour printing — Part 1: Sheet-fed and heat-set web offset lithographic printing*

ISO 8254-1, *Paper and board — Measurement of specular gloss — Part 1: 75 degree gloss with a converging beam, TAPPI method*

ISO 8254-2, *Paper and board — Measurement of specular gloss — Part 2: 75 degree gloss with a parallel beam, DIN method* [alternative to ASTM D7163]

ISO/TS 10128, *Graphic technology — Methods of adjustment of the colour reproduction of a printing system to match a set of characterization data*

ISO 11475, *Paper and board — Determination of CIE whiteness, D65/10 degrees (outdoor daylight)*

ISO 12647-1, *Graphic technology — Process control for the production of half-tone colour separations, proof and production prints — Part 1: Parameters and measurement methods*

ISO 12647-7, *Graphic technology — Process control for the production of half-tone colour separations, proof and production prints — Part 7: Proofing processes working directly from digital data*

ISO 13655, *Graphic technology — Spectral measurement and colorimetric computation for graphic arts images*

ASTM D7163, *Standard Test Method for Specular Gloss of Printed Matter* [alternative to ISO 8254-2]

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 12647-1 and the following apply.

3.1

area coverage

ratio of the area covered with ink to the entire area in an ink zone

3.2

calibration

adjustment based on a comparison between a standard and a unit under test

3.3

characterization data

set of tone values and associated colorimetric values that fully describe a given printing process

3.4

tone value

(printing forme) percentage of surface area that is covered by printing ink

4 Requirements

4.1 General

Digital data files delivered for printing should be accompanied by a digital proof print, a press proof print, or an OK print from a previous print run.

NOTE Press proof prints are test prints of the data files on a printing press which may serve as a reference for subsequent printing. While most proofs are digital proofs, for colour- or content-critical work there is a need for press proof prints with the same setup as the production print.

4.2 Data files and printing formes

4.2.1 Data delivery

Data delivered for printing shall be in the colour formats CMYK or three-component and should be exchanged using PDF/X [6][7] data formats.

The intended printing condition shall be indicated. In case of PDF/X the mechanisms provided by the specified data format shall be used. In case of other data formats a printing condition description, a characterization data set [3][4] or an International Colour Consortium (ICC) output profile [5] shall be communicated.

If the data are other than CMYK, the data shall be defined by colorimetric descriptions using an ICC profile or another mechanism and an ICC CMYK output profile shall be included. The rendering intent to be used for each data element shall be communicated.

If the characterization data or ICC output profile provided conflicts with the printing conditions defined in this part of ISO 12647 one of the methods defined in ISO/TS 10128 shall be used for data adjustment