

# **DESIGN GUIDEBOOK**

## **Design verification process:**

In our quest to produce the highest quality printing products, all projects must pass through the design verification process. The pdf files will be checked by a member of our prepress team. A prepress report will be generated highlighting the issues that must be addressed before the files can be moved to the production phase. Several rounds of file uploading, checking, and prepress reports may happen before the files are cleared to go to production.

# Want to make the process faster?

Besides following all of the great tips here, you can check your files before uploading them to RichColor! Checking your print files for some of the most common issues that need to be corrected, including:

- Low resolution images
- RGB images
- Spot color inks

Following these guidelines will reduce the time it takes for your project to go through the design verification phase before mass production.

We strongly urge those unfamiliar with offset printing's standards to read these tips carefully. While it is important to follow all of these best practices, there are five basic requirements for all files submitted to RichColor for print.

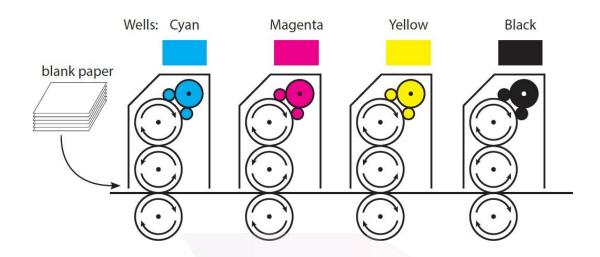


#### The BASIC FIVE:

### 1. All files must be submitted as PDFs

#### 2. All files to be in CMYK color format

Large scale commercial printing uses an offset printing process, most commonly consisting of the use of CMYK plates (Cyan, Magenta, Yellow, Black). All files must be submitted in CMYK color format. **Do not use RGB colorspace** for your files. RGB is a format for onscreen images.



# 3. Images should be at a resolution of 300ppi or above

The print industry standard is to have all images at 300+ ppi. Using lower resolution images runs the risk of your images appearing blurry or pixelated.

#### 4. All files to have 3mm of bleed

Bleed and margin issues are a common problem found during prepress checks, but they are easy to avoid!



**Bleed** is a printing term that refers to the artwork that goes beyond the edge of the dieline (or trim line) for your component. Artwork and background colors should extend at least to the edge of the bleed line. Maintaining the recommended bleed will ensure that unprinted edges do not appear on your components.

All files require **at least 3mm** of bleed on each side; some components may require more.



**5. Black text should be pure black** (C:0% M:0% Y:0% K:100%), not rich black, and text should be set to overprint.

The reason we ask that all text be in Pure Black is that our eyes are trained to notice extremely small variations when deciphering text. For this reason, we strongly recommend using a single color plate when designing text for print as the smallest misalignment of the printing plates may cause typefaces with thin strokes to appear slightly blurry. Pure black is the best of those four colors to use for type as it is the easiest to read.