

# Printing Guidelines

## hp INDIGO



HP Indigo presses use a totally different type of 'ink' (toner) from other presses and the material surface requirements are very specific.

Not all materials can be printed by Indigo method.

Most materials require pre-treatment with 'sapphire' (or similar) coatings to ensure suitability.

All PCL3 Digital materials are approved for Indigo printing without any further treatment.

All materials have been independently tested and approved by the Digital Academy, in both flat sheet and die cut label form.

To date this is the only range of die cut labels worldwide to carry approval.

The approval number [DA3-04-099](#) refers to the entire PCL3 Digital range and product information can be found on our web site at [www.pcllabels.com](http://www.pcllabels.com)

### Printing Guidelines

- Always fan the sheets well before printing.
- Take particular care when 'knocking up' the sheets not to bend the edges and cause labels to lift - discard any sheets that are damaged.
- Ensure media type and thickness are set correctly.
- Set the airflow control at the back of the stack around 4, ensuring the air is separating the sheets.
- Beware of static build up particularly when running synthetic materials (e.g. polyesters) and keep stack sizes small. Use appropriate anti-static measures if available.
- The feed wheels can cause the sheets to jam on the Print Feed Unit, so ensure wheels are set specifically for the material.
- Set the height of the paper stack so it sits at the middle line on the paper feed unit.
- Set Blow Control to 4 (this can vary for

different PCL3 materials, but it is a good start point).

- Set Suction Control to 3 (this can vary for different PCL3 materials, but is a good start point)

### Litho / Indigo

- In the unlikely even that litho pre-printed materials will be printed further by Indigo technology, please ensure trials are completed with particular reference to electro-ink adhesion on the litho printed sheets and litho image stability.
- To be electro ink receptive, the polyester materials are specially 'top coated' and it is likely that litho printing using fully oxidising inks (and the possibility of the presence of spray powder) will change the surface characteristics.
- The preferred method of print for variable information would be in one pass digitally.

## Indigo Notes

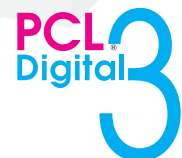
**TurboStream** - May be issues with labels lifting if very heavy print coverage is required. Lower running speeds mean the labels are in contact with the blanket and impression drum for approximately twice as long as 3050 and 5000 models. Although the blanket and impression Drum on 3050 and 5000 run at much higher temperatures the contact time is the important factor. Reducing the drum temperature will help to overcome this problem

**3050 (older models)** - removing the feed wheels immediately after the paper feed tray (prior to the 'bridge' before machine in feed) may reduce the potential for jamming against the 'springs'. Newer models have a redesigned feed wheel system that does not appear to cause problems.

**All models** - reduce the potential for static by loading polyesters sheet by sheet into the feed stack. This introduces a layer of air between each sheet and helps prevent static buildup. Keep stack size small.



PASSED BY THE DIGITAL ACADEMY  
AS COMPATIBLE WITH  
HP INDIGO SERIES 3000  
SHEET-FED PRESSES



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