

STERILIZATION INDICATOR INKS

Frequently Asked Questions

Why in some cases is the ink in the container one color and the printed image another color?

The color of the ink in the container is sometimes different from the color of the printed image. This is because of the influence of the substrate on the color of the ink and/or a shift in pH of the ink once it dries on the substrate (ink is formulated to be stable in the pot).

How stable are the NAMSA indicator inks towards drying on the press?

The inks are specifically formulated to stay open on the press for long periods of time without skinning in the pan.

Can the indicator inks be left on the press for an extended period without damaging the anilox or gravure cylinder?

Yes, the inks can be left in the ink well for an extended period of time without damaging the anilox or gravure cylinder. The ink will not corrode or damage the cylinders while in the ink pan.

Are there extenders available for use with the inks?

Extenders are not recommended nor necessary because the inks are chemically and shear stable and are formulated to stay open without drying in the ink well.

What is the recommended press speed for printing the inks on film or paper?

Printing tests have been performed where the inks were successfully printed onto plastic films and various papers up to 210 feet per minute (64 meters per minute) without offsetting or development of problems associated with after tack.

What is the best method to dry the ink during the printing process?

Moderate heat with high airflow is recommended for drying flexographic or gravure printing on films. Flexographic or gravure application onto a paper substrate requires use of low to moderate heat and moderate airflow to sufficiently dry the ink.

What is necessary to clean up the inks on the press or a spill?

The inks are easily cleaned up at the end of a press run with a mild detergent and water solution. If an ink has dried and cured for longer than 24 hours, use of a press wash or alcohol may be necessary. Spills should also be cleaned up with a mild detergent and water solution.

Are the inks known to be incompatible with any other chemicals?

The inks should be kept away from strong oxidizers, acids and bases.

How soon after the ink is printed should the initial color be completely developed and when can the product be tested for performance or physical properties?

On most substrates the initial color is fully developed by the time the substrate is rewound at the end of the printing press. The printed image may be tested as soon as the ink has dried. We have evaluated the performance of printed ink products upon drying and have found the results to be acceptable. Evaluations of physical properties should be performed according to standard ASTM procedures.

Are there any simple ways to test the product for the performance if the desired sterilization process is not available?

We do not recommend using alternative methods to determine if the ink will show exposure to a given sterilization process. It is always recommended that the performance of the ink on a given substrate be evaluated in accordance with its intended use. Up front validation should be performed to demonstrate ink compatibility with any substrate especially if specific performance standards are intended to be met.

For additional product information:

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