

FAQ

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FograCert Validation Printing System

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FAQ FograCert Validation Printing System

Questions & answers about the FograCert Validation Printing System (VPS programme)

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1. General Questions

1.1 What does VPS, VPC, CPS and CPC stand for?

VPS = Validation Printing System

CPS = Contract Proofing System

VPC = Validation Print Creation

CPS = Contract Proof Creation

1.2 What is the difference between ... - System and the ... - Creation – certification?

The system certification (both for VPS and CPS) is intended (but of course not restricted) to manufacturers of entire solutions or printing systems (comprising printers, controllers, software, substrate and a printing condition to be simulated) to show that their product (solution), by means of the tested configuration, fulfils all rigorous criteria defined in ISO/DIS 12647-8 (VPS) or ISO 12647-7 (CPS) respectively.

The so called creation certification is intended for printing sites (print shops) to allow them (the users of the pertinent printing machines) to show their users the compliance to rigorous criteria defined in ISO 12647-8 (VPC) or ISO 12647-7 (CPC) respectively. Those are a subset of the system certification.

The so called “third level”, the creation of reference prints day by day (with a control strip) is not subject of ISO 12647-7 nor ISO 12647-8. The free of charge media standard print (<http://www.bvdm-online.de/English/>) makes provisions for such cases by requiring the Ugra/Fogra Media Wedge V2 or V3 and applying the criteria of ISO 12647-7, which are applicable to such a control wedge.

1.3 What is a test configuration or a combination?

A test configuration identifies all parameters that basically affect the visual characteristics:

- Printer
- Substrates
- Ink / Toner (Colorant)
- Software (driving / rendering, screening, colour-management, calibration ...)
- Controller (usually for production machines)
- Intended Printing condition to be simulated

1.4 If you fail a particular spec, would that invalidate the whole certification?

For each combination all normative requirements must be fulfilled. In case a combination won't pass the requirements it will be reported in the final report but no certificate and therefore no entry on the Fogra webpage will be made.

1.5 Would failures be kept private, or will they be revealed as public knowledge?

All details of the measurement are subject to the bilateral communication and will be mentioned in the report. That report (available as a physical print out and as a PDF) will only be submitted to the client and it is up to the client to use it further (as is). The client might keep it internal or publish it on the web page.

1.6 Which information will be published?

Certified configurations will be listed on the [FograCert Homepage](#). If desired we can publish the entry at a particular date. You also receive a detailed report, a certificate for every certified configuration and a personalised FograCert logo – which you are free to publicise on your webpage, marketing materials etc. – but this information will not be published to any third party by Fogra.

1.7 Where does the certification take place?

Wherever the pertinent system is installed – this is totally up to the client/customer. It is also possible to install the system at the Fogra-Premises in Munich. Note that travelling expenses will be charged.

2. Prices, Procedure and Expiration

2.1 What is the price for the certification ?

The 2010 price including up to 8 configurations is **€ 6,375.00*** excl. VAT for non- Fogra-members and **€ 4,462.00*** excl. VAT for members. Travelling expenses are not included and will be charged separately. , we recommend to contact us in due time to arrange good flight rates.

2.2 How to apply, is there an official application form?

No, just contact us directly: kraushaar@fogra.org Tel. +49 89. 431 82 – 335
Or bickeboeller@fogra.org Tel. +49 89. 431 82 – 336

2.3 What is the standard procedure for a VPS / CPS?

1. Discussion of the combinations to be tested
2. Agreeing on a date and premise
3. 2 Weeks prior to the certification you will get all PDF testforms to test them ahead of time
4. Conducting the certification: A Fogra employee will be on site for the 2 days testing programme
5. Approximately 2 weeks after the tests on site you will get the results.
6. Your tested configurations, as they passed all criteria, are now officially certified. You will receive a report with detailed evaluation, a certificate for every passed configuration and your FograCert Logo. All passed systems will get an entry on the FograCert website.

2.4 How many combinations are included within one certification?

Up to eight combinations are included in one certification.

2.5 Can I test more than eight configurations at once?

More are subject for a individual discussion due to potential time constraints. Each additional combination costs 800 € (for non-members).

2.6 If I test less than eight combinations, do I have to pay the full price ?

Yes.

2.7 I have tested less than eight combinations. Can I test the remaining one during another date on-site ?

No. (Just to be sure 😊)

2.8 In which languages can I receive the report / certificates?

English or German (Additional translation will be charge by 200€ exclusive VAT)

2.9 Which paper should I use for the certification? Any recommendations?

In cases where the production substrate is identical to the one used for the Validation Print there is no restriction as to meeting the requirements for matching the reference printing condition. Here no permanence requirements apply. If you select a typical production paper (with a high amount of optical brightener agents– OBA) it is unlikely that you achieve the required colorimetric accuracy with respect to standard printing conditions such as FOGRA39, GraCol2006 or Japan Coated. Here the only solution is currently to use a all new characterization data set that mimics that process more closely.

If you wanna match FOGRA39 with a typical substrate (similar to proofing scenarios: “1 Proofing Substrates fits all”) we recommend using substrates with a low amount of optical brightening agents. Such papers are more likely to pass the required permanence & light fastness tests. If you are unsure which paper to use, it is a good idea to look which papers were already used for certified systems (<http://fogracert.fogra.org/index.php?menuid=88>). The general concept of the substrate selection and corresponding test requirements are depicted in Figure 1.

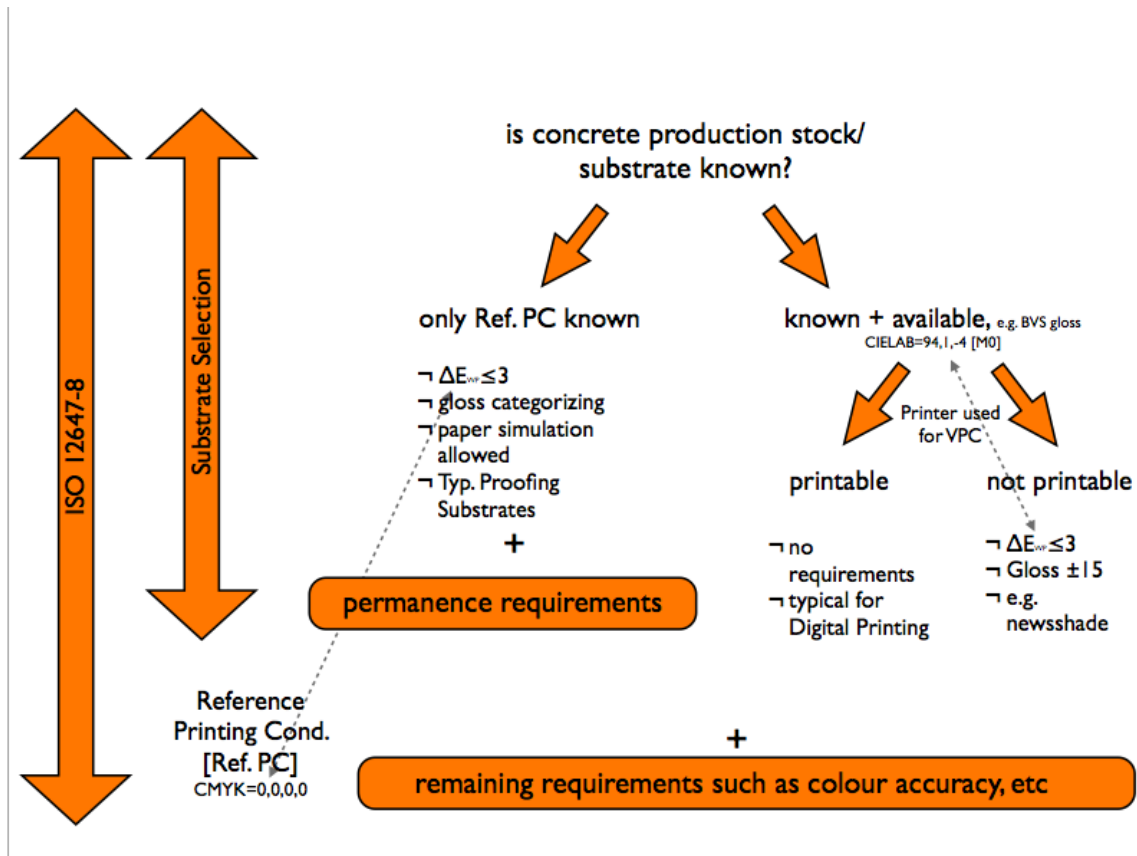


Fig. 1: Concept of Substrate Selection and corresponding requirements.

3. Similar Systems and heritability of certification

3.1 When are two systems equal or similar respectively?

The question when two systems are similar is common. This is motivated by the wish to prevent unnecessary test (of already tested systems). In principal two machines or combinations are similar when the resulting print image quality isn't influenced in a negative way. As this is hard to handle in practice the following questions will help. It is important to note that this is always an individual decision. If you can answer the following questions positively, two systems are treated as similar and can be listed in addition to the certified systems:

- Are the same consumables used?
- Is the same substrate transport used?
- Is the same imaging unit used?
- Is the drying or fixing unit the same?
- Is the production speed smaller or equal compared to the tested system?

3.2 I am selling a relabelled (OEM-) version of a yet certified validation printing system. Do I have to certify it again? Do I have to pay the full charge?

No. You can get your system certified for a small handling fee – if the owner of the original certificate agrees. Please contact us for details.

4. Measurement Conditions

4.1 What measurement conditions will be used for the colorimetric evaluation?

We principally use the measurement mode the referring characterization data is based on. For typical printing conditions such as FOGRA39 this is M0 on white backing [wb] according to ISO 13655:2009.

4.2 Which backing to use?

Any ISO 13655:2009 conforming white or black backing. For information and a list of conforming white backings see <http://fogracert.fogra.org/index.php?menuid=34>.

4.3 Which measurement device shall I use?

Any ISO 13655:2009 conform measurement device. Take care that your device is calibrated and maintained according to the manufacturers recommendation. At Fogra we do measure with GretagMacBeth Spectrolino and X-Rite iSis incorporating an uncertainty assessment that facilitates typical inter instrument agreement (disagreement) with other devices such as devices from Techkon or Barbieri.

5. Evaluation Details

5.1 What will be tested?

We check your printing system (each combination) with respect to:

- Proofing substrate colour and gloss
- Permanence and light fastness [currently for informative only]
- Fading [drift]
- Rub resistance [carbonating test, adhesion of varnish, break of the fold]
- Colour accuracy based on the Ugra/Fogra Media Wedge V2/ V3
- Colour accuracy based on the ISO12642-2 test chart, the gamut and grey balance
- Tone value reproduction limits/ Reproduction of vignettes
- Image register and resolving power
- Colorimetric tone value reproduction
- Homogeneity [extended scrutiny]
- Consistency [short and long term repeatability]
- Margin information
- PDF/X conformance

5.2 What are the tolerances?

For detailed information about the tolerances download the following PDF file:

<http://fogracert.fogra.org/index.php?menuid=88&downloadid=121&reporeid=0>

5.3 When using a “brightened paper” – can we still meet the Criteria?

See 2.9

5.4 Are there any specified tests that evaluate our black generation principles?

No. Test forms will undergo the same way as all other document content undergoes if they get printed using the combination to be certified.

5.5 My system meets the higher proofing tolerances - can I get a Contract Proofing System certification with my toner based (our any other) system ?

If you meet all criteria of ISO 12647-7- yes. Basically the test procedure does not differ from the CPS – Certification. For details about the tolerances see:

<http://fogracert.fogra.org/index.php?menuid=88&downloadid=121&reporeid=0>

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