

9 REASONS why you need PREFLIGHT

Preflight has been around for many years and has proven its value. However not everybody preflights. Some printers still go into production after a manual check, or worse, not checking the files at all. The number of content creators that don't check files before sending them to a printer is even higher. Preflighting your files can save you a lot of money as many errors can only be detected by preflight software. And those errors do create trouble afterwards!

This poster shows you why you need to preflight. It sums up nine of the most common errors that are detected by GWG compliant preflight applications. By the way: preflighting is not expensive or complex.

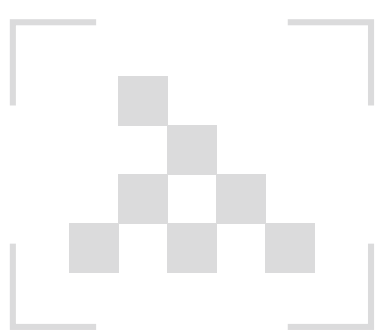
Check www.gwg.org and find out how you can start checking files tomorrow.

01

IMAGE RESOLUTION



For print output, the image resolution needs to be higher than for viewing a PDF on a screen. If not, you will see artifacts in the image. Some printers prefer PDFs with CMYK images only, some accept RGB. So what about the image below? Does it have the right resolution? And is it RGB or CMYK?



© Bart Van Looy

UNINTENDED RGB



02

SPOT COLORS



03

Most designers like to work with spot colors (e.g. Pantone®), especially in logos. But in many cases, these logos need to be printed using only CMYK inks since an extra 'dedicated' ink for the spot color is more expensive. Is the logo below converted to CMYK or not? Check the number of print separations!



Ghent Workgroup

04

FONTS ISSUES



Many things can go wrong with fonts. If a font is not embedded, the RIP or workflow will need to replace it with a similar one. Exactly how similar that replacement font will be is never certain. Another frequent issue is very small print, or even larger print when it's output on different separations...

Does this text look ok to you?
Or was the font substituted?

Can you print really fine print, e.g. 4 points?

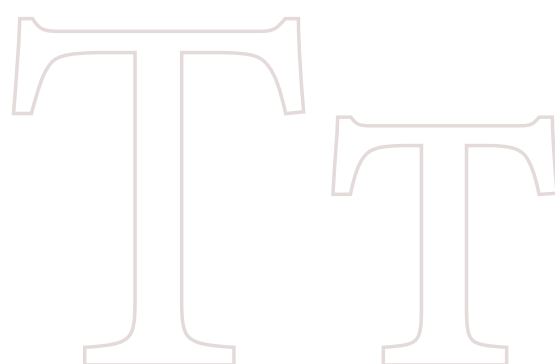
Or text that is 8 points high, but composed of two separations or more?

05

WHITE TEXT

Tt

How do you define white text? That's an interesting question... If you use the wrong settings, it will come out wrong or even disappear. Do you see white text in the black box below? And how do you define a deep ('rich') black, one that won't cause trouble on a printing press?



White text

07

TRANSPARENCY



This text is 60% transparent (40% opaque). If the RIP doesn't support transparency, the text will appear as 100%.



09

BLENDING COLOR SPACE



CMYK should be used for print. But will the bar look as a solid block of green when viewed on a mobile device or on the web?

It would make the appearance of the bar match with the explanation above in print and only go wrong when viewed online or so, using the digital version.

*a faint color difference might be caused by different color management, not by the use of a different blend color space as such (RGB would cause a very bright green).



HOW TO GUIDE:
try the following



GO TO

www.gwg.org/9-reasons-to-preflight
to download the test file

STEP
01

Open this test file in a recent version of Adobe Acrobat or Adobe Reader®. Do you see any errors that will cause a problem in print? Now send this file to your proofer or your RIP. Please note: an ordinary desktop printer is not a proofing device! Files are handled differently and can come out wrong. If you have another PDF viewer on your system, other than Acrobat or Reader (e.g. Foxit Reader, or Mac OS X Preview), use that one too and check if both viewers show the same content.

STEP
02

Now check the file with the GWG compliant preflight application of your choice and with for instance a 'sheetfed offset CMYK' profile (you can download it from the GWG website if not already available in your preflight application). You'll see why you need preflight, why you need the GWG!

**Need to check your full workflow?
Use the Ghent PDF Output Suite!**

LAYERS



08

