



Ink Recommendations for Direct Thermal Papers and Films

Compatible Flexographic Water-Based Inks:

- Flint Group Thermokett HR
- Siegwerk Thermal Narrow Web
- Actega/Water Ink Technologies Thermal
- Interactive Inks and Coatings Thermal
- Environmental Inks Thermal
- INX Thermal

Compatible Flexographic UV-Curable Inks:

- Siegwerk
- Sun Chemical
- Flint Group Sigma
- Flint Group Gemini
- Flint Group Flexocure Force
- Environmental Inks and Coatings
- Actega/Water Ink Technologies

Test Conditions

Printability testing evaluated the ability of the inks to perform under normal press conditions and produce normal color tones upon application to the direct thermal substrate.

Inks are printed on a narrow web flexographic press at run speed, using mid-line-screen anilox, then evaluated for ink drying, ink adhesion, and ink density.

Performance of Printed Substrates

Several variables will contribute to the imaging performance of a pre-printed thermal substrate, including:

- Thermal imaging device
- Thermal imaging heat settings
- Presence of thermal top coating
- Presence of over print varnish
- Ink cure method (UV, evaporation, etc.)
- Degree of ink cure
- Amount of ink applied during printing