



INKS AND SEALERS

Aqueous Coating

Aqueous coating is a water based coating applied on the press, on a specialised unit, immediately over other conventional inks.

Aqueous coating is available in a gloss or semi-matt (satin) finish, and has the advantage of almost instant drying, immediate backing up, movement, trimming, folding and other post press processes. The finish is superior to traditional sealer or overgloss, and enhances the printed surface with the added advantage of being extremely hard – eliminating the potential for marking and therefore protecting the printed material. In most cases it is unsuitable for uncoated stocks.

The coating provides a good substrate for subsequent processes such as spot UV, lamination etc.

Aqueous is also environmentally friendly due to reduced usage and is washed up with water as opposed to chemicals, is non-toxic, biodegradable, re-pulpable and is suitable for most packaging applications.

As aqueous coating is applied directly from a blanket, without a plate, it is therefore not suitable for spot application, however individual pages or areas can be individually coated by “cutting” or “packing the blanket.”

CMYK

The acronym for the four process colour inks: Cyan, Magenta, Yellow and Black.

The process colours cyan, magenta, yellow and black are combined in varying amounts to represent colours in an original image. K is used for black to avoid confusion with blue.

Process Colour

The mechanical process of reproducing a full colour image with the three primary subtractive colour inks (CMY – Cyan, Magenta, Yellow) and K – Black. When viewed under a lupe, the individual colour halftone dots can be seen in a process colour image.

PMS Colour (Pantone Matching System)

A proprietary colour system for choosing and matching specific spot and process colours.

Machine Seal

This is a solvent based coating applied like ink by a printing press to protect the printed surface, and may be a matt (dull) or gloss finish. Machine seals are not suitable for work which is to be digitally overprinted or requires to be written over at a later date, e.g. an application form. Seals can be applied to a full sheet or spot seals can be applied to certain portions of a sheet only.

Spot Colour

Where a colour is printed using a specific colour of ink rather than creating it from the process colours. This is applied to printing when process colour is not necessary (i.e. one, two and three colour printing), or when process colours need to be augmented (i.e. a fluorescent pink headline or a metallic tint).

Spot Varnish

Varnish applied only to certain portions of a sheet to highlight those areas.

Draw Down

A strip of ink spread on a sheet of paper with a pallette knife and allowed to dry to show the resulting colour. Often used for special mixes, such as corporate colours to match to when printing.

Lightfast Ink

An ink which is not affected by exposure to light.