

Mellow Colour launches Proficient Printer Programme

Mellow Colour has developed a new area on its website for print buyers looking for suppliers that are working with its PrintSpec™ product, which enables them to become ISO 12647 proficient. All the companies listed have been accredited with the Mellow Colour ISO 12647 proficiency certificate and have the training and tools to produce print that complies with the specification.

‘The Proficient Printer Programme validates the printers who can provide optimum colour output and meet the targets and tolerances of the ISO 12647 specification,’ comments Alan Dresch, founder, Mellow Colour. ‘The list and contact details available on our site provides a one stop service helping print buyers to locate a printer that can offer colour consistency.

‘Colour quality control and production analysis is all about changing the culture of an organisation – by using benchmarks as targets and specialised measuring techniques for analysis it is possible to be much more systematic about the way we print colour. This also makes it easier to identify press and ink problems when things do stray off track.’

Printers that are featured on the website have undergone an on-site ISO 12647 Implementation and Training, undertaken with a Mellow Colour-trained PrintSpec implementation specialist. Reviews are then carried out every six months by Mellow Colour to ensure that all presses remain calibrated and able to meet the Dot Gain (TVI) and Lab values specified by ISO 12647 and that grey balance values comply with PrintSpec targets and tolerances. Only by passing each audit does the certificate remain validated.

‘We have introduced PrintSpec, which gives us the opportunity to develop new skills and which takes out the objectivity from reprographics and print,’ comments Ian Duddle, print manager, APS Group. ‘By working to strictly defined parameters we are able to standardise our colour output and improve consistency which is of benefit to all our customers.’

Each six-monthly audit undertakes the following process:

- Checks that sufficient numbers and quality of PrintSpec trained individuals are still employed and actively using the system.
- Checks that PrintSpec measurement files have been collected on a regular basis during the previous six-month period.
- Checks CtP curves and ink settings provide ISO compliant print appearance.
- Checks ink sets used for ISO 12647 related work comply with targets tolerances in the specification
- Checks spectrophotometer accuracy using manufacturer's diagnostic tools.
- Checks viewing booth lighting conforms to ISO 3664.
- Revision training

Mellow Colour Proficient Printers automatically become members of the Mellow Colour Club, which allows them discounted PrintSpec software upgrades and access to the online Mellow Colour Knowledgebase.

Mellow Colour currently has 14 companies listed - in the UK and Scandinavia, with contact details and a description of what exactly the company does. The list can be found at <http://www.mellowcolour.com/25933.html>

PrintSpec was developed to enable colour printers to comply with the tight targets and tolerances defined in the ISO 12647 Specification. PrintSpec offers more than proof-to-press colour consistency; the software provides a more efficient workflow, reducing time, cost, waste and delivering improved customer satisfaction.

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15/09/2006

About Mellow Colour:

Mellow Colour Ltd was founded in 2003 by Alan Dresch, a specialist in colour reproduction, to develop and supply software tools and technical training to printing companies wishing to implement ISO 12647. In practice, Mellow Colour's range of products allows quick identification and the resolution of colour reproduction problems and maintenance of colour standards. Its flagship product, the award winning PrintSpec™ software, delivers consistent colour from proof to press, from press to press, and from one print run to another.

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