

Identify the main types of proofs used and their role in the printing process

The purpose of a proof is to provide the customer, designer, pre-press technician and printer with a means of having a common understanding of how the printed work will appear after it has been printed.

The following should be checked on a proof:

- a) Text layout, spelling and grammar
- b) Image resolution and quality
- c) Page imposition
- d) Correct font usage
- e) Colour accuracy
- f) Colour trapping, overprinting and knockouts

Proofs from a **low resolution desktop printer** (laserprinter) are suitable for checking text layout, grammar, spelling and font usage. But it is unlikely to be suitable for checking colour accuracy, image quality or colour issues.

Proofs from a **high resolution digital device** can be used to check colour accuracy, trapping, overprinting and knockout, providing they have been calibrated and the correct colour management software is used.

High resolution proofs made from films (chromalin/matchprint) reproduce exactly what is contained on the films and are suitable for checking most aspects of the job.

The customers should always be aware of the limitations of the proof supplied to them from the printer. The exact shade of a colour is difficult to produce on a proof. It is better to show the customer a proof which has been taken from the plates on the printing press.

Before printing any job, it is usual practice to obtain a signed proof from the customer so that those working on the job know what they are required to produce.