

**Describe the basic principles of pre-flighting and ripping files in digital pre-press**

### Verifying Files Provided by the Client

*Download, read notes and answer questions*

Elements which need to be checked in a document:

- (a) Final size reproduction
- (b) Font usage
- (c) Image usage
- (d) Location of images
- (e) Number and name of colour separation

The purpose of flight checking files before imaging:

- (a) Check that all fonts are present
- (b) Check that all graphic images are present and saved in the correct colour mode and resolution
- (c) Check that the document is the correct size
- (d) Check the file against the signed-off proof

Pre-flight checking of files can be done manually, with the aid of a checklist. By using pre-flight software it can be achieved much quicker and can generate a report for reviewing.

### **Postscript**

A page description language used for printing documents to imagesetting devices.

### **Portable Document Format (PDF)**

A file format designed to allow documents to be opened on any computer and retain their original appearance.

### **Raster Image Processor (RIP)**

Hardware or software that processes postscript or printer files and converts the data into a format which can drive the output device.

**Postscript files can be distilled into pdf format:**

- (a) This can reduce the resolution of images in the original document to a specified size
- (b) Provide a file which may be small enough to send as an email attachment for the client to check
- (c) Create a reliable file which can be ripped by most postscript level 3 RIP's

The following elements need to be checked after RIPing a file:

- (a) Page orientation
- (b) Printer's marks
- (c) Colour separation
- (d) Correct or reverse reading of film emulsion
- (e) Positive or negative
- (f) Correct fonts
- (g) Resolution of images

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