

## RECOMMENDED PRINTING METHODS FOR TERMAX PAPERS

### 1. THERMAL SIDE

#### ⇒ Water-based flexo

- Apply the minimum amount of ink possible.
- Dry as thoroughly as possible to avoid interaction with the thermal coating.
- Use inks that contain the least amount of alcohol and ammonia possible.

#### ⇒ UV Flexo

- This is the most recommended method.
- Apply the minimum amount of ink possible.
- In the printing process, guarantee total drying of the inks; that is, ensure that the inks cure completely but without contributing an excess of UV radiation that may degrade the thermal coating.
- Pay special attention when printing with light colors (especially yellow) that may lead to undesired coloring.
- The use of UV flexo inks on non-protected thermal papers can cause discolorations on the paper that may appear weeks or months after printing. Carrying out preliminary tests is recommended.

#### ⇒ UV Offset

- Only recommended for P-57 F, P-59 RF, T-74 F, T-80 F, T-105 F, T-55 HRF, T-75 HRF, T-105 RF, L-74 F and L-105 F qualities.
- Apply the minimum amount of ink possible.
- Apply the minimum amount of damping water possible.
- Work at the minimum pressure possible.
- Take care that the inks cure completely but without contributing an excess of UV radiation that may degrade the thermal coating.
- Work with the lowest tack possible.
- The damping water should contain the least amount of alcohol possible, and always less than 10%.

## 2. BACK

The back of the paper can be printed using any method, including normal offset. However, it is recommended that the minimum amount of ink possible be applied in order to avoid, through insufficient drying, deactivation of the thermal coating when it comes into contact with the back when the paper is rolled.

## 3. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Pay attention that the ink does not contain abrasive materials that could damage the thermal heads.
- The normal offset system is not advisable as thermal papers have a very low level of absorption.
- When using UV drying inks, make sure that the inks adequately dry.
- If printing with UV inks on several bodies, dry immediately after each station.
- The inks used must be resistant to heat so that they do not damage the print head (resistance of  $> 300^{\circ} \text{C}$  is recommended).
- The inks should not contain plasticizers that could migrate with time to the thermal coating and deactivate it.
- The inks should not contain polystyrene as this may damage the thermal heads.

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