RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STORING AND USING SELF-ADHESIVE MATERIALS: SHEETS AND REELS

Reels

- Store material at a temperature no higher than 20ºC and at a relative humidity of 50%.
- When warehouse conditions are different from those of the printer's shop, condition the paper (in its original packaging) to the temperature of the printer's 24 hours prior to use.
- If the reels are not to be used immediately, they should be stored in their original packaging, preferably on a pallet and in a vertical position.
- Never place the material on the floor. Situate it on pallets whose surfaces have been covered with plastic or other humidity-resistant materials.
- Avoid high temperatures that may cause bleeding of the adhesive along the edges. Never store self-adhesive paper close to heaters or in places where it would be vulnerable to direct sun light.
- Avoid excessive humidity as this can cause absorption of water vapor by the paper, which, in turn, would produce waves, wrinkles, curling up, and bleeding.
- If the self-adhesive material is not used completely; that is, if a part remains that will not be used for some time, in the absence of the original packaging it is recommended that the remaining material be wrapped in polyethylene or plasticized paper for safeguarding from dust and changes in humidity.

If the self-adhesive reels are cut at the printer's shop, keep in mind the following:

- Blades must be sharp and clean. After a certain number of feet, when adhesive residue may have accumulated on the cutting edge, clean the blades.
- If the cut reels are stacked for storage, silicon paper disks should be situated between them to avoid their sticking together.
- Avoid rewinding the cut reels too tightly so as to avoid bleeding on the edges or too loosely as the reels can "telescope" when used in the printing machine.
- Wind up the daughter reels in the same direction as the mother reels, otherwise wrinkles and bubbles can form in the facestock material.

Sheets

The recommendations for storing self-adhesive reels are equally valid for sheets regarding humidity, temperature, safeguarding material, etc.

Fluctuations in humidity are even more critical in the case of sheets than reels. The absorbency or desorption of the moisture content of self-adhesive labelstock when it is not protected by reliable packaging, or when the conditions at the printer's or the warehouse are inadequate, can result in serious problems including waves and/or curling up of the sheets. This translates into significant inconveniences when it comes time to print, as the paper can wrinkle, enter the machine improperly, cause register problems, etc.

For this reason, it is crucial to:

- keep the paper well wrapped when it is not being used
- condition it (wrapped) to the temperature of the printer's shop at least 24 hours prior to use
- control as much as possible the degree of humidity
- keep the material on a flat surface throughout the entire usage process in order to avoid folding and flexing of the sheets, which in some cases can result in permanent deformations.
- do not store the material in excessively high stacks as this can cause bleeding in lower sheets due to pressure.

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