

System Preparation

While there are many ways to create PDFs; printing from applications, printing to PDF Writer, and printing to distiller, the most reliable and preferred method is to print a postscript file and distill it using Acrobat Distiller. For optimal results and high quality PDF files the Adobe PostScript printer driver (AdobePS) and the Acrobat Distiller PostScript Printer Description (PPD) file are recommended.

When creating PostScript files for distilling, always use the latest version of the AdobePS drivers. These can be downloaded from the Adobe web site at:

[Macintosh users](#) or [Windows users](#).

Acrobat 4.05 and 5.0 installs a PPD file: Acrobat Distiller (Macintosh) & ADISTx.PPD (Windows, x is the version of Acrobat: ADIST4.PPD or ADIST5.PPD).

Installing Postscript Printer Driver

Windows - Install the Adobe Postscript print driver by running Setup for the Adobe driver. (Do not install the driver from control panel because this does not allow association of a PPD with the driver) Run the print driver installation wizard and specify Acrobat PPD. Under Select Port: specify File: Local port. The default is the PPD name.

Macintosh - Copy the PPDs into the System Folder: Extension: Printer Descriptions.

Create a Postscript file by printing from the application

Windows - Print to File from the application. Select the Distiller PPD.

Macintosh - Select the Adobe ps driver in the Chooser control panel and print to file from the application.

Document Preparation

Size: Documents are to be set to the specified trim size with a minimum of 3mm bleed.

Fonts: We recommend Postscript type 1 and Postscript type 3 fonts, avoid TrueType fonts if possible. Fonts are to be embedded in the final file and should be active on your system at the time of saving.

Images: Images and graphics used in the document must be saved as Grayscale or CMYK. Elements saved in the RGB or LAB colour mode will be converted to CMYK using a generic ICC profile. Image file formats should be JPEG, TIFF or composite EPS, not compressed and 300 dpi at final size.

Colour: All colours in the document and linked files should be set to process except where spot colours are required.

Trapping: All required trapping is to be included in the Postscript file and any placed files within the document. When importing an EPS file, ensure that the trapping is correct on the original EPS file, that is, colours and whites set to "Knockout" and black to "Overprint" etc. if you require specific trapping as an effect please ensure you notify us of this at the time of submitting your files.

Recommended Production Tips

The following will assist in the trouble-free distillation of your Postscript file. Remove any unwanted elements on the pasteboard or obscured by other items. Ensure picture boxes are coloured white except for deep etched images. When placing images in the document, round off enlargement/ reduction percentages. For optimum results, do not enlarge images more than 30%. Images should not be rotated within the picture box although picture boxes may be rotated. Rotations should also be rounded off. Check EPS files linked to the document and delete any elements not destined to print. To avoid black overprints when not required, make a custom black and add 1% in cyan, magenta and yellow channels. Coloured text should always be set to "Knockout" unless overprinting is required. In particular, coloured text with a black drop shadow should be set to "Knockout" otherwise; the black drop shadow may overprint the coloured text. Ensure that white is set to "Knockout" - when set to "Default" or "Overprint" it will disappear.

Preflighting

Acrobat Distiller will leave a '.log' file detailing errors encountered when distilling a Postscript file into PDF. This must be checked as a first step in pre-flighting a PDF file. For instance, the '.log' file will detail errors when attempting to embed fonts into the PDF file. One of the critical aspects to a digital workflow is to "preflight" the resulting file to determine that it complies with the settings as described above. Tools include Adobe Acrobat InProduction, Extensis Preflight Pro, Enfocus Pitstop and Enfocus Doublecheck. If you are in doubt at any stage of file creation, please don't hesitate to request us to do a preflight check for you.

The final PDF you supply to New Litho will be tested through our Preflighting software. If any warnings are detected at this stage the files will be deemed unsuitable for printing and will be returned to you for correction.

Base level specifications for preflight tools

PDF 1.3 (Acrobat 4.0)	Monochrome image resolution - 1200dpi
Binary format	All fonts embedded and subset
All colour CMYK (no special colours, no RGB colours)	No TrueType fonts
Minimum colour and greyscale image resolution - 300dpi	Generated by Acrobat Distiller (not directly by an application or PDFWriter)
Colour and greyscale images compressed using ZIP compression	PDF must not have security that disables printing or inhibits opening.

Transmitting

File names should be unique, less than 20 characters, and comprise only alphabetical or numerical characters (not symbols). It is preferable to use underscore ('_') to represent a space. Do not use spaces or dots at the end of file names. Suffix the file name with '.pdf' for cross-platform compatibility.

Example: Newlitho_124124.pdf

Print ready PDFs can be supplied to New Litho by electronic delivery; email (where size permits), FTP (using folder details obtained from your account manager), or on a disk. Where possible please provide your native files and a hard copy of your output with the PDF.