



Kodak Approval Prelaminate

Customer Bulletin – APPR-030.0
March 2008

Kodak Approval Prelaminate Update

To produce a **Kodak Approval** Digital Color Imaging System proof, it is recommended that all custom stocks and substrates be prepared with **Kodak Approval** Prelaminate. This support material enables the majority of offset and flexible materials to be used in producing a proof as well as protects the proof from environmental conditions.

Beginning in February, customers will receive Prelaminate that will demonstrate easier peel force when removing the backer from the Prelaminate during the proof production process.

This new Prelaminate will not change how a proof is produced or influence color and the easier peel force may enable transfer to a wider range of substrates. If Prelaminate does not transfer successfully, it is recommended that the new **Kodak Approval** Precoat be tested and used as a possible solution to transfer onto those challenging substrates.

What does Prelaminate do?

Prelaminate is a support material specifically designed to:

1. Enable a **Kodak Approval** System proof to properly transfer onto the customer's stock or substrate of choice.
2. Protect the proof from environmental conditions once the proof is made.

Kodak Approval Prelaminate Information

Part Number	Product Name	Sheet Size (mm x mm)	Sheet Size (in x in)	Sheets per Box
20011637	Kodak Approval Prelaminate	546mm X 698mm	21.5 x 27.5	150
20011636	Kodak Approval Prelaminate	360mm X 546mm	14.2 x 21.5	150

Additional information:

- Prelaminate is produced with three notches
- The product designator for Prelaminate is P02/2101



When should Prelaminate be used?

It is recommended that all substrates including common offset press stocks be treated with Prelaminate. The entire image area should be covered by Prelaminate during the lamination process. The only exception to this rule is proofs that are produced on **Kodak Approval** Clear Receiver/CP01/5111 do not require Prelaminate.

Why use Prelaminate?

The use of Prelaminate is necessary for a **Kodak Approval** System proof to display accurate color, colorant stability, and overall image stability. The Prelaminate acts as an encasing transfer layer designed to provide a protective environment for the colorant dots while conforming to the substrate surface. Without Prelaminate protection, image quality can be adversely affected. Interactions with the substrate, various types of coatings, plasticizers, and other chemical additives or with various types of surface treatments can degrade the colorant material or its dot structure.

How to use Prelaminate

Step 1. Pre-laminating a Stock or Substrate

1. Place a piece of Prelaminate just inside the area of the stock or substrate.
2. Send through laminator using your tested speed and temperature settings.
(Temperature and speed settings may need to be adjusted for different substrates to achieve proper transfer of the Prelaminate.)

Step 2. Removing the Support Backing of the Prelaminate

1. Once laminated, allow the Prelaminate to cool to the touch. Once cool, remove the support backing from the Prelaminate.
2. Check for proper lamination.

Step 3. Transferring the Image from the **Kodak Approval** Digital Intermediate Layer

1. Place the imaged Intermediate Layer (image side down) on top of the Prelaminate.
2. Send through laminator using tested speed and temperature settings.

Step 4. Releasing the Image

1. Remove top sheet of the Intermediate Layer's support backing.
2. You now have a finished **Kodak Approval** System proof.



Best Practices

Laminator Speeds

When preparing substrates with Prelaminate, the **Kodak** 800XL Laminator toggle switch for speed should be set at fast (Rabbit) with a speed setting of 50.

The exception to this rule would be using a shrink-wrap or other flexible materials that are susceptible to heat, the Laminator speed setting should be as fast as possible while still achieving successful lamination. Once a shrink-wrap or flexible substrate has been treated with Precoat, then the speed setting can be put to fast (Rabbit) with a speed setting of 50.

Laminator Temperatures

The recommended Laminator setting for temperature when using Prelaminate is high heat. However, with the use of high heat, it is recommended to allow the Prelaminate to cool before removing the support backing. Removing the support layer immediately upon exiting from the laminator may cause transfer problems that may compromise the quality of the proof. The support layer should be removed only when the prelaminated substrate is cool to the touch.

How to Verify that Prelaminate Was Successful

When laminating to a typical offset stock, the area that has been prepped with Prelaminate is easily recognized. However, when preparing clear substrates such as shrink-wrap, it may be difficult to confirm that Prelaminate was successfully transferred to the substrate.

To verify that the Prelaminate has successfully transferred onto the substrate, we recommended you use a permanent marker or pen to make a small mark in a non-imaged area (upper corner) of the emulsion side of the Prelaminate. The emulsion side is the side that is in contact with the substrate.

Through the lamination process, the Prelaminate is transferred onto the substrate. Upon the backer of the Prelaminate being peeled off, the marked placed on the emulsion side of the Prelaminate should be transferred to the substrate. If the mark did not transfer, then the lamination of the Prelaminate was not successful and the substrate should be analyzed for proper surface energy compatibility.



Other Tips and Tricks:

Using Kodak Approval Precoat

When proofing to flexible substrates, we recommended that Precoat be used with Prelaminate in the proof production process. Precoat is a support material that enables transfer to flexible and uncoated stocks with surface energy that is not compatible with just the Prelaminate.

Using Carrier Sheets

In order to protect delicate or flexible substrates from the heat of the Laminator, it is recommended that carrier sheets be created. These carriers are placed on the top and bottom of the Prelaminate, Precoat, and substrate to protect against heat and creasing during the lamination process. These carrier sheets can also be used repeatedly. To create the top and bottom sheet of a carrier, laminate two spent (used) pieces of Prelaminate emulsion to emulsion through the Laminator.

Removing “Frostiness” or “Haze” from the Flexible Substrate

If after the completion of the proof, the substrate has a haziness or frost effect, apply this technique only once to reduce this effect. After removing the top sheet of the Intermediate Layer’s support backing, flip over the spent (used) Intermediate Layer’s shiny side to image and place on top of imaged flexible substrate. Send back through laminator using standard speed and temperature settings only once.

Additional customer technical bulletins are available. Please contact your Digital Applications Specialist.

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