BS ISO 12647-1:2013

BSI Standards Publication

Graphic technology — Process control for the production of half-tone colour separations, proof and production prints

Part 1: Parameters and measurement methods

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National foreword

This British Standard is the UK implementation of ISO 12647-1:2013. It supersedes BS ISO 12647-1:2004 which is withdrawn.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee PAI/43, Graphic technology.

A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

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ISBN 978 0 580 76599 5

ICS 37.100.01

Compliance with a British Standard cannot confer immunity from legal obligations.

This British Standard was published under the authority of the Standards Policy and Strategy Committee on 28 February 2014.

Amendments issued since publication

Date	Text affected

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INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

ISO 12647-1

Third edition
2013-12-15

Graphic technology — Process control for the production of half-tone colour separations, proof and production prints —

Part 1: Parameters and measurement methods

Technologie graphique — Maîtrise de procédé pour la production des séparations de couleur en ton tramé, des épreuves et des tirages en production —

Partie 1: Paramètres et méthodes de mesure

Reference number
ISO 12647-1:2013(E)

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Case postale 56 • CH-1211 Geneva 20
Tel. + 41 22 749 01 11
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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

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For an explanation on the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the WTO principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: Foreword - Supplementary information

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 130, *Graphic technology.*

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 12647-1:2004), which has been revised by an update relating to the extensive usage of digital data in the printing and publishing world and a general clean-up towards an updated and stringent structure of the multi-part standard.

ISO 12647 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Graphic technology — Process control for the production of half-tone colour separations, proof and production prints*:

— *Part 1: Parameters and measurement methods*

— *Part 2: Offset lithographic processes*

— *Part 3: Coldset offset lithography on newsprint*

— *Part 4: Publication gravure printing*

— *Part 5: Screen printing*

— *Part 6: Flexographic printing*

— *Part 7: Proofing processes working directly from digital data*

— *Part 8: Validation print processes working directly from digital data*

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Introduction

When producing a colour reproduction, it is important that the people responsible for colour separation, proofing and printing operations have previously agreed on a minimum set of parameters that uniquely define the visual characteristics and other technical properties of the planned print product. Such an agreement enables the correct production of suitable colour separated data (without recourse to "trial-and-error") and subsequent production of proof prints from these data. The purpose of digital proof prints or press proof prints is to simulate the visual characteristics of the finished print product as closely as possible. It should be further noticed that this International Standard provides aims for printing using typical printing equipment and tools for quality control under the given economical constraints.

It is the purpose of this part of ISO 12647 to list and explain the minimum set of primary process parameters required for process control to uniquely define the visual characteristics and related technical properties for the contract or press proof print as well as the production print. Other parts of ISO 12647 define either specific values for these parameters that are appropriate for specific processes (such as lithography) or define matching tolerances based on a given characterization data set. Given an established fully characterized printing condition by means of a set of characterization data, ISO 12647-7 and ISO 12647-8 specify requirements for systems in order to produce a "Contract proof" or, at a less stringent level, a "Validation print".

For some processes certain parameters are more significant than others and may be specified as mandatory while the remainder are optional. However, in this part of ISO 12647, all parameters are treated equally.

Primary process parameters are defined here as having a direct bearing on the visual characteristics of the image. They depend on the pertinent printing process but typically comprise printing sequence, press, ink, the print substrate and the screening. Those parameters constitute a printing condition to be defined in the pertinent parts of this International Standard. Such a printing condition is characterized by means of associated colorimetric and/or densitometric process control aims. This is usually facilitated by means of defined solid colorations (to be named here colorant descriptions) and tone response curves.

A printing condition is therefore understood to refer to a set of primary process parameters and the resulting colorimetric and/or densitometric characterization.

Subordinate, formerly secondary, parameters are defined as those which may influence the image indirectly by changing the values of primary parameters. They are highly dependent on the relevant printing process. In case of offset printing typical influencing factors are speed, printing additives, blankets, and fountain solution types. Depending on the given combination of materials and machine setup, a press adjustment (also known as process calibration) might be necessary to achieve the colorimetric and/or densitometric process control aims of the printing condition of interest. This is typically accomplished using one-dimensional curve adjustments.

Even under standard conditions, i.e. a suitable data preparation that accounts for the different strengths and weaknesses of the individual printing conditions and a reproducible printing process that has minimal variations both within a run and between runs, it is practically not possible to hit a given set of primary parameters exactly. Differences due to typical production tolerances or due to differences in press, ink or substrate are generally unavoidable and have to be accepted by the print buyer. On the other hand, for global data exchange and colour separation purposes, an elaborate colorimetric characterization of every printing condition is required. Such data can be extracted from one or more prints that were produced under carefully and tightly controlled (nearly laboratory) conditions followed by mathematical correction procedures that are specifically designed to compensate for the differences remaining, i.e. zero tolerance toward given aim values. Such a fully characterized printing condition is suitable to evaluate and examine the colour gamut and should not be confused with the colorant description that only comprises colorimetric definitions of the solids (typically CMYK; MY, CY, CM and CMY).

By facilitating modern methods of electronic data manipulation it is possible, as described, to establish characterization data sets that fully reflect the aim values of a given set of primary process parameters. This allows both process control aims for printing operations (to be connected with a general printing condition) as well as colorimetric aims for digital proofing processes in the prepress area to be in concert.

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Given a fully characterized printing condition and a definition of the achromatic perception (see 3.11) it is possible to extract the exact grey condition, namely the colorimetric values needed (under specified viewing conditions). Such a grey condition (not to be confused with the grey balance that represents the needed tone values for cyan, magenta and yellow in order to achieve a neutral grey) might be used both for process calibration and monitoring the printing process.

The general principles of this International Standard can be easily extended to printing conditions not defined in ISO 12647, e.g. printing with high pigmented inks or the usage of substrates not fully addressed by the relevant parts of ISO 12647.

In order to facilitate communication between prepress, print buyer and printer, it is recommended to use a press proof or digital print compliant to ISO 12647-7 ("Contract proof") or ISO 12647-8 ("Validation print"). The proof print reliably shows the quality of the prepress work and serves as the colour reference for the production run and, if necessary, may be used in case of a dispute between the print buyer and printer.

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INTERNATIONAL STANDARD ISO 12647-1:2013(E)

Graphic technology — Process control for the production of half-tone colour separations, proof and production prints —

Part 1: Parameters and measurement methods

1 Scope

This part of ISO 12647 defines and explains the minimum set of primary process control parameters required to uniquely specify the visual characteristics and related technical properties of process-specific production prints and process-independent simulations of fully characterized printing conditions.

2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 5-3, *Photography and graphic technology — Density measurements — Part 3: Spectral conditions*

ISO 5-4, *Photography and graphic technology — Density measurements — Part 4: Geometric conditions for reflection density*

ISO 13655, *Graphic technology — Spectral measurement and colorimetric computation for graphic arts images*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

NOTE For quantities, the preferred unit is given together with the definition. By definition, the unit of the so-called dimensionless quantities is 1.

3.1
achromatic colour
perceived colour devoid of hue, in the perceptual sense

Note 1 to entry: The colour names white, grey and black are commonly used or, for transmitting objects, colourless and neutral.

Note 2 to entry: In printing practice, achromatic colours can be produced either by a single black ink or three chromatic (and one achromatic) inks suitably balanced.

[SOURCE: CIE 17.4, 845-02-26]

3.2
axis of a screen
one of the two directions in which the half-tone pattern shows the highest number of image elements, such as dots or lines, per unit length

3.3
chromatic colour
perceived colour possessing hue, in the perceptual sense

Note 1 to entry: The process inks cyan, magenta and yellow are the chromatic colour inks.

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