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Office equipment — Print quality measurement methods for colour prints —

Part 2: Registration and magnification accuracy

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Contents

Page

Foreword ..... **v**
Introduction ..... **vi**
1 Scope **1**
2 Normative references **1**
3 Terms and definitions **1**
4 Print preparation procedures **3**
4.1 Printing environment 3
4.2 Printing materials 3
4.3 Printer settings 3
4.4 Printing operations 4
4.5 Conditioning the prints after printing 4
5 General requirements for measurements **4**
5.1 Measurement environmental conditions 4
5.2 Scanner conformance 4
5.2.1 General 4
5.2.2 Test chart for scanner conformance 5
5.2.3 Scanning equipment 6
5.2.4 Scanning procedures 6
5.2.5 Magnification accuracy of scanner 7
5.2.6 Local magnification deviation of scanner 7
5.2.7 Goal values 7
5.2.8 Compensation for magnification accuracy and local magnification deviation 8
5.3 Reporting for scanner conformance 8
6 Registration and magnification measurements **9**
6.1 General 9
6.2 Test chart for registration and magnification for each primary colour 9
6.3 Test chart for colour-to-colour variation in registration 9
6.4 Registration measurement for each primary colour 10
6.4.1 Print preparations 10
6.4.2 Scanning procedures 10
6.4.3 Calculation of side-to-side registration variation 11
6.4.4 Calculation of sheet-to-sheet registration variation 12
6.5 Colour-to-colour registration variation measurement 13
6.5.1 Print preparations 13
6.5.2 Scanning procedures 13
6.5.3 Skew compensation 14
6.5.4 Calculation of colour-to-colour registration variations within printed image 15
6.5.5 Calculation of side-to-side variations in colour-to-colour registration 16
6.5.6 Calculation of sheet-to-sheet variations in colour-to-colour registration 16
6.6 Magnification measurement for each primary colour 16
6.6.1 Print preparations 16
6.6.2 Scanning procedures 16
6.6.3 Calculation of magnification variations within printed image 16
6.6.4 Calculation of side-to-side magnification variation 17
6.6.5 Calculation of sheet-to-sheet magnification variation 17
6.7 Reporting for registration and magnification measurements 17
7 Reporting **18**
7.1 General requirements for reporting 18
7.2 Reporting items 18
Annex A (informative) **Flatness of prints** **19**
Annex B (informative) **Test charts for colour-to-colour variation in registration** **20**

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Annex C (normative) **Compensation procedure for scanner conformance** **21**

Annex D (informative) **Examples of local magnification measurement on flat bet scanning systems** **24**

Bibliography **30**

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Foreword

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This document was prepared by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 28, *Office equipment*.

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Introduction

Measurement methods that quantitatively evaluate geometric property attributes of duplex print sets need to be standardized, as most of the office documents are currently printed as duplex print sets comprising several sheets printed colour images on both surface of substrates.

There are several standard measurement methods to evaluate image quality attributes of printed images formed by office equipment, i.e. colour reproductions, line reproductions, image structures of sharpness and graininess, gloss properties. Included are ISO/IEC 19799, ISO/IEC 24790 and ISO/IEC 29112. ISO/IEC 24790 specifies the measurement methods for large area density uniformity of graininess, mottle and banding, as well as line qualities. ISO/IEC 29112 specifies methods for measuring sharpness attributes of edge blurriness and raggedness, special frequency response, etc. ISO/IEC 19799 specifies the methods for gloss uniformity. By utilizing those documents, users can obtain consistent test results when they comply with the protocols specified in the documents.

While there are no standard methods to measure colour reproduction consistencies and geometrical accuracies in consecutive printing, and image stabilities in typical use case of print images formed by office equipment and used in office environments. In the current state, each printer distributer and its user can provide test results for those attributes measured by its own test methods and procedures, which are often convenient for its product, resulting in misleading customers in the selection of a printing system suitable for their use cases. The ISO/IEC 22592 series can provide standard methods and procedures for those print image attributes: ISO/IEC 22592-1 for colour consistency, this document for geometrical accuracies, and ISO/IEC 22592-3[1)] for image stabilities. By using these International Standards, consistent and comparable test results suitable for typical use cases of office prints can be obtained independent of data providers.

The measurement methods described in this document are used to access geometric properties of a print set formed by a printing system on a substrate. When test results are compared among various printing systems, it is essential to use the same product of substrates and set equivalent printing conditions under default printer settings among the printing systems.

As for the metrics for registration and magnification based on images captured by an RGB scanner, prints with four primary colourants other than cyan, magenta, yellow and black are not suitable for the measurement methods described in this document. For example, if a print includes a light colourant image of a primary colour in addition to a standard colourant image, registration and magnification of this print will not be measured correctly because the complementary colour channel of the primary in a scanned image of the print includes two kinds of sources for registration and magnification.

Electrophotography, thermal inkjet, or piezoelectric inkjet technologies are commonly used to form such prints. The main purpose of this document is to provide objective measurement methods for geometric property attributes of duplex print sets, however, some attributes are also applicable for a set of simplex prints.

This document prescribes the following:

— digital test charts for the measurements in which colour codes and locations in page to be measured are specified,

— a test chart to measure the positional accuracy of a scanner,

— conformance requirements for the positional accuracy of a scanner to utilize registration and magnification measurements,

— measurement methods relating to the registration including accuracy of printed positions to substrate for each colour and printed position variations among colours,

— measurement methods relating to the magnification including absolute magnitude of printed size to input and relative difference in the magnitude among colours,

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— measurement methods for the variations of the registration and magnification within a page (within-page variation), between front and back sides (side-to-side variation), among the sheets in the same print set (sheet-to-sheet variations).

Some attributes, such as the attribute “within a printed image”, “sheet-to-sheet variations”, are also applicable for a simplex print set comprising several sheets which are printed colour images on one surface of a substrate and no image on the other surface.

Some prints show uneven surfaces caused by thermal fusing process of electrophotographic printers or drying process in ink jet printers as well as by storage humidity changes from a highly humid condition to dry condition. Flatness of a print surface is an important aspect for print integrity. On the other hand, there is no proper measure standardized corresponding well with visual impression of flatness. Annex A describes one of the methods to quantify degree of flatness. A further study needed to include this method into the scope of this document.

In this document, colour codes for the test charts are defined in sRGB colour space specified in IEC 61966-2-1 as is common in office documents.

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Office equipment — Print quality measurement methods for colour prints —

Part 2: Registration and magnification accuracy

IMPORTANT — The electronic file of this document contains colours which are considered to be useful for the correct understanding of this document. Users should therefore consider printing with a colour printer.

1 Scope

This document specifies test methods as well as test charts to measure the geometric property attributes and those variations in duplex colour prints typically used in office environment. This document is applicable to duplex prints comprising several sheets which are printed colour images on both surfaces of a substrate.

"Within-page variation" and "sheet-to-sheet variation" are also applicable for a simplex print set comprising several sheets, which are printed colour images on one surface of a substrate and no image on the other surface.

Prints with four primary colourants other than cyan, magenta, yellow and black are outside the scope of this document.

Included are digital prints formed by using a multifunction or single function printer. When a duplex print set is evaluated, duplex printers which are capable to print images on both sides of substrate automatically are applicable, while simplex printers which require a manual arrangement of substrates between the front side and back side printing to form duplex prints are out of scope of this document. The printers of the maximum applicable substrate size of A4 or larger are suitable for the measurements.

The geometric property attributes included are registration and magnification of a print set.

Microscopic geometrical density variations, such as graininess, mottle and line raggedness, are outside the scope of this document.

The sources of variations considered are locations in a page, print side in a sheet, print order of sheets in a print set, and variations among primary colours.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Terms and definitions

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

ISO and IEC maintain terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

— ISO Online browsing platform: available at https://www.iso.org/obp

— IEC Electropedia: available at https://www.electropedia.org/

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