



IPA FREE PRINTING TIPS

IPA free printing is now a real possibility with the newer generation of fountain chemistry. It is mature technology and as of 2008 there are NO printers in the United States or Japan using IPA in their dampening systems and very few in Europe today.

Our experience here has seen minimal problems encountered converting presses to run 100% IPA free especially with Komori, Mitsubishi, KBA, Ryobi and Roland. There are many tips and tricks that we have developed to extract the maximum efficiency from those presses during this process. They are listed below:

Shore Hardness- Dampeners: Soft Durometer is essential. *The optimal is 18-22° degrees, Shore A. If the hardness is in the 30° range, IPA can only be reduced to around 3-5%, and no more.*

Roller Profile- Dampeners: Another trait of some presses is they have a crown on their dampening rollers rather than a skewing facility. This is similar to a microscopic "bulge" in the centre of the roller thinning out to the edges. The purpose of this is to force the dampening solution to the edges of the plate, and overcome the drying out on plate cylinder extremities. (where the IPA evaporates due to heat) As we are removing the IPA and evaporation is dramatically reduced, it is advised to *eliminate the crown*. If not eliminated you will see excessive dampening and washing out on the plate edges and fluctuations in ink-water balance during the run.

Roller Settings: You need to increase the stripe of the plate dampener to about 8-10 mm to help with plate clearing and back off the metering roller pressure to the chrome to aid the flow of the new "thicker" dampening solution to the plate (the water is now thicker or more viscous with removal of IPA). It is also critical to change the pre-dampening profile on the CPC units. Normally the pre-dampening speeds start at around 600. *You should increase this pre-damp to 800-900 to provide extra wetting at start-up.*

Roller Compounds- Dampeners: We have seen best results when using *Westland® special IPA FREE dampening rollers*. As an alternative we have had success with *Katsura® Rollers* and in some cases with *Bottcher*. Always inform your roller provider what you are trying to do and consult them as to the best compound they have available.

The Products: it is without doubt that our Allstar IPA Free founts are the best performing products available in the world today. We have independently tested every major product available and have confirmed this. It is with utmost confidence we recommend our ALLSTAR & ALLSTAR ULTRA FOUNTS to you.

Again remember that this is mature technology worldwide and the product you are running is used extensively in the USA, Europe and Asia 100% IPA free. Good luck and happy printing!