

IPA FREE ON NON HEIDELBERG PRESSES:

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:

Housekeeping Dampening System: It is critical prior to commencement that the entire system is drained and cleaned. Once drained the recirculation system must be flushed with an appropriate cleaning agent to remove ink/ glaze and calcium contamination of the system. Remember to also unclip the dampener pans or trays and clean thoroughly. Same for dampener rollers, make sure they have been well degreased with an appropriate metering roller cleaner. Finally it is preferred that the inking rollers receive a deep pore clean treatment with a quality roller paste and conditioner.

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% easily.

Roller Settings: You may need to increase the stripe of the plate form dampener 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.*

Recirculation Tank: The cooling unit is fitted to the tank to chill the system to keep IPA from evaporating. When IPA is reduced or eliminated the need for extreme cooling is reduced. Modern founts may suffer from a “shock” due to the extreme cold. Chill the tank to 12°C and avoid over cooling the system.

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 00426 Allstar IPA Free Fount is 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 or BLUEFOUNT to you.

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