

## GPO Quality Control for Published Products

# Quality Level Sample Submission Procedures

### Evaluation Process

The purpose of the evaluation by Quality Control for Published Products (QCPP) is to determine a vendor's ability to consistently produce orders at the required quality level without undue assistance on the part of the Government. These ratings will be used by our Automated Bid List System in determining who solicitations will be sent to and by our Contracting Officers as an aid in making responsibility determinations on individual contracts. Receipt of a rating will in no case guarantee the award of any specific contract or prevent bidding on others.

Samples will be evaluated based on the printing and finishing attributes and specific quality level tolerances found in **GPO Contract Terms Quality Assurance Through Attributes Program, GPO Publication 310.1**. <https://www.gpo.gov/docs/default-source/forms-and-standards-files-for-vendors/qatap-rev-09-19.pdf>

GPO will notify contractors of the rating they have received and identify any causes for receipt of a rating lower than that desired. Contractors may resubmit samples at any time. After evaluation, materials will remain at GPO for reference. Submission through third parties will not be accepted.

### Evaluation Sample Package

- Evaluation Sample Certificate GPO Form 2689  
<https://www.gpo.gov/docs/default-source/forms-and-standards-files-for-vendors/gpo2689.pdf>
- A minimum of three jobs that have been printed within the last six months.
- Contractor Connection company registration showing location information and equipment list.
- Send to the following address (tracking recommended):  
**UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE**  
Quality Level Samples  
Mail Stop CSPS, Rm. C- 848  
732 North Capitol Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20401  
**202.512.0542**

To avoid additional restrictions on your Quality Level rating, the samples should represent a cross section of the type of work that the contractor would like to produce. The samples should include, at a minimum, four-color, spot color, solids, screens (single color and/or builds), halftones, and/or line work. Submitting samples only containing line work will result in QCPP recommending award for only line work and not for solids, halftones, multi-color, and/or four-color process.

### Submitting for Digital Printing

Highest possible rating: **Quality Level 3**

Each of the three jobs must include the following:

- The original electronic media, when available.
  - Three copies of the finished product trimmed, folded, or constructed labeled with production date
- Jobs that allow for digital printing and require proofs will specify a prior to production sample (one-off). Therefore, to be evaluated for digital printing, only finished samples are required.

## Submitting for Offset Printing

Each of the three jobs must include the following:

- The original electronic media, when available.
- The approved proof, must meet one of the requirements below, labeled with equipment used to produce it. Proofs must have all elements in press configuration and must indicate margins. Proofs will be used to gauge success of color match to press sheet.
- The approved press sheet, labeled with equipment used to produce it. Press sheets must contain color control bars for each color of ink on the sheet. Control bars must be placed parallel to the press's ink rollers. The control bars (such as Brunner, GATF, GRETAG, or RIT) must show areas consisting of minimum 1/8" x 1/8" solid color patches; tint patches of 25,50 and 75%; dot gain scale; slur targets and gray balance patches for process color (if applicable). These areas must be repeated consecutively across the sheet. Plates must be output with a minimum of 2400 x 2400 dpi.
- Three copies of the finished product trimmed, folded, or constructed labeled with production date

### Ink Jet Proofs (Highest possible rating: Quality Level 2)

Inkjet proofs that are G7 profiled and use pigment-based inks. A proofing RIP that provides option for high quality color matching (such as Device Links Technology and/or ICC Profiles Technology), and meets or exceeds industry tolerance to ISO 12647-7 Standard for Graphic Technology (as of 3/19/09 and future amendments) must be utilized plus GRACoL 2006 Coated #1 specifications (CGATS TR006) must be achieved. Output must be a minimum of 720 x 720 dpi on a GRACoL or SWOP certified proofing media. Proofs must contain the following color control strip to be evaluated for accuracy: IDEAlliance ISO 12647-7 Control Strip 2009 or 2013 (i1).

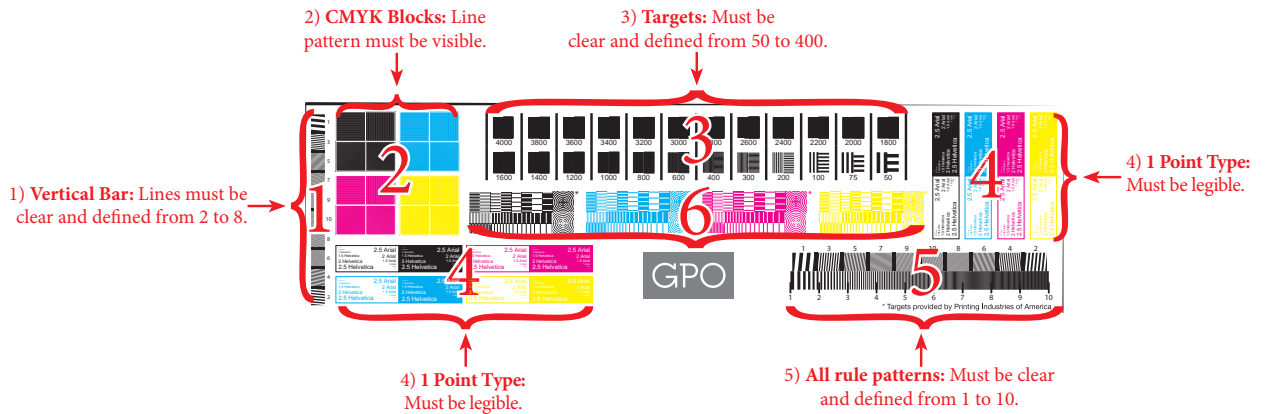
### High Res Laminated Proofs (Highest possible rating: Quality Level 1)

Digital one-piece composite laminated halftone proofs on the actual production stock (Kodak Approval, Polaroid PolaProof, CreoSpectrum, or Fuji Final Proof) with a minimum resolution of 2400 x 2400 dpi. Proofs must contain color control bars (such as Brunner, GATF, GRETAG, or RIT) for each color of ink on the sheet. Control bars must be placed parallel to the press's ink rollers and must show areas consisting of minimum 1/8" x 1/8" solid color patches; tint patches of 25, 50 and 75%; dot gain scale; slur targets; and gray balance patches for process color (if applicable). These areas must be repeated consecutively across the sheet. Proofs must show dot structure.

### High Res Ink Jet Proofs (Highest possible rating: Quality Level 1)

Inkjet proofs that are G7 profiled and use pigment-based inks. A proofing RIP that provides an option for high quality color matching such as Device Links Technology and/or ICC Profiles Technology, and meets or exceeds industry tolerance to ISO 12647-7 standard for Graphic Technology (as of 2016 and future amendments) must be utilized. Proofs must be ripped and sent at plate resolution (minimum of 2400 x 2400 dpi). If using a 1 bit tiff, the tiff must be made at a minimum of 2400 dpi. Output must be a minimum of 2400 x 1200 dpi on a GRACoL or SWOP certified proofing media. Proofs must contain both of the following to be evaluated for accuracy: 3 tier color control strip: IDEAlliance ISO 12647-7 2013 (i1); and the GPO Resolution target found [www.gpo.gov/gporestarget.pdf](http://www.gpo.gov/gporestarget.pdf)

The acceptance criteria for the GPO Resolution target:



This is the GPO Resolution Target, it must be imaged at 100%, along with the Idealliance G-7 Target on all proofs. To ensure your proof is acceptable for Hi-Resolution Ink Jet, it must pass the following criteria:

- 1) Vertical Bar: Lines must be clear and defined from 2 to 8.
- 2) CMYK Blocks: Line pattern must be visible.
- 3) Targets: Must be clear and defined from 50 to 400.
- 4) 1 Point Type: must be legible.
- 5) All rule patterns: Must be clear and defined from 1 to 10.
- 6) GPO Use: Targets provided by Printing Industries of America.

### Submitting Test Proof

Proofs submitted that do not meet requirements will not be evaluated, samples will be rated for print quality only. In order to gain a quality level rating without the caveat, the IDEAlliance ISO 12647-7 Control Strip 2009 or 2013 must pass when scanned. GPO uses an X-Rite i1i0 scanner with FujiFilm ColorPath software to scan the targets. If interested, a test proof may be sent in prior to submitting an entire package for evaluation. GPO will scan the target and provide the results via email.

Send the proof and contact information to (tracking recommended):

**UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE**

Quality Level Test Proof  
 Mail Stop CSPS, Rm. C- 848  
 732 North Capitol Street, NW  
 Washington, DC 20401

**202.512.0542**