

Digital Printing

What does it mean when you check this box on the SF-1?

When the Box is Checked:

- What does it mean to the customer?
- What does it mean to GPO?
- What does it mean to the contractor?

SF-1 PRINTING AND BINDING REQUISITION to the Public Printer of the United States		* Required Fields	JACKET NO. (For GPO Use Only)	REQUISITION NO. *																																																																																																							
CLASSIFICATION		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> SRU <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> FR <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Flat <input type="checkbox"/> Blank <input type="checkbox"/> Star	<input type="checkbox"/> Exempt from required distribution to Federal Depository Libraries <input type="checkbox"/> Strictly for administrative or operational purposes <input type="checkbox"/> Copyright restriction <input type="checkbox"/> Not published with Federal funds																																																																																																							
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Digital vs Offset

Pros

- Less expensive
- Accurate proof
- Collates automatically
- Ink dries faster
- Faster turn around
- Smaller quantities
- Larger color gamut
- Variable data
- More environmentally friendly

Cons

- Color accuracy cannot be verified
- Mix colors difficult
- Limited paper choice
- Difficult match to Pantone color
- Banding in gradients
- Uneven solids
- Raised/layered effect
- Repeatability of colors from within a run and from day to day

What does it mean to GPO?

Specifications – must be written with end product in mind. Prior to award, contractor may be required to **provide information related to specific equipment** that will be used for production.

High Level 3 Color

At contractor's option, the product may be produced via conventional offset or digital printing provided that Quality Level III standards are maintained. **Final output must be wet ink, pigment-based with a minimum of 175-line screen. Dry ink/toner and inkjet printing are not acceptable. Output must be at a minimum resolution of 2400 x 2400 dpi plus a RIP that provides an option for high quality color matching such as Device Links Technology and/or ICC Profiles.**

Resolution that is enhanced or simulated by software will not be acceptable.

Middle Level 3 Color

At contractor's option, the product may be produced via conventional offset or digital printing provided that Quality Level 3 standards are maintained. **Final output must be a minimum of 150-line screen and at a minimum resolution of 2400 x 2400 dpi x 1 bit or 600 x 600 dpi x**

8-bit depth technology. Digital device must have a RIP that provides an option for high quality color matching such as Device Links Technology and/or ICC Profiles.

Low Level 3 Color

At contractor's option, product may be produced via conventional offset or digital printing provided that Quality Level III standards are maintained. **Final output must be a minimum of 150-line screen.**

High Level 3 Black Only

At contractor's option, the product may be produced via conventional offset or digital printing provided that Quality Level 3 standards are maintained. **Final output must be a minimum of 150-line screen and at a minimum resolution of 1200 x 1200 dpi x 1 bit or 600 x 600 dpi x 4-bit depth technology.**

Proofs

Prior to production

What does it mean to the Contractor?

Constant throughout all specs: The product may be produced via conventional offset or digital printing provided that Quality Level 3 standards are maintained.

Quality Levels are defined in QATAP.

The product quality levels specify the degree of quality required in the final product. QATAP contains five PQL's ranging from Level I (Best) to level V (Functional).

- Level I- Best Quality, highest quality and tolerances.
- Level II- Better quality, prestige quality, library quality
- **Level III- Good quality, above average quality.**
- Level IV- Basic quality, informational quality, utility quality
- Level V- Functional quality, lowest usable quality.

The most difficult item is the repeatability of colors

- from within a run
- from day to day

The Contractor is responsible for quality at level 3 standards.

- P – 1 Hickies and Spots
- P – 2 Extraneous marks
- P – 3 Moire
- P – 4 Register
- P – 5 Text and Illustration Image Position
- P – 6 Newton's rings
- P – 7 Type Quality and Uniformity
- P – 8 Halftone Match
- P – 9 Solid or screen tints color match
- P – 10 Process color match
- P – 11 Rub Resistance of Printed Image

Some "digital" presses produce clear, sharp type with clean edges. Some do not.

Quality Control for Published Products (QCPP)

If you are not sure about choosing Digital Printing, or need additional information, contact **Quality Control for Published Products (QCPP)**.

202.512.0542

QCPP@gpo.gov