

GRACoL Fact Sheet – Daniels Graphics

Daniels Graphics has implemented GRACoL 7 Color Management Standards which allow us to achieve a closer visual match from proof to press. The G7 process control methodology will enhance our ability to calibrate and benchmark each step of the color reproduction process, from design to print.

Acronym Explained

GRACoL - General Requirements for Applications in Commercial offset Lithography



(pronounced grack·le [grak-uh l] - like the bird)

GRACoL Standards Defined

GRACoL standards are a comprehensive set of recommended specifications that bring uniformity and consistency in color to the commercial offset lithography process. The GRACoL 7 calibration process is a unique approach and is based on ISO standards as well as gray balance. The mission of GRACoL is to improve communications and education in the graphic arts by developing best practices that reflect the influence and impact of new technologies in the workflow of commercial offset lithography.

GRACoL History

GRACoL was created in 1966 by a graphics arts task force that was formed by the Graphic Communications Association (GCA). Supported by the International Prepress Association, a national traded association for prepress professionals, and Graphic Arts Technical Foundation, the technical foundation that performed the bulk of research and technology for the printing industry, the goal was to create an industry standard for offset Lithography. GATF merged with Printing Industries of America in 1999 to form PIA/GATF.

In past versions, these guidelines consisted of recommendations for solid ink densities and dot gain characteristics. Although these standards are helpful and are used in a number of pressrooms, they are not foolproof. Previous versions of GRACoL were based primarily on TVI (dot gain) and solid ink densities, however, the current GRACoL 7

standard is based on a definition of a neutral gray in the midtones. This process of calibrating based on neutral gray is referred to as the G7 process. Although it is associated with GRACoL 7 it is not the same thing. While GRACoL 7 is a standard, G7 is a process that could easily be applied to other standards such as SWOP or SNAP.

Rather than being a set of specifications or densities to run a press to, G7 is a process by which an offset press or proofing system can be calibrated to match the GRACoL 7 standard. The G7 process can also be used to move a proofer to the same specification so that that proofer matches GRACoL 7 as well.