ART GUIDELINES MANUAL
WELCOME TO AUTOMATED PACKAGING SYSTEMS

The purpose of this manual is to help you understand the requirements to produce artwork that becomes the high quality printing that we are proud of here at Automated Packaging Systems.

Our best resource is our people. The Prepress Group at Automated Packaging Systems is staffed with FTA (Flexographic Technical Association) FIRST Certified Prepress Operators with many years of experience. Many of our Printing Department staff and managers are also certified as FIRST Press Operators and Implementation Specialists.

Good art is essential for high quality printing in flexography. It should not only anticipate potential advantages of flexography, but also the inherent limitations of the flexographic process. A high majority of arts that are supplied by customers have to be reviewed and adjusted by an artist in the Art Department. Although art is often received in a usable form, it is usually not optimized for flexographic printing or did not take into account manufacturing requirements. It is critical at the beginning to prepare artwork with all the allowable tolerances and to use the best elements, because the print job will never be better than the art.

Artwork for Flexographic printing is different from art designed for offset or lithographic printing. Flexography is defined as "a method of direct rotary printing using resilient, raised image printing plates, affixed to variable repeat plate cylinders, inked by a roll or doctor blade wiped engraved metal roll, carrying fluid or paste type inks to virtually any substrate". The primary substrate that we print on is a stretchable form of Polyethylene. There are many factors that must be considered before the finished art can be printed. Automated Packaging System's Pre-Press Group is highly qualified to work with you to enhance or help design your artwork to print at the highest quality.
ABOUT OUR SYSTEM

We are fully equipped to review your design, make suggestions, create digital files or take your Mac files and put the finishing touches on them in preparation for flexo printing and will be glad to get you started by making you a template of the bag size you need that will show you the available art area. Please call the number below, send us an email or contact your Automated Packaging Systems sales representative for further details.

Once your art is ready, please provide all mac files and a PDF of your Art. Also include all supporting files (jpgs, tifs, eps, psd, etc. as well as all fonts). Not supplying these items could lead to delays in producing your art.

Email can be used to receive most types of files (under 10MB) and to send PDF proofs that don’t require a color ink swatch to be approved by the customer. If the art files will be emailed or placed on the ftp site, please send a PDF for reference and QA purposes. If you will be sending the files in a disk, a full size color print would also be appreciated.

The Macintosh applications we use are:

Adobe ILLUSTRATOR
Adobe PHOTOSHOP
Adobe INDESIGN
ARTPRO

Contact and FTP info:

Art Department email: artdept@autobag.com
Address: 13555 McCracken Road, Garfield Heights, OH 44125, USA
Phone: 1.330.528.2462

FTP site: ftp.autobag.com user: artftp password: art$tuff
(If you are uploading to the ftp site, please send the art dept. a notification email.)

We print spot color tints and process print at various line screens (mostly 110 for spot colors and 133 for process). Our presses require us to print screen angles 8 degrees off of standard LITHOGRAPHIC angles. All 4-color process and complex arts must first be reviewed by the Customer Service Pre-Art Team. All new process print art will have tifs and plates created using HD, 4000 ppi for sharper images and dots on the plate.

The following pages provide a guideline for layout, size, color traps, etc. This is only a guideline. If you already have graphics available, we are fully staffed to make those adjustments digitally although some additional charges may apply.

By referring to this guide, you will save valuable time in getting your art to press and ultimately bags to your facility.
**GRAPHICS LAYOUT**

We’ve shown the layout as if both front and back of the bag are printed. You do not have to print both sides of the bag. If you are only printing one side of the bag, use the FRONT diagram for size and layout.

**SEALING AREA**
Must be free of ink--(No Printing). Amount of clear area needed varies with which machine model is being used for loading the customers product:

By making the back artwork narrower than the front artwork (using 3/8" Clear Area Margins), any small variations in folding during the construction of the bag will be less noticeable. (If the art widths were the same size the back art would show through the front in the clear areas). This only applies to bags made of clear poly.

**BACKGROUND colors (not text or graphic images) can bleed EVENLY off the sides.**

**GENERAL RULE OF THUMB:**
All bags are printed multiple images across the Press Web. Any graphics that bleed off the right side of a bag can end up on the left side of the next bag because plates are stepped across and the bag sizes have +/- tolerances.

Wraparound print: background colors bleed off the SIDES ONLY;
Autografix print: Special inks are used and background colors can bleed off the sides AND through the Manufacturing seal.

**"OKAY"**
Even shapes or blocks of color CAN bleed off the sides of the bag.

**"NOT OKAY"**
Curved elements can NOT bleed off the sides because when plates are stepped across, those uneven shapes will end up on the next bag to it.

SP_ART0007 Rev. A
LOAD SPECIFICATIONS

**TOP LOAD -- STANDARD**
- OPEN END FOR LOADING PRODUCT
- BACK
- ART AREA
- FRONT
- ART AREA
- SEAL
- SKIRT

**BOTTOM LOAD -- STANDARD**
- FRONT
- BACK
- ART AREA
- SEAL
- OPEN END FOR LOADING PRODUCT

**BOTTOM LOAD -- WITH A LONGER SKIRT AND HANGER HOLE**
- FRONT
- BACK
- SEAL
- ART AREA
- OPEN END FOR LOADING PRODUCT

**BOTTOM LOAD -- WITH A HEADER (TWO SEALS) AND BUTTERFLY HANGER HOLE**
- FRONT
- BACK
- SEAL
- ART AREA
- OPEN END FOR LOADING PRODUCT
PRINT DIRECTION

The art can print in any direction on the bags. The only exception to this is the barcode. We use "CHART" to indicate print direction which relates to art direction relative to the manufacturing seal and open end of the bag. Note barcode orientation has the bars printing vertical like a “picket fence” and not like a “ladder”. This is industry standard for Flexo printing. More barcode and 2D code information on the next page. See Chart examples below:

**CHART "1"** - Seal is at top of bag. Customer loads product at **BOTTOM**. A skirt or header can be added to top of bag.

**CHART "2"** - Seal is at bottom of bag. Customer loads product from **TOP**.

**CHART "3"** - Seal is at bottom of bag. Customer loads product from **LEFT** side.

**CHART "4"** - Seal is at bottom of bag. Customer loads product from **RIGHT** side.
BARCODE SPECIFICATIONS

Below you will find Automated Packaging Systems Flexographic specifications for making barcodes for printing and scanning. We have the software to create ALL codes in our Macintosh system but we need to know what kind of code (UPC, 3 of 9, Int. 2 of 5, code 128, etc.).

If the barcode is printing on clear material, it will require a white block underneath so the code will scan. Other scenarios where a white is required for scanability could include, but are not limited to barcodes printing on any other colored material but white. Most importantly, a high contrast between the barcode color and its background is essential for scanning. Two whites are required if the white print is an Autografix white ink.

The Art Department has a list of PMS colors and their reflectance values that help determine if the barcodes will scan when using certain Pantone colors. Generally, colors with high amounts of red will not scan.

Quiet zones are clear areas around bar codes that serve to isolate it from surrounding text and graphics. Bar code symbologies typically define a minimum amount of clear space that is to serve as the quiet zone. Industry standard recommends .25” quiet zone on each side of the code.

**If you are a Medical customer and must create your own code, please contact us for current bar width reduction and size minimums.**

Below are examples of the more common code types and our specifications used to create those codes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ALL BARCODES REQUIRE A .5 MIL BAR WIDTH REDUCTION (BWR)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2D CODES REQUIRE A 1 MIL BWR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Code 128**  
No more than 18.0 CPI (characters per inch), Min .5" high,  
No less than .0101 narrow bar

**Code 39**  
No more than 6.8 CPI, Min. .5" high,  
No less than .0117 narrow bar and 2.4 ratio

**Int. 2 of 5**  
No more than 6.8 CPI, Min. .5" high,  
No less than .0120 narrow bar and 2.4 ratio

**UPC / EAN**  
No less than 90% magnification, Min .5" high

**2D codes** (GS1 Datamatrix, Datamatrix, QR, etc.)  
1 MIL Bar Width Reduction (BWR)  
No less than .018 cell size
COLOR

MATCHING
• We have the ability to match Pantone Matching System (PMS) colors.
• We can also custom match a sample supplied by the customer.

PRINTING COMBINATIONS
• Maximum Ten stations on press.
• Varnish overprint requires one station.
• Target recognition requires one station (if required).

PRINTING SEQUENCES
Color laydown is from lightest to darkest. (Unless it’s revers print for lamination)
Example:
1) White
2) Yellow
3) Blue
4) Black
5) Varnish (optional, only if product requires.)

OPACITY
• Inks are basically transparent.
• Use metallic inks or dark colors for greatest opacity.
• Colors are enhanced when printed over white, but still may be transparent.

GRAPHICS REVIEW
Ink Bleeds, Screens, Process print should all be reviewed by our Customer Service
Pre-Art Team and press department.
Some ink bleeds will require Etched press cylinders which can be costly and greatly
increase lead times.
Some inks do not screen well, we do not screen White or Metallic inks.

TRAPPING
• Holding lines should be 1-1/2 (1.5) point size minimum for registration.
• Adjoining colors must overlap by at least 1/64" (.0156") although 1/32" (.0312") is
  preferred. All trapping will be handled by our imaging department software.
• One metallic color cannot be printed over another metallic color.
• Color Traps (examples):
  – Light Blue over yellow produces green trap
  – Blue over red produces dark blue trap
  – Green over orange produces dark green trap
  – Pink over yellow produces red trap

SP_ART0007 Rev. A
TYPE AND LINE WEIGHT SPECS FOR READABILITY AND QUALITY PRINT

See following pages

• Minimum **positive** type is 5 point **Sans Serif**.
• Minimum **reverse** type is 6 point **Bold Sans Serif**. For reverse print, the bolder the style, the better the reproduction.
• Minimum positive line gauge is 1 point.
• Minimum reverse line gauge is 1-1/2 (1.5) points.
• Thin positive lines and type may print broken or wavy and may be unreadable.
• Thin reverse lines and type will fill in and may be unreadable.

* Metallic ink minimum type sizes are: 12 point Positive and 14 point Reverse. We may also suggest a larger size depending on typeface selection (serif vs san serif).

TOTAL PLATE COSTS
(includes art, Imaging and plate department’s, labor and material)

• Artwork **will not** be worked on until a Purchase Order is received. All new and revised arts will be quoted automatically.
• Customers are billed for the first set of plates only, but not until art is approved.
• If a customer makes changes to an existing design, they are billed for only the plates that change.
• When plates wear out, APS will replace them at no cost to the customer as long as no changes are needed. **NOTE: Buyer’s artwork, drawings and/or blueprints (“Artwork”) will be destroyed in the event that no bag orders with that artwork are placed by Buyer for a period of four years.**
• APS will not run other plates other than our own on our presses. Our presses are tested and set-up to run our specific type of plate material and thickness.
• Final art and plates are stored on site for reruns.

APPROVAL OF ARTWORK
• All new and revised art will be proofed to customer prior to scheduling of order.
• Proof formats:
  – Pdfs can be emailed to speed up approval process, but can only be used if a hard copy proof is not required or color swatches do not have to be approved.
  – Fax copy (revisions and simple new art)
  – Digital Black & white or color paper proofs (new artwork)
  – Color proofs on polyethylene substrate (some limitations)
  – Digital color match proofs (Process print or color critical arts)
  – Bag mock-ups
• Solid color samples of the actual Inks on Poly are provided for color approval.
• Any revision requires written approval.
• **Production of your order cannot begin until we receive your signed approval.** (if a waiver is necessary for you artwork, we will require the signed waiver to be returned before proceeding)
• If you art has a pre-printed barcode we ask that you return the barcode approval as well.
**Minimum Positive Type Spec is 5 point Regular Sans Serif**

**NO**

**YES**

*Metallic ink* APS Type Specification – at 12 point Regular Sans Serif

**Minimum Positive line weight Spec is 1 point.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>.25 point</th>
<th>.5 point</th>
<th>1 point</th>
<th>1.5 point</th>
<th>2 point</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>NO</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>YES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Minimum Reverse Type Spec is 6 point Bold Sans Serif**

**NO**

**YES**

*Metallic ink* APS Type Specification – at 14 point Bold Sans Serif

**Minimum Reverse line weight Spec is 1.5 points.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>.25 point</th>
<th>.5 point</th>
<th>1 point</th>
<th>1.5 point</th>
<th>2 point</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>NO</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>YES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Minimum Positive Type Spec is 8 point Regular**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spec</th>
<th>Minimum Positive Type</th>
<th>Reverse Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8 point</td>
<td>Spec is 8 point Regular**</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**We can print as small as 6 point positive type if only the Japanese or Chinese text is on it's own plate separate from all the other art.

Please note that this page is only a sample of the type and size. It does not truly reflect how the type will actually print on our presses.

### Minimum Reverse Type Spec is 8 point Bold

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spec</th>
<th>Minimum Reverse Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8 point</td>
<td>Spec is 8 point Bold</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FEATURES AND TOLERANCES

**PERFORATIONS**
- **VERTICAL PERF (VEP)**
  - Runs parallel to side seal
  - Easiest to manufacture; Least expensive
- **HORIZONTAL PERF (HEP)**
  - Runs parallel to manufactured seal
  - Slower to manufacture; More expensive
- **PARTIAL PERF (PHP)**
  - A horizontal perf that does not extend all the way across the bag
  - Specify length of perf
- **HORIZONTAL SEALED PERF (HSP)**
  - Sealed ‘Cell’ encloses along mfg. seal
  - easy opening without contents contamination
  - Specify length of perf

**HOLES AND PUNCHES**
- **AIR RELIEF HOLES:**
  - PERFED (PRFD) OR THROUGH (AIR)
    - 1/4” Standard
    - Allows air to escape for flatter pkg.
    - Avoid open end
  - **ROUND HANGER HOLES (HGR)**
    - 1/4” to 2” (1/4” Standard)
    - Centered in header if position not specified
    - Larger holes serve as door knob/hangers
- **BUTTERFLY HANGER HOLE (BTR)**
  - Retail use
  - -1” or 1 1/4” width
- **TRIANGLE HANGER HOLE (TRI)**
  - Retail use
  - -5/8” or 1” wide

**PRINTED GRAPHICS:**
- All colors that touch will have a standard 1/32” overlap or “trap” to allow for proper registration. This can create a discoloration with certain color combinations.
- Art can move +/- 1/8” horizontally and +/- 3/16” vertically.
- Warning: It is possible for the art to float within tolerance and the feature to float within tolerance to the point where the tolerances overlap and cause some art to be unreadable, punched out, etc.

**REGISTRATION:**
- Print REGISTRATION is +/- 1/32” for LINE print and +/- 1/64” for PROCESS print. Whites are undercut 1/16” where applicable.

**MICRODOTS:**
- These are very small squares (only .009 in. ) that are added to each color for registration. They are usually trimmed off during Conversion, but sometimes they do end up on the finished bag.

**IMPRINTING:**
- The imprint area must be larger than the actual imprint copy by 3/4” in both length and width. Be sure to plan with the maximum imprint area for this bag if multiple imprints will be used. FAILURE TO ALLOW PROPER MARGIN FOR IMPRINTING MAY CAUSE THE IMPRINT COPY TO FALL OUT OF THE PLANNED IMPRINT AREA. Once the bag is printed, the only solution is to reduce the imprint copy. Impressing over varnish is acceptable but must be indicated or requested since our standard process is to knock out the varnish overprint for areas to be imprinted.

**VARNISH OVERPRINT:**
- Printed bags are subjected to many abrasive forces during printing, converting, shipping, and the end use. Our printed bags have been tested and pass the industry expectations which are: Surface Print Film: 100 rub cycles, 4-lb. Block, print to film. If you have need of additional protection, a varnish overprint may be required.

**BAG SIZES:**
- All bag sizes may vary +/- 1/8” in width and +/- 3/16” in length.

**SPECIAL FEATURES**
- All special features can vary +/- 1/4” vertically and +/- 1/8” horizontally. This includes hanger holes, air holes and perforations.

**PRINTED BAGS:**
- All colors that touch will have a standard 1/32” overlap or “trap” to allow for proper registration. This can create a discoloration with certain color combinations.
- Art can move +/- 1/8” horizontally and +/- 3/16” vertically. Warning: It is possible for the art to float within tolerance and the feature to float within tolerance to the point where the tolerances overlap and cause some art to be unreadable, punched out, etc.

**BAG SKIRTS:**
- All Autobag poly bags will have a skirt. The standard skirt extends 1/4” (+/- 3/16”) beyond the factory seal. Other skirt sizes must be specified clearly.

**TYPE SIZE:**
- The minimum size for POSITIVE Type is 5 Point for Sans Serif typefaces. Reverse copy must be at least 6 Point BOLD – Sans Serif typefaces. Serif or decorative faces should also be made larger. Type printed using Metallic inks should also be made larger. In many cases, art design may require the type size to be below our minimum size requirements. It is not uncommon for type “fill in” to occur, especially with reverse copy. (APS cannot guarantee the print will be readable)