

Huge cost savings due to process standardization

Paragon Print and Packaging demand consistency and standardization. Extensive tests and measurements on their whole printing process revealed that the GTT Genetic Transfer Technology Anilox rolls of Apex Group of Companies showed less than 1 % variation. Exactly from that point on things took their course.

As UK's leading manufacturer of responsible packaging for the retail food industry, standardization of their (label) printing process is a key issue to Paragon. As Europe's largest Label manufacturer, Paragon Labels produces more than 1,5 billion Labels each month. Using 52 Flexographic Label machines across 6 Label plants and having extremely high demands on their printing quality Paragon has a huge need for process control and stability, any waste has to be avoided. It was clear to them that their printing process could still be improved and optimized. This was why they decided to have a critical and detailed look at all components within their printing process. Their main goal was to achieve customer specified digital colour targets, reduce spitting problems to zero, control the consistency of their printing jobs and achieve outstanding results on HD Flexo. And so their 18 months journey began.

Extensive measurements with latest high-tech measuring systems showed that the devil was in the details: Understanding the variables and establishing the controls was paramount to achieve Total Colour Management. Once this fact became obvious, Paragon started testing and measuring Apex GTT. After numerous tests on entry appraisal testing with Troika Anicam and Press side tests using all the same inputs and detailed evaluation it was clear that Apex GTT rolls performed best by far with a variation of less than 1 %. Paragon's logical choice was to implement GTT into their printing



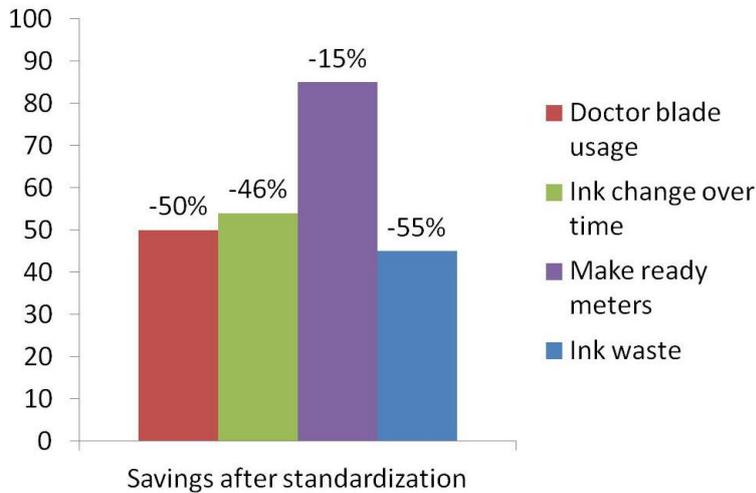
Operator installing an easy to handle, simple and fast to change Apex GTT anilox roll.

process. But knowing that GTT performs best when all printing components perfectly match, they decided not to only standardize their anilox inventory but their whole printing process. Different to many other co-suppliers, Paragon did not measure the ink outside the press but directly on the press.

"We know that the whole process does not work if the ink does not match", says Michael Marshall, Operation Manager at Paragon, issuing Ink Right First Time (RFT) to press is critical to

delivery , quality and consistency, Apex GTT has allowed us to control one of the critical inputs when achieving customer demands of less than 2.00 delta e 2000".

Measuring the best results when combining GTT with the inks of INX Ink finally leads to the decision to not only change their anilox but also their ink supplier. Step-by-step Paragon changed their whole printing process and gained clear benefits: Spitting problems with their UV inks are a thing of the past now.



Huge cost savings due to standardisation of the printing process.

Significant cost savings on their ink waste of 55%, Doctor Blade usage reduction of 50%, 46% reduction on Ink Change over time and 15% reduction in Make Ready Meters, show that they made the right step at the right time.

As standardization is a heavily discussed topic in the industry it is interesting to see why it really became possible at Paragon. "Understanding your process means being aware that there are points that might be small but nevertheless are of crucial importance. For us it became very clear that the ink transfer is one of the key issues a printer needs to have control of in his job on a daily basis. Otherwise standardisation remains challenging if not impossible", Dennis Patterson, Group Operations Director at Paragon concludes. "With Apex GTT we selected a high-tech tool that gives us the highest degree of control around the ink transfer. At the same time we were able to reduce our anilox inventory thus saving a significant number of set up anilox roll changes across the business on a daily basis."

Paragon has perfect control about their whole printing process on their more than 50 printing machines manufactured by 7 different OEM's. All of them are under control with a delta e value of less than 2. Through regular, very precise and critical volume measurements of their GTT rolls, Paragon maintains their high standards on quality and control.



Mark Chapman, Production Co-ordinator at Paragon Print and Packaging measuring an Apex GTT anilox roll.

*Holland-based **Apex Group of Companies**, the world's largest manufacturer of anilox rolls for corrugated, narrow-, wide-web, and coating applications. Apex also invented and holds the patent on the Genetic Transfer Technology (GTT) product line, the successor to conventional anilox products. With manufacturing and sales operations on six continents, Apex provides further value in supplying customers with end-to-end anilox or GTT solutions including ink measurement devices, cleaning products, and educational/use-and-care*

seminars. Apex is dedicated to enabling its customers to do their best work - consistently and proudly - every day.

Paragon Print and Packaging Group is the UK's leading manufacturer of responsible packaging for the retail food industry. A vertically integrated approach to delivery provides concept testing, packaging development, design, artwork, reprographics and print. Established in 1994, the Paragon Print and Packaging Group is comprised of 4 divisions providing award winning printed labels, sleeves, cartons, lined board, film and artwork. 11 UK manufacturing facilities totaling in excess of 700,000 sq ft house Europe's largest UV flexographic press installation. The Group employs more than 1,200 staff with a turnover exceeding £175 million. Customer commitment and an innovation led strategy continue to deliver a model of excellence service approach to more than 1,800 customers daily.

More information: www.apex-groupofcompanies.com / www.paragonprintandpackaging.com