Plastic Printing Tips - HP Indigo

- **Material Preparation**: Ensure that the HP Indigo plastic media is properly prepared. Remove the top sheet and clean the edges to remove any dust or contaminants that might affect print quality. HP Indigo synthetic substrates require a primer or print treatment to improve ink adhesion.
- **Substrate Settings**: Enter the correct substrate settings in the HP Indigo press. This includes the sheet dimensions, thickness, GSM and type of substrate.
- **Pressroom Humidity**: Maintain the pressroom relative humidity at 35% - 50%.
- **Static Control:** Deliver and stack the sheets in small lifts to help eliminate static. Anti-static devices can be mounted on the press to help. StopStatic.com is a good source for inexpensive static control devices.
- **Keep Ink Densities Low**: Less than 300 total density is recommended, which will help with static control and the potential for ink picking.
- **Avoid Printing into the Gap**: Residual ink may build up on the blanket from inadequate transfer into the recessed gap. This buildup can contaminate other components of the press.
- **Blanket Care**: Regularly check and maintain the blanket. Make sure that the PIP and Blanket are not replaced at the same time and verify that the correct type of substrate is defined.
- **Use Approved Substrates**: Make sure that the substrate is an HP Indigo approved material. This certifies compatibility and optimal print quality. You can find approved substrates at rit.edu/printapplicationslab.
- **Cleaning and Maintenance**: Regularly clean the sensors and other components using lint-free wipes with IPA. Increase the print cleaner frequency for high coverage jobs. Cleaner sheets will help extend the life of the print blanket.

Care of Material

- **Conditioning/Handling**: Condition the stock in the pressroom environment for at least 24-48 hours to minimize static and ensure proper ink adhesion. Handle material with clean gloves to avoid contamination and make sure that material is cut square.
- **Static Removal**: Wipe down the sides of the material with a damp cloth to remove any static-attracted dust. If you are running pressure sensitive media, check the sides for adhesive ooze and remove if present.
- **Print Testing**: Print test each lot for printability and ink adhesion. Do not open every wrapped package until you are satisfied with the results of the print test. Open material is not returnable.
- **Storage**: Store HP Indigo plastic substrates in a controlled environment of 60°F to 75°F to prevent dust, curling or other damage. Re-package in original boxes or plastic bags and prevent storing in direct sunlight.