

Run with High Impression

The following is information on flood coat printing with our S.A.R. plates that may help at your plant.

Dust/Dry Ink:

S.A.R. plates are larger, lighter, and softer than rubber or photopolymer plates but do they hold more dust than the other materials. If the ink is running at a pH of 9.2—9.6 with viscosity in the 30 second range and the plate pressure to board is approximately 3 to 5 times higher than it would be if used with rubber or photopolymer plates, you should expect to get good coverage even in damaged areas of the paper, good ink density and very little board crush. The dust/dry ink issues should be less than it would be with rubber or photopolymer.

Impression:

S.A.R. plates must be run at very high impression because they are made with very soft materials that are compressible while rubber and photopolymer are hard and do not compress—they displace when pressure is applied. Impression should always be set high to compress the plate to make good contact with the paper. Three times normal is a good starting point and then check color strength and board crush. If the normal target impression for a screen print was .010, then the starting impression for the S.A.R. matt die should be .030-.040. Unlike screen printing, more pressure is a good thing. If the machine cannot be adjusted enough, you may need to put a piece of .030 PVC behind the plate to get more print pressure and back the anilox roll off .030.