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**Graphic technology — Process control
for the production of half-tone colour
separations, proofs and production
prints —**

Part 6:

Flexographic printing

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*Technologie graphique — Contrôle des processus de confection de
sélections couleurs tramées, d'épreuves et de tirages —*

Partie 6: Processus flexographique

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO 12647-6 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 130, *Graphic technology*.

ISO 12647 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Graphic technology — Process control for the production of half-tone colour separations, proofs and production prints*:

— *Part 1: Parameters and measurement methods*

— *Part 2: Offset lithographic processes*

— *Part 3: Coldset offset lithography on newsprint*

— *Part 4: Publication gravure printing*

— *Part 5: Screen printing*

— *Part 6: Flexographic printing*

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Introduction

The ISO 12647 series of International Standards establishes the process control parameters and their aim values and tolerances for the most important professional printing processes of the graphic arts industry. The groundwork for the remainder of the series is laid down in ISO 12647-1. The latter should be consulted for information on:

- the minimum set of primary process parameters required to uniquely define the visual characteristics of a half-tone proof or production print;
- definitions of general terms necessary for process control;
- measurement methods and reporting.

This part of ISO 12647 lists values or sets of values of the primary parameters specified in ISO 12647-1 and related technical properties of a half-tone flexographic print. Where deemed useful, secondary parameters are also specified.

The purpose of a proof print is to simulate the visual characteristics of the finished print product as closely as possible. In order to visually match a particular print, off-press proofing processes might require values for solid tone coloration and tone value increase which are different from those of the printing process they are meant to simulate. This is caused by differences in phenomena such as gloss, light scatter (within the print substrate or the colorant), metamerism and transparency. Such differences are likely for those off-press proofing processes in which the print substrate, the colorants and the technology for applying them are significantly different from flexographic printing. In such cases the user or the supplier should ensure that appropriate corrections are specified.

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Graphic technology — Process control for the production of half-tone colour separations, proofs and production prints —

Part 6: Flexographic printing

1 Scope

This part of ISO 12647 specifies a number of process parameters and their values to be applied to four-colour process printing by the flexographic printing process for packaging and publication, excluding newsprinting. The parameters and values are chosen in view of the complete process covering the process stages “colour separation”, “film setting”, “making of the printing forme”, “proof production”, “production printing” and “surface finishing”. This covers printing on printing substrates which are nearly white or on films to which a white coating has been applied.

This part of ISO 12647 is directly applicable to:

- publication flexographic printing including magazines, catalogues and commercial materials, and packaging flexographic printing including labels, boxes and flexible packages;
- half-tone and continuous tone proofing processes that predict the colorimetric results of flexographic printing.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the reference document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 5-3, *Photography — Density measurements — Part 3: Spectral conditions*

ISO 2846-5, *Graphic technology — Colour and transparency of printing ink sets for four-colour printing — Part 5: Flexographic printing*

ISO 12642-1, *Graphic technology — Input data for characterization of 4-colour process printing — Part 1: Initial data set*

ISO 12647-1:2004, *Graphic technology — Process control for the production of half-tone colour separations, proof and production prints — Part 1: Parameters and measurement methods*

ISO 13655, *Graphic technology — Spectral measurement and colorimetric computation for graphic arts images*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the definitions given in ISO 12647-1 apply.