

The Ultimate Prepress Packaging Checklist

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Color & Ink Management

- Is the document color mode set strictly to CMYK (not RGB)?
- Have all spot colors (Pantones) been verified and assigned to the correct plates?
- Is the Total Area Coverage (TAC) safely below the limits for the paper type? (e.g., < 300% for coated).
- Is the Rich Black formula safe? (Avoid 100/100/100/100. Use 60/40/40/100 instead).

Typography & Barcodes

- Is all small body copy and legal text set to exactly 100% K (Black) with no CMY values?
- Are all fonts converted to Outlines (Vector paths) to prevent missing font errors?
- Is the Barcode/UPC printed in 100% K (or a dark single spot color) on a pure white background?
- Do the barcode lines have adequate blank "Quiet Zones" on the left and right sides?

Structural & Dieline Safety

- Are all background colors, photos, and patterns extended at least 3mm past the cut lines (Bleed)?
- Are all critical logos and text kept at least 3mm inside the cut and fold lines (Safe Zone)?
- Are the Dieline layers (Cut, Crease, Perforation) set to Overprint so they do not knock out the artwork beneath them?
- Is the Dieline placed on a separate, locked layer at the top of the file?

Visit mahadikram.com to automate your dielines and calculate exact TAC limits.