

Adobe Systems and PDF/X



PDF/X, a subset of the PDF specification created by Adobe, eliminates many of the color, font, and trapping variables that lead to printing problems. Adobe endorses PDF/X and continues to address the needs of the creative professional by delivering powerful software tools and robust technologies including:

- *Adobe® Acrobat® 6.0 Professional*: Acrobat 6.0 Professional software streamlines the creative process with comprehensive tools for creating, collaborating on, and printing Adobe PDF files.
- *Adobe PDF*: Adobe PDF is a de facto standard for delivering high-quality documents for production.
- *PDF/X support*: PDF/X was designed to enable reliable exchange and output of graphics files.

Q. What is PDF/X?

A. PDF/X was developed by the Committee for Graphic Arts Technologies Standards (CGATS) according to requirements established by the Digital Distribution of Advertising for Publications Association (DDAP). The format is based on Adobe's PDF specification and consists of recommendations and additional notations for facilitating the reliable delivery of press-ready, high-end color advertisements.

Q. Can I create PDF/X compliant files with Acrobat 6.0 Professional?

A. Yes. You can create PDF/X compliant files using Acrobat 6.0 Professional. In order for your Adobe PDF files to comply with the PDF/X1-a and PDF/x-3 standard, all fonts and images must be embedded; all elements must be encoded as CMYK, grayscale, or spot color; and the Output Intent must be specified. Tools in Adobe Acrobat 6 Professional examine PDF documents to ensure proper creation, including PDF/x compliance. Once the pre-flighting is complete, users can embed the pre-flight information directly into the PDF file. This provides an efficient, compact method of communicating information about the trouble spots in your PDF documents.

Q. What is the difference between PDF/X files and Adobe PDF files created with Acrobat 6.0 but not verified?

A. Adobe PDF files created with Acrobat 6.0 are a reliable way to exchange content and overcome hardware and software incompatibility, loss of document integrity, and other problems that plague the document review process. PDF/X is a subset of the Adobe PDF specification intended to reduce the most common errors in pre-press document exchange, like missing fonts and images. Adobe PDF files created with Acrobat 6 Professional can also include additional information (like description of the intended output condition) to reduce common errors in pre-press.

Q. Can I create PDF/X files with Adobe InDesign® 2.0, Photoshop®, and Illustrator® software?

A. PDF/X compliant files can be created from InDesign 2 and Illustrator 10 by printing a PostScript file to Acrobat 6 Professional Distiller. PDF/X settings files that are installed with Acrobat 6 Professional will ensure that the document you're converting to PDF is PDF/X compliant.

Q. How is Adobe involved in the creation of PDF/X?

A. PDF/X is an ISO standard for digital document exchange. Adobe is an active member of the DDAP, the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), and the CGATS, the primary driver of the PDF/X specification. Adobe is participating to help ensure that the application of the Adobe PDF specification in PDF/X is as appropriate as possible for the publishing industry. Adobe participated in the International Standards Organization (ISO) standard process by way of involvement with the standards bodies responsible for PDF/X.

Q. What is Adobe's position on PDF-based workflows?

A. Adobe remains committed to the PDF workflow for prepress professionals, creative professionals, and other users who need to exchange PDF content. Adobe will continue to provide powerful professional tools in support of the PDF workflow, in both Adobe Acrobat and other desktop products.

Q. What are Adobe's plans for future PDF/X support?

A. Adobe's active participation in the DDAP, the CGATS, and other standards bodies confirms our commitment to the creative professional, PDF, and PDF/X. As the industry signals greater adoption of PDF/X and other file formats, Adobe will continue to enhance support of those formats in Acrobat and other relevant applications.



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