

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® 5.0*: Acrobat 5.0 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 files with Acrobat 5.0?

A. Yes. You can create PDF/X files using Acrobat 5.0 and Acrobat Distiller® 5.0 software in combination with a third-party verifier tool. In order for your Adobe PDF files to comply with the PDF/X standard, all fonts and images must be embedded; all elements must be encoded as CMYK, grayscale, or spot color; trapping must be on or off; and the Output Intent must be specified. We recommend you use a verifier tool to ensure all settings are accurately specified and compliant with the PDF/X standard requested by your publisher. For a list of Acrobat compatible tools, visit the Adobe Acrobat Third-Party Plug-ins page at www.adobe.com/store/plugins/acrobat/main.html.

Q. What is the difference between PDF/X files and Adobe PDF files created with Acrobat 5.0?

A. Adobe PDF files created with Acrobat 5.0 are a reliable way to exchange content and overcome hardware and software incompatibility, loss of document integrity, and other problems that plague the graphic arts industry. PDF/X is a subset of the Adobe PDF specification meant to enable publishers, printers, and service providers to reliably exchange and output graphics files. Adobe PDF files created with Acrobat can also include PDF/X instructions, thereby becoming PDF/X compliant.

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

A. You can create PDF/X files using InDesign 2.0, Photoshop, and Illustrator in combination with a third-party verifier tool. Similar to Adobe PDF files created by Distiller 5.0, Adobe PDF files created directly from within these applications need to be verified and then marked with a third-party verifier tool.

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

A. PDF/X is a non-proprietary standard. Adobe is an active member of the DDAP, the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), and the CGATS, which are the primary drivers 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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