

Color Variation

Color can vary in several different ways. Below are my definitions of those types or kinds of variations or characteristics.

Accurate

The level of match between the production OK sheet and the reference target aim or proof.

Uniform

The level of uniformity over space (spacial), both laterally and vertically, as well as diagonal. This is important for multiple items up, on, or out, often used in packaging (folding cartons and labels). Offset lithography has ink fountain blade adjustments (keys/zones) separated apart about every inch.

Consistent

The level of consistency from the beginning to end of the production run. This is over a short-term time interval or duration (temporal). It's the amount of color variation within a single press run (lot/batch). It can be thought of as Stability.

Repeatable

The level of consistency over a longer period of time, usually between different production runs (lot/batch) from Past-Present-Future. It can also apply to multiple different machines/devices and geographic locations (plants).

Predictable

This covers all the levels of color variation noted above. It's the level of confidence and trust you have in future performance results. It means there will be no unexpected disappointments or surprises.