

OFFSET PRINTING WITH LOW SUBSTANCES

The bulkier the paper, the stiffer the sheet. The stiffer the sheet, the better the runnability with less risk of stoppages and breakdowns. Sheet offset printers who are not used to printing on light weight papers may be concerned about printing in full colour on a 70 or 80 gsm paper.

BUT ONCE THE PRINTER HAS understood how a lighter weight paper behaves, he will have no difficulty in achieving good results, with no increase in production costs.

ACCLIMATIZE THE PAPER

Light weight (thin) papers tend to stick together more so than bulkier sheets. So it is extra important to acclimatize the sheets and "air" them before printing. Allow the unbanded pallet of paper to acclimatize in the press room for twenty-four hours (if possible) before it goes to the press. Also avoid stacking pallets of paper on top of one another.

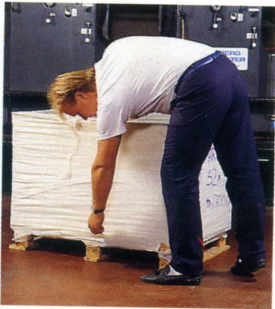
CHANGE THE FIBRE DIRECTION

The normal practice is to run the paper through the press so that the fibres are aligned at right angles to the print direction, i.e. parallel to the rollers (long grain). When printing on light weight papers it is advantageous to do just the opposite, i.e. run the paper so that its fibres are parallel to the press and at right angles to the rollers (short grain). Use paper formats, e.g. 90 x 64 cm (short grain), where the fibres run longitudinally through the press. This will enable the press operator to increase printing speeds by up to 2,000 sheets per hour. Some of

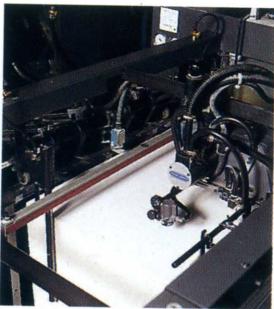
the productivity gains will, unfortunately, be lost in the folder, where speeds will be somewhat reduced owing to the alignment of the fibres being unfavourable to the first fold in the folding machine. Using sheet formats as large as 90 x 64 cm in some older presses could entail a slight risk of distortion, i.e. the back end of the sheet could spread causing register problems. This problem is not usually associated with new presses.

USE THE RIGHT SHEET FEEDER EQUIPMENT

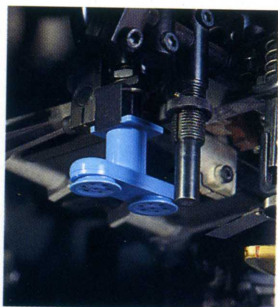
Special light weight sheet feeder equipment is available for the majority of modern presses. Many Heidelberg presses come with both single and double suction cups and a short grain sheet feeder blower. Single suction cups are the most commonly used. Replacing the single with the double suction cups and a short grain feeder blower, significantly improves sheet feeding. Other press manufacturers offer similar aids and extra equipment for printing on light weight papers. The cost of this kind of extra equipment is either very low or comes with the press at no extra cost.



ACCLIMATIZE AND "AIR" THE PAPER THOROUGHLY.



CHANGE THE DIRECTION OF THE FIBRES.



USE DOUBLE SUCTION CUPS.