DURABILITY, TRANSPORT, STORAGE AND CLEANING OF nyloflex® PRINTING PLATES

The quality and durability of nyloflex® printing plates depend on how they are transported as raw plates or cliché (press-ready plate), stored and handled. It is also crucial what solvent is used for printing or cleaning. Therefore, a general statement or a commitment on certain quality characteristics and shelf life is only possible if all guidelines of XSYS are respected and limits are observed.

With proper storage and transportation, according to the conditions listed below, the raw plates can be used at least one year after shipment ex Willstätt (according to the general conditions of sale of XSYS).

Transport and storage of raw plates
Raw plates must always be transported flat in original cartons or original wooden containers. Otherwise, the specified thickness tolerances cannot be guaranteed. It should be ensured that the cartons are not stacked too high (maximum up to 10 cartons). Also larger format cartons should not be stacked on top of smaller format cartons. No multistoried wooden containers should be stacked on top of each other. The pallet ust be at least as large as or larger than the largest carton in the stack, otherwise the overhanging cartons will be damaged. If smaller cartons are stacked on larger cartons, sufficiently thick chipboard of the size of the larger carton must be placed in between.

Raw plates can be stored in the original carton or in a drawer. It should be noted that the foam interleaf should be used to prevent dust indentations and intermediate cardboard layers used between the plates to maintain the stability. Larger boards can not be placed on smaller plate boxes. Smaller pieces must be placed on a cardboard in full size next to each other. The plate edges must not overlap. Also plate parts have to be protected with a foam intermediate layer. The storage conditions should be 15 - 25 °C (59 - 77 °F) and a relative humidity of 50 - 60%. Higher temperatures such as 50 °C (122 °F) and above, even with short-term exposure can damage the plates.

At minus temperatures the following applies: Short effects of frost periods up to -18 °C (-0.4 °F), do not affect the characteristics of the printing plates. However, the printing plates should not be exposed in a frozen condition. The printing plates must be defrosted or warmed up to ambient temperature (20 °C - 22 °C/68 °F – 71.6 °F).

Cleaning and storage of clichés after printing
After printing the clichés must be carefully cleaned as remaining ink residue can damage them. To clean the clichés a soft brush, a lint-free cloth or a soft sponge should be used. Too hard cleaning tools can cause damage and leave scratches on the surface.

When printing, solvents can penetrate the clichés and damage them. Therefore, after printing and cleaning, the clichés should be dried (in ideal case 12 hours) before them being packed for storage. Suitable cleaning solutions are listed separately.

Storage of clichés
The plates should be stored flat in dark, airtight conditions. Intermediate layers such as the foam interleaf from the carton packaging should be placed between the clichés. Storage temperature and humidity should meet the same conditions stated for raw plates (15 - 25 °C/59 - 77 °F, 50 - 60 % rel. humidity).

Please contact us for additional information.
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