

TROUBLESHOOTING FOR SHEETFED PRESSES

SET-OFF/BLOCKING : Set-off occurs when the image from one sheet is transferred to the back of the sheet above it. Blocking occurs when they stick together.

CAUSES

1. Insufficient spray powder.
2. Incorrect spray powder being used.
3. Powder not stored properly.
4. Too heavy of an ink film being applied to the sheet.
5. Poor ink/water balance.
6. Delivery pile temperature too hot causing ink to soften and pile to block.
7. Aqueous coating not cured properly when running two-sided coating.
8. Ink sets too slowly.
9. Too many sheets in pile for particular stock.
10. Paper has too much holdout.

REMEDIES

1. Increase volume of spray powder – check powder spray device for proper operation.
2. Check micron range of powder and assure that it is correct for ink film being applied to the sheet. Consider using coated spray powder as it has better holdout on wet ink.
3. Assure that container is sealed properly in a dry place to avoid moisture pick-up and clumping of the powder.
4. Use higher strength inks. Consider a UCR separation.
5. Assure that minimum amounts of water and ink are being used to obtain colour. See INK/WATER BALANCE section of this guide.
6. Pile temperature should be no more than 100°F (37°C). Adjust dryer to obtain correct temperature.
7. Assure proper drying and curing of coating before running second side. Use work-and-turn coating to help avoid blocking. Assure that large volumes of hot, dry air are used to obtain good drying. Re-pile job shortly after second side is run. Full cure may take 24 hours or more.
8. See DRYING TOO SLOW section of this guide.
9. Use small lifts.
10. Use anti-offset spray of higher micron range.

