


3 reasons to **automate** **your** **packaging** **workflow**

- 1.** The highest quality for every job
- 2.** All the tasks to get the job done
- 3.** Connect to order administrative systems



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The perfect
automated
workflow

| The perfect automated workflow

- eliminates errors from the process by allowing users to preset repetitive tasks
- allows for automated decisions in the workflow
- increases efficiency and throughput
- saves time and reduces cost as the workflow runs unattended, 24/7

Automate prepress tasks

An automated workflow serves as the heart of any packaging prepress department. It consists of separate prepress and workflow tasks that work unattended, conducting many of the chores typically left for prepress operators such as preflight, trapping, repetition, adding registration marks, making reports and more...

Conditional decisions

All these tasks are linked together in one workflow. Some tasks require conditional decisions that are based on preset parameters, while other decisions depend on management review and can be held until approved.





The highest quality
for every job



1

| The highest quality for every job

An automated workflow greatly enhances quality assurance.

Operators, CSRs and admin staff are able to detect errors early in the workflow, increasing overall quality, avoiding expensive mistakes and reducing costs.

A Viewer for experts

A good automated workflow will contain a job viewer that displays a packaging job just before it is sent to the output device to produce plates or to be printed.

An expert can check separations—even bitmap data, trim sizes, and differences between the original design and final production files, to make sure that all corrections have been made.

Compare jobs

Automated 'compare' tools allow someone to see those changes instantly. Jobs can be held until someone in authority gives a green light to proceed.



courtesy of incliFlex®



All the tasks to
get the job done



2

| All the tasks to get the job done

Perhaps one of the most beneficial facets of an automated workflow is that it performs many tasks that were previously performed manually by packaging production operators.

Some examples

A packaging prepress workflow can automatically import PDF files from a customer and preflight them, assuring that they can be processed correctly — before they enter the workflow.

Edit separations

It can remap the inks of images, or edit separations. It can define ink properties (varnish, opaque, technical), screen rulings and angles—including the dot shape.

Trapping

And, when artwork is nearly complete, it can automatically trap a job based upon a printer's own specifications.

MIS integration

Data can be acquired from an external database or MIS system to streamline and automate step-and-repeat or imposition tasks.

Generate barcodes

Workflows can even generate dynamic barcodes with assured printability, offering advanced features such as automatic box generation, bar width reduction and output resolution dependent scaling. Or, they can create dynamic marks for proofing, printing — or simply registration marks.



Connect to order
administrative
systems



| Connect to order administrative systems

Interfaces between order administrative systems (MIS or ERP) and prepress production further reduce the manual interaction.

Seamless integration

In fact, workflows integrate seamlessly with almost any business software system, accepting a wide range of desktop publishing formats, supporting RIPs or file servers and industry standards such as PDF, XML, XMP, SQL queries and JDF/JMF communication. Job information and workflow parameters can be transferred automatically from the order admin or logistics systems, without any operator intervention.

Use job metadata

Data can include step & repeat info, barcodes, inks required, and more. Workflows can also extract job metadata—offering an automatic link to order ID, due date, customer info, customer service rep (CSR) contacts, and more.





Benefits of workflow automation

| Benefits of workflow automation

- Work faster
- Secure quality
- Reduce errors
- Benefit from dedicated packaging prepress functionality
- Free up your operators from tedious prepress tasks
- Connect to your business systems (ERP, MIS)
- Oversee planning and business performance with advanced reporting



| Want to know more about packaging prepress automation?

Looking for a way to work faster while reducing costs? Talk to one of Esko's workflow automation specialists. Esko is the world leader in packaging prepress solutions.

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