



**CLC**  
CARIBBEAN LABEL CRAFTS LTD

# FILE PREPARATION GUIDE

## SOFTWARE COMPATIBILITY:

### THE PREFERRED FILE FORMAT IS ADOBE ILLUSTRATOR.

If you are using any other software for your labels please consult your CSR/Sales Representative to verify compatibility.

**PLEASE DO NOT SET TYPE OR LAY OUT YOUR LABEL IN INDESIGN or other Page Layout based programs** rather set type and compose file in Illustrator. When creating the labels in these programs exporting the files creates issues with slicing the artwork, gradients, drop shadows, images and colors.

**PLEASE DO NOT SET TYPE OR LAY OUT YOUR LABEL IN PHOTOSHOP or other Pixel based programs** rather set type and compose file in Illustrator. Use PSD for the background image. File should be in CMYK format and at least 300dpi at the label size plus .125" (1/16th bleed) past the dieline.

**If you must use an alternative vector based software application YOU MUST export a CMYK- PRINT QUALITY .pdf file.** The file must include the .125 (1/16) artwork bleed past the dieline. PDF file settings: Embed thumbnail, retain file colors & editability, no compression, downsample to 300dpi, no color conversion, and no passwords.

## ARTWORK SETUP:

COLOR MODE: **ALWAYS CMYK**, RGB flat files CAN NOT BE USED, **the Artist must convert to CMYK inhouse to get artwork color shift approved by client before sending in the artwork for printing.**

**Always send linked files** with your label file. Where Postscript fonts have been used include both printer and screen fonts. We recommend Sanserif fonts for small type (4.5 to 7 pt.)

**Please remember to convert ALL text to /outlines** (make sure that you have carefully proofread your label art before sending it to us!).

**Always provide .0625" (1/16") bleed** (artwork/color extending past the dieline that you want to bleed off of the label.)

**PNG and GIF files** cannot be used to produce quality labels. (This includes low res or web .jpg files) JPG files must be CMYK format min 300dpi with no text- solely for background usage from the original hi-res file.

## IMAGE AREA:

**SAFETY AREA -** Maintain 1/16" margin in from dieline, unless it is an intentional bleed.

## ORIGINAL ART/SCANS/TEXT:

Please include placed graphics and photographs with your art. Scan resolution should be a minimum of 300 dpi at final scale. When supplying paragraphs of text rasterized into a bitmap format (1200dpi), please include original text (.txt) files, as well as the font files.

## TYPE SPECS:

4.5pts. positive minimum. 6pts bold for reversed text. Avoid fine reverse type. Avoid process builds on type less than 12 pt. When supplying text it is preferable that you provide the actual font files from your computer. If this is not possible, convert text to outlines/curves.

**PRINT OUT THE LABEL DESIGN TO MAKE SURE TEXT IS LEGIBLE BEFORE SUBMITTING FOR PROOFING.**

## COLOR SPECIFICATIONS:

Specify required PANTONE COATED SWATCH ® numbers on spot color artwork.

## TRAPPING:

It is not necessary to add traps to your artwork. Minimum trap and hold back requirements .5 pt.

## LINES/RULES:

Minimum setting .35 pt. When printing negative (reverse) lines/rules .5 pt is the minimum recommended

## BARCODES/UPC'S:

Bar width reduction should be at .002" when created at 80%, and .003" when created at 100%. We do not guarantee scanability of barcodes smaller than 80% scale. Box Width minimum 1.275".

## COLOR MATCHING:

Process color matches cannot be made to your laser or inkjet print outs. You must provide a sample to match prior to proofing if you are requiring us to match a previously printed label.

## QUESTIONS/ADDITIONAL INFO?:

We would like to help. Please contact your customer service representative at (246) 436-7877