

Wisconsin Web Offset user guide to understanding PDF/X-1a files.

PDF/X, (PDF Exchange) is a subset of what PDF's can be created and used for. PDF/X eliminates most all of the color, font, and trapping variables that lead to printing problems.

PDF/X is an ISO (International Standards Organization) global standard for digital document exchange. PDF/X was developed by the Committee for Graphic Arts Technologies Standards (CGATS, www.npes.org/standards/cgats.html) according to requirements established by the Digital Distribution of Advertising for Publications Association (DDAP, www.ddap.org). It is recommended by most all major printing companies and publishers.

Two types of PDF/X formats are typically used. PDF/X-1a supports only CMYK (and spot color) workflow, targeted to a specific printing type. (SWOP for publications or SNAP or newspapers). Color management, transfer functions and special halftone screen frequencies are not allowed. PDF/X-3 supports a color managed workflow in addition to CMYK and spot colors. Transfer functions are not allowed and halftone screen frequencies are restricted. *The PDF/X-3 standard is not yet widely support in the US.*

- *WVO requests PDF/X-1a compliant files for job submission.*

Select the default setting in Adobe Acrobat Distiller 7 to create PDF/X 1a. You can use the same default export setting in Adobe InDesign CS.

