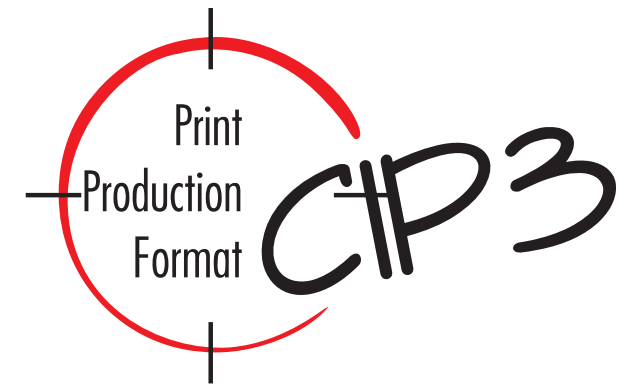
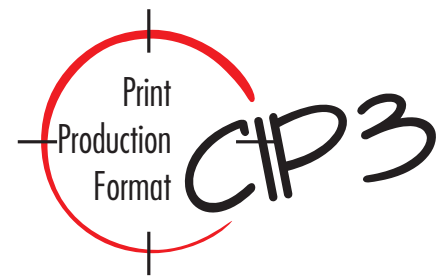


International Cooperation for Integration of Prepress, Press, and Postpress (CIP3)



	Technical Development by:		
	Fraunhofer Institut Graphische Datenverarbeitung		
		THE DOCUMENT COMPANY 	

CIP3 Print Production Format (PPF) – workflow doesn't stop at prepress!

In an international cooperation well-known manufactures from prepress, press and postpress areas formed the CIP3 group. CIP3 stands for **International Cooperation for Integration of Prepress, Press, and Postpress**. At the moment the CIP3 group includes Adobe, Agfa, Baldwin Technology Company, Barco Graphics, Creo, RR Donnelley & Sons, Ekotrading-Inkflow, Eltromat Polygraph, Ewert Ahrensburg Electronic, Fujifilm Electronic Imaging, Goebel, Harlequin, Heidelberger Druckmaschinen, Koenig & Bauer-Albert, Kolbus, Komori, Linotype-Hell, MAN Roland, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Müller Martini, Polar-Mohr, Scitex, Screen, Ultimate Technographics, Wohlenberg, and Xerox.

The result of this cooperation is the Print Product Format (PPF) that is now available to the graphics industry world-wide. The goal of PPF is the computer-integrated manufacturing of print products.

Using the PPF interface, which is vendor-independent, the digital link spanning all production processes from prepress to press and postpress can be realized. This results in a reduction of time and materials used during the print production, and consequently the costs.

The History of CIP3 Print Production Format

The CIP3 group was founded as an initiative from Heidelberger Druckmaschinen AG assisted by the Fraunhofer Institute for Computer Graphics (IGD). This initiative led to the development of the so-called Print Production Format and its acceptance by well-known manufactures.

Dec. 1993	development of a concept
Sep. 1994	first draft specification
Dec. 1994	development of a functional prototype
Feb. 1995	foundation of the CIP3 group with 15 members
May 1995	version 1.0 of the CIP3 PPF, presentation at DRUPA'95
Aug. 1995	prepress station creates first CIP3 PPF file
Aug. 1996	version 2.0 of the CIP3 PPF
Dec. 1996	26 manufactures as members in the CIP3 group
June 1997	version 2.1 of the CIP3 PPF, presentation at Imprinta'97

History of the CIP3 Print Production Format

The content of the CIP3 PPF

The CIP3 Print Production Format is a container format for the exchange of data coming from prepress, press, and postpress processes.

The PostScript language, that has long been established in prepress, has been chosen as encoding method.

The information stored in a CIP3 PPF file contains the following:

- administrative data, as for example the job name, copyright, application name, ect.
- preview images for each color separation, that enables ink key presetting for the press
- transfer functions
- color and density measuring information
- register marks
- cut data
- folding procedures
- »private data«, that can be used to store application or vendor specific data (for example the machine presetting for repeat runs).

The benefits of using CIP3 PPF

The consequent usage of the CIP3 Print Production Format results in significant benefits for the end user with regards to the following aspects:

Productivity benefits

- acquisition of same data only once
- quicker machine setup
- shorter production cycles
- better quality control
- streamlined production
- improvement of the productivity and reduction of costs

Ecological benefits:

- avoidance of film chemistry
- reduction of water waste
- quicker press preset
- reduction of paper and ink waste

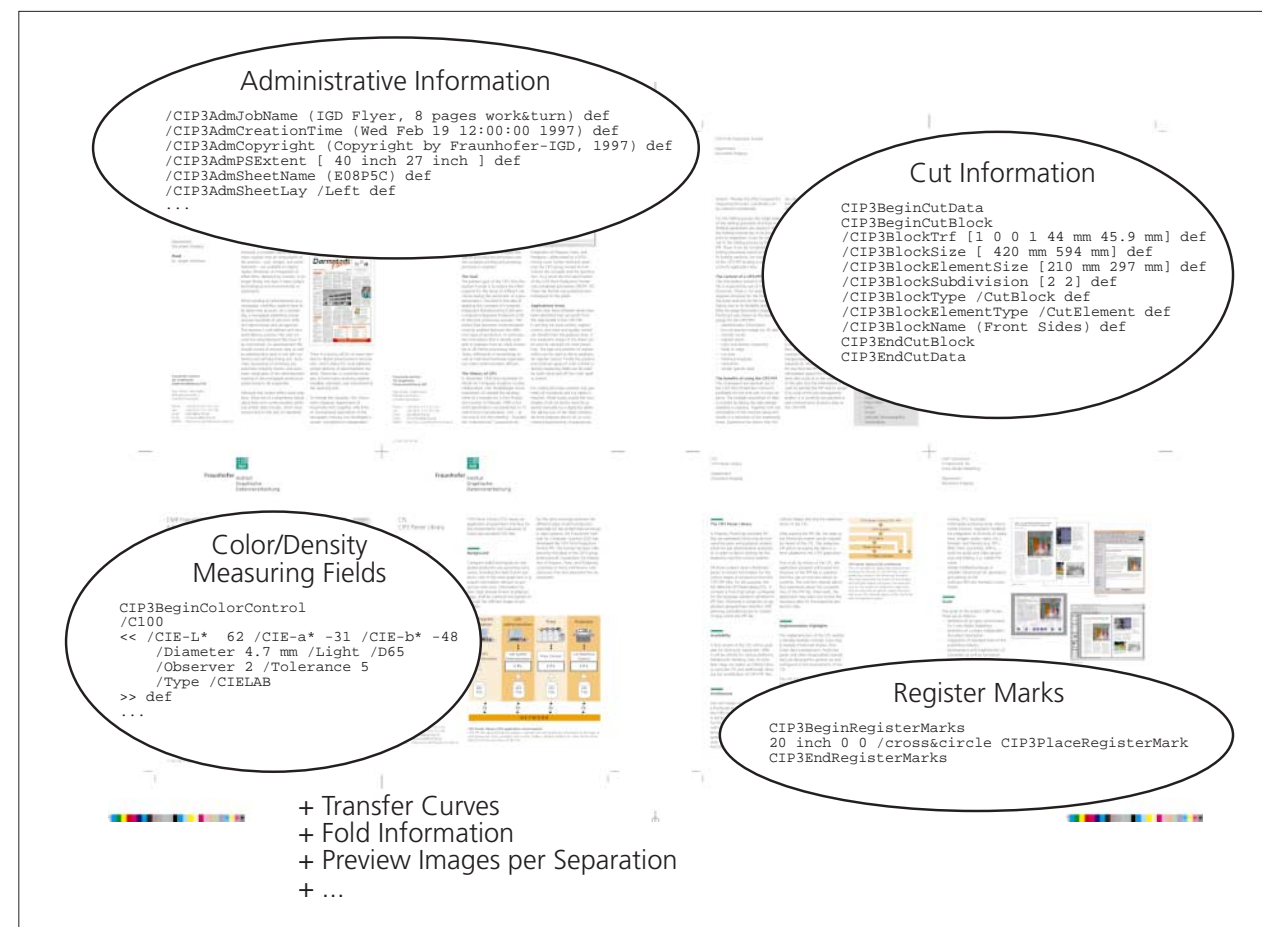
In order to be able to use these advantages, a completely digital prepress is requisite.

CIP3 Workflow

A CIP3 based workflow shows the integration of the single processes: already during the order input some administration data is available. Such information together with other prepress information, are used during the press and postpress processes.

The information is stored in the CIP3 PPF file during the production and is available for the following process steps. Thereby an expensive repeated acquisition of the same data is avoided.

With CIP3 PPF a basis has been established for the definition and practical use of a completely digital workflow. The implementation in products has just begun and it is up to you to benefit from this development.



Example of the content of a CIP3 PPF file

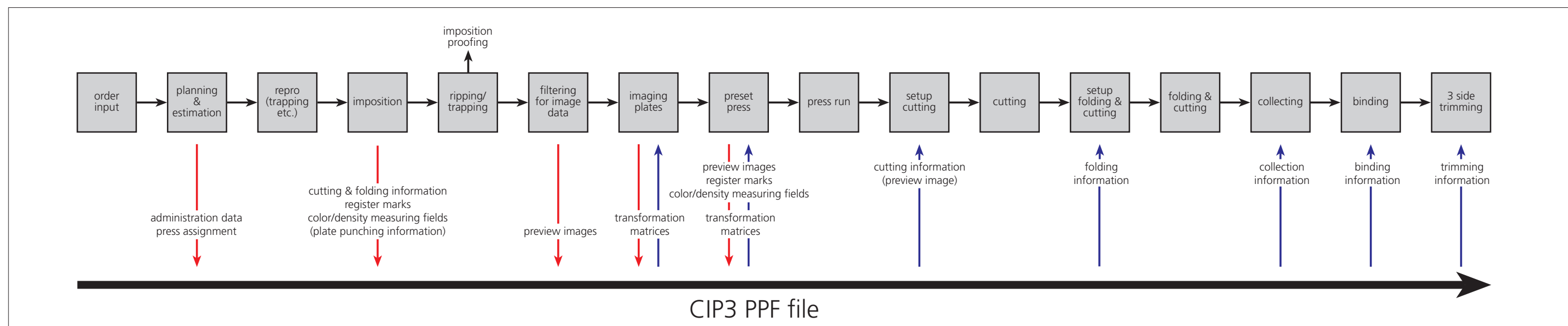
Information about CIP3 and the Print Production Format (PPF)

More information about CIP3 and PPF, as well as on membership in the CIP3 group, can be obtained from:

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The specification of the CIP3 Print Production Format is available to everybody interested in a printed version from Fraunhofer-IGD (paying a token fee) or via Internet (<http://www.igd.fhg.de/www/igd-a1/cip3/>).



Example of a CIP3 based workflow