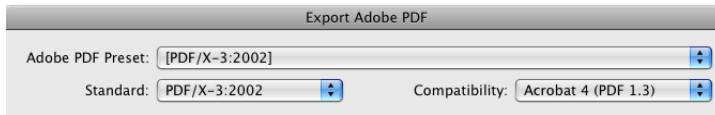


# FILE SETUP GUIDE



## Standard Print Production

For standard print jobs (posters, banners adhesive panels etc) i.e print work where the size and finished format is not complicated, Big Colour request a print ready PDF from Adobe Creative Suite saved direct from the application (not distilled - this will also save time) as the **PDF/X-3:2002** format.



Through testing, Big Colour has found this specific format to provide the highest level of compatibility with our printers and RIPs, it is important that this format is used and **not other** standard PDF formats such as 'Highest Quality Print' or 'Press Quality' as these are susceptible to causing transparency and gradient print errors. The **PDF/X-3:2002** format comes standard on CS3, CS4 & CS5.

## Colour Format / Spaces

Big Colour recommend all colour spaces and output settings are save in **RGB**. This will both create smaller files and ensure a greater gamut of colour is produced on our print presses.

## File Sizes and Scales

Preferred artwork should be created at 100% of final output size, and where possible image resolution should be 150dpi.

If your artwork contains spot colours please leave the spot colour in your file for the most accurate colour match - do not change it to process/CMYK.

Artwork can be provided at a percentage of the final output size, please use scales of 10%, 25% or 50%. Files prepared under 10% cannot be accepted. The scale of the resolution of your images will also need to be modified and scaled up proportionally - for instance, if artwork is created at 50% then the images need to have a resolution of 300dpi.

Bleed on your artwork may be required for some prints (for example, vinyl prints being applied to an existing substrate or surface requires additional bleed to be printed). Contact your Account Manager for further information if you are unsure.

## Open Files

If required, open files can be supplied Big Colour accept up to **Adobe Creative Suite 5** (additional setup costs may apply). Any other formats must be saved as PDFs as per the above.

## Computer Cut and Signage Imaging

To vinyl or die cut an image, a vector file is required. Vector graphics make up an image with a series of calculations (also known as points) - in comparison to a raster file (e.g. a photographic image) that makes up an image using pixels.

Vector files usually come from Illustrator or Freehand as the program's native file type (AI or FH) or saved as an eps. The plotter uses the information from the points of the vector file to cut the shape that has been created.

**Big Colour accepts .ai or .eps files for computer cutting jobs.**

If text is being cut, fonts can be supplied as outlines (and reference the original font names) or as open files with all fonts supplied. Convert all strokes (lines) to outlines (In Illustrator: Object -> Path -> Outline Stroke). Contact the Big Colour production team if you are unsure or need more information

## Diecut File Setup

Any jobs that will be die cut will be required to be supplied as open files (as above) and as a layered file with a die cut line as a separate layer.

A minimum of 3mm bleed will be required for any printed elements requiring die cutting.

## White Ink

For any work requiring the use of white ink, the file must be supplied as **Adobe Illustrator - up to CS5**. No other format can be accepted.

The white elements of the file must be saved as a spot colour named exactly **'Spot 1'**. This spot colour can be any mixture of base colours (a good idea is to save this as 99% magenta). For more information and specific options on white ink printing please contact your account manager to discuss.

## File Delivery

Big Colour can accommodate most formats of file delivery including our FTP, YouSendIt and DropBox, you can also come down and drop of a DVD or Flash Drive if you like!

