



ISO 12647-2 Certification Factsheet

Background to the certification scheme

The BPIF (British Printing Industries Federation) ISO 12647-2 certification scheme requirements for certification were published in February 2010 by the BPIF. The document is available from the BPIF (www.britishprint.com).

The document is available to all, not just members of the BPIF, and it defines the requirements for certification.

The scheme takes ISO 9001 and applies it to the printing process, combining it with the requirements of ISO 12647-2.

The scheme requirements are subject to change over time, as feedback on the scheme is received, new standards are issued, and new technologies emerge. It is also intended to introduce further schemes for the other ISO 12647 standards in the future.

Certification to ISO 12647-2

Certification is achieved through audits against the scheme's requirements by an accredited certification body for ISO 12647-2. Due to the highly specialised nature of the scheme certification bodies have to demonstrate that their auditors are competent to understand their customer's processes fully. PMC's auditors are all print specialists.

The audits combine an audit of the organisation's colour quality and production management system and an audit test of sample product for each press within the scope of the certification. Once certified, organisations will need to continue to demonstrate product conformity through their own testing of products and will be subject to ongoing audits, usually annually.

ISO 12647-2 certification: Frequently Asked Questions

What does the certification mean?

The certification means that the certified organisation operates a colour quality production management system and is capable of printing to ISO 12647-2.

What does accreditation mean?

Accreditation is carried out by National Accreditation Bodies such as UKAS in the UK (www.ukas.com) and is awarded to certification bodies for providing certification for customers in particular industry sectors. To become accredited, certification bodies have to demonstrate that they are competent, impartial and independent in their certification work, and meet the relevant requirements of the international standard which applies for that certification. Certifications issued by accredited certification bodies also have full international recognition.



257



Print & Media Certification Ltd.
86 Main Road, Wigginton,
Tamworth, Staffordshire B79 9DZ

t: +44 (0)1827 64471

f: +44 (0)1827 312852

e: info@printcertification.co.uk

w: www.printcertification.co.uk

Registered in England No.3099611

How should I choose a certification body?

You should always choose an accredited certification body for ISO 12647-2, and the certification body, its auditors and other staff must be print specialists and entirely impartial in their work. PMC fulfils all these requirements and is the only print specialist accredited certification body in the UK.

Do I need to be certified to ISO 9001?

Although the BPIF 12647-2 certification scheme builds in quality system requirements, you do not need a separate certification for ISO 9001, although it may prove helpful to have a quality management system in seeking to meet the BPIF's ISO 12647-2 scheme requirements

Do all my jobs have to be ISO 12647-2 compliant when I am certified?

No, only those jobs which you claim are compliant to your customers need to be so, although you may choose to print compliant jobs without making a specific claim to the customers. Claims should be printed on the customer's invoices and delivery notes.

Can I include only some of my presses in the scope of the certification?

Yes, you choose which presses you wish to be audited, and if they pass the audit's product test, then they are included in the scope of certification. You can then use any of the presses within the scope of the certification to print ISO 12647-2 compliant jobs for customers.

How long do the audits take?

The length of the initial audit depends on the scope of the certification and the number of presses to be tested, the number of sites included, and other factors, so this has to be assessed on an individual company basis by PMC. The initial audit comes in two stages, with the audit product test at Stage 2 for each press included in the certification scope. Normally audits will take place annually once certified, with surveillance audits taking less time to complete than the initial audit, until a full system re-audit is required in the third year. An audit product test for each press in scope is required at each audit.

What happens if a press fails the test?

Any press which fails the audit product test at any time is excluded from the certification scope. You can request further tests on a press at any time from PMC.

How long does certification last?

The certification runs for 3 years, subject to meeting the requirements of the scheme on a ongoing basis and adhering to PMC's rules and regulations . Certification is renewed for a further 3 years following a successful re-audit, and so on into the future.

What is the cost of audit?

The cost of the audit is determined to a large degree by the number of audit days required by PMC, and so can only be assessed on a case by case basis.



How do I tell my customers that I am certified?

You can use the compliant product claim on invoices and delivery notes. Once certified you will receive PMC's prestigious 12647-2 certification mark to use for promotion of your company on letterheads, brochures, websites etc. You will also appear on PMC's website, together with the scope of your certification, so that you can be found by potential customers seeking ISO 12647-2 certified suppliers. You receive a certificate on paper, and electronically, from PMC for display, which details the scope of your certification. PMC is also happy to contribute to your press releases or other promotional material.

What are the benefits of certification?

There are many benefits, including greater product quality, reduced wastage, reduced make ready and downtime, qualification for tenders, high quality colour print, highly motivated and skilled staff, new product markets and customers. PMC's ISO12647-2 certification is the only accredited certification which identifies high quality printers to customers and is verified through an independent and impartial audit and testing process.

Can print managers be certified?

Yes, print managers can be certified with a certification scope of "outsourced printing".

Can I be certified for pre-press activities only?

At this stage, the only certification scopes available are "pre-press and press", "press only" and "outsourced printing".

I know a printer claiming to be compliant to ISO 12647-2. How do I know if the claim is correct?

Many printers make claims about ISO 12647-2 compliance, but such claims can only be substantiated through certification by an independent and accredited print specialist certification body such as PMC.

Can I combine my ISO 9001 or ISO 14001 audits with ISO 12647-2 audits?

Yes, PMC will be happy to combine your audits and transfer your certification from other non print specialist certification bodies. We would simply pick up your audit schedule as is. Combined audits would reduce time and cost, using the same auditor at the same audit visit, to cover the different systems.

I also have digital presses, can they be included in the certification?

No, the certification is for ISO 12647-2 only, which relates to offset lithographic processes. Further development of the certification for other processes will follow in the future.

Who should I contact to find out more about certification or to arrange an audit?

Contact Jon Stack at PMC on +44 (0) 1827 64471 or on jon.stack@printcertification.co.uk.

Jon will arrange for you to complete a short questionnaire in order to produce a proposal for certification for you. He will also be happy to answer any further questions you might have.



257



Print & Media Certification Ltd.
86 Main Road, Wigginton,
Tamworth, Staffordshire B79 9DZ

t: +44 (0)1827 64471

f: +44 (0)1827 312852

e: info@printcertification.co.uk

w: www.printcertification.co.uk

Registered in England No.3099611