FILE FORMAT COMPARISON CHART

Class	PDF			TIFF/IT	EPS			PostScript		Application Files		Copydot	
	PDF/X-1a	PDF/X-3	PDF	TIFF/IT-P1	EPS	DCS1	DCS2	Composite	Separated	Composite	Separated	TIFF	DCS
Composite workflow	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No
Separated workflow	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Intentionally editable	Good	Good	Good	Limited	Limited	No	No	Limited	No	Good	No	Limited	Limited
Accidentally editable	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Bad	Bad	Good	Good
Searchable	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No
Preflightable	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Limited	No	No	Limited	Limited	Yes	Yes	No	No
Trim and bleed	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Imposable	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Limited	n/a	Limited	Yes
Web viewable	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Processability	Good	Good	Fair	Good	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor
Security	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Accredited	Yes	Yes*	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Font stability	Good	Good	Fair	n/a	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	n/a	n/a
Color management	Good	Good	Good	Fair	Fair	Poor	Poor	Fair	Fair	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor
Tool availability	Good	Fair	Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	n/a	n/a	Poor	Poor
Relative file size	Small	Small	Small	Large	Large	Medium	Medium	Large	Large	Medium	Medium	Large	Large

Interpreting This Chart

Mostly GREEN means this is a good file format for interchange. The more ORANGE or RED, the less desirable the format.

It is important to note that just because a file format is judged to be a "good file format" does not necessarily mean that it is the best file format for your operation. Each of the items in the left column must be weighted in terms of importance for your specific needs.

* PDF/X-3 is expected to pass ISO accreditation in 2002.
PDF/X-2 has not been included in this comparison chart as it is not expected to be used for digital ad exchange.

Developed from a concept by Michael Jahn