

## Carboning tester

Printed materials must meet a number of criteria in order to exhibit the quality desired by the customer. There are many factors that influence the quality of a printed product. Directly controllable quality features that can be defined and influenced by the printer during production include inking, print contrast, register, drying, and consistency with the original (proof).

There are also quality features that cannot be directly controlled, and cannot be monitored or influenced during the printing process.

These well-known printing phenomena include “rub-off” and “carboning”.

Problems often result from these effects. The printer may have produced a perfect product, but later it turns out that in the folder, during stacking, transport, or processing in the collator, or in the trimmer, rub-off and/or carboning has greatly reduced its quality or even made it completely unusable.

To limit these potential problems or their repercussions, the printer must analyze the customer’s quality requirements and specifications as soon as the order is accepted, and determine whether the order can be completed properly, or whether any protective measures need to be taken against rub-off and/or carboning.

### Rub-off or carboning?

Rub-off and carboning differ in terms of cause and appearance, and should therefore be considered independently of one another. A printed product with good rub resistance can exhibit severe carboning; and vice versa, one with poor rub resistance can give good results in a carboning test.

