

The Paperdam Group

Expertise in Paper Performance

2012 02 07
page 1

Paperdam viewpoint on revisions of ISO 12647 series and ISO DIS 15339 (running discussions to prepare April 2012 meeting)

About DIS 15339 specifically

We always supported the concept of DIS 15339 to clarify Colour Gamut targets to better service stakeholders in their relations. ISO DIS 15339 is meant for print buyers, while ISO 12647 series should be understood a Process printing standardization.

We also support the tolerances definitions, the adjustment of data for substrate colour differences and proposed calculations which is a clear need.

Still, we believe that the current version of ISO DIS 15339 opens uncertainties:

1. The Colour Gamut targets concept is excellent but the Characterised Reference Printing Conditions are still based empirically. Since indeed Clause 4.7 allows alternate datasets, what is the use of defining some in this very document ?
2. The number of targeted Colour Gamuts is limited to 7, which may be a limitation as regard to the number of printing processes and the number of specifically developed papers for each printing process in the market.

Summarizing:

- * Input data should be defined so that output data can be evaluated. But this implies that the transformation input-output should be left open.
- * We agree to the concept but we do not agree with the colour transformations suggested in this document.

In practice, more work and discussions are needed before going further to DIS votes and this explains our support to NO vote in countries where we are active.

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The Paperdam Group

Expertise in Paper Performance

2012 02 07
page 2

Paperdam viewpoints in general

1. About 12647 versus 15339.

2 standards for 2 different needs, product standard and process control standard, yes indeed.

We address 2 non compatible needs as Larry WARTER was mentioning. Market needs, printers needs. In practice printers needs are equivalent to Process management needs.

Printing process is a process and should be managed as such, with aims and acceptable variation set up by printer in link with its process variation, like in any industrial process.

As papermakers, we obviously are willing both to have our industrial users to use our paper correctly, whether printers or editors-customers.

2. 12647 series.

We are happy to have collaborated to 12647-2, this was not easy. We reached a consensus for 8-9 printing conditions. It was a difficult issue to categorize the papers. We reached 8 definitions in HSWO, although we repeat we need 9. We believe the 8 categories are not ideal but there is a need to move forward now to serve the market !

Still we believe 12647 series updates should now be published as soon as possible.

3. 15339 series.

- SCCA "substrate corrected colorimetric aims" are mentioned and are a MUST.

- Identical color aims for characterization data within ALL standards must be developed. If, needed we can review this point for 15339 series. R.CHUNG stressed and we agree that if aims are correctly defined we get less problems. This is also a MUST. There is indeed no way to have 2 standards with 2 different aims as substrates. At least a guiding tool for correction should be defined, as already given in 15339 indeed.

- Characterised Reference Printing Conditions are still based empirically, thus based on a kind of "average" paper. Although we understand that things should be kept easy for printers' customers, paper represent a signification share in the material cost of printed media and we cannot support to see prepress limiting the full advantage of paper developments. We develop papers for customers, not for standards.

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The Paperdam Group

Expertise in Paper Performance

2012 02 07
page 3

Paper is developed as a function of its printing process. 6 or 7 printing conditions or aims as described in 15339 look to us at the low side. Typically in Gravure you need may be 10 profiles to cover the whole paper range. And as said above, in Offset 9 is already a minimum. We are here not talking of speciality papers still.

- Practical solutions as given by Universal Printing WORKflow Diagram UPWORD Elie KHOURY are helpful to the debate because paper aims are defined, colorimetric corrections are possible, definition of variations and process management issues (as per -2) are described.

In short and on vote on DIS 15339 January 2012, here were our comments:
We believe that the current version of ISO DIS 15339 opens uncertainties:

1. The Colour Gamut targets concept is excellent but the Characterized Reference Printing Conditions are still based empirically. Since indeed Clause 4.7 allows alternate datasets, what is the use of defining some in this very document ? Our Proposal is thus to keep 15339-1 as a general tool, without description of characterized data set.
2. The number of targeted Colour Gamuts is limited to 7, which may be a limitation as regard to the number of printing processes and the number of specifically developed papers for each printing process in the market.

4. Summary on strategy.

Conformance to customer requirements, metrology and process variations management, metrology-sampling-quality management, certification, environment-carbon footprint are the issues to address. A specific standard for each issue is needed. Starting from existing standards with adaption to printing world.

Different concepts, different standards !
Different markets or end-use, different papers !
Different printing process, different papers !

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