

General Handling Instructions for Brook International Fabrics

The following information is given without prejudice and is provided as guidance only.

1. Fabrics – Knitted, Woven and Speciality

Satin Fabrics

Satin fabrics - knitted and woven - are often produced using bright/shiny yarns, which may result in creases showing on the fabric surface. Due to the sensitive nature of the yarn there is a tendency for the fabric to show crease marks. Washing after printing will remove most of the creases.

Satin Opaque (KST02)

Vaporization or gassing off can occur whilst ink transfers from the transfer paper during calendaring. It is recommended that adequate ventilation be provided during this process.

Due to the bonded nature of this fabric, a Moiré effect on the surface may occur as a result of manufacturing. However this should disappear after printing once the fabric is pressed. It is recommended that the pressing temperature does not exceed 180°C as this may have a detrimental effect on the bond strength of the fabric.

Backlight FR (WBKLIT) and Woven Blackout FR (WBLOC)

These fabrics are twill weaves which due to their construction have higher than normal diagonal stretch especially if uneven tension is applied. Please take care when feeding either of these fabrics into your print machine or rotary heat press. Sufficient and even tension is required in both the length and width to ensure the fabric is kept as straight and flat as possible, otherwise the fabric may rise diagonally and fold or ripple as it passes through the machine.

2. Pre-print Testing

Due to the wide choice of fabrics available from Brook International, it is recommended that fabrics are tested whenever possible, prior to production, to ensure the chosen fabric is suitable for your printing process. Further to this due to the differences and wide choice of machines, inks, software and machine manufacturers recommendations for optimum print performance, including dwell time and temperature, it is recommended to complete test prints on fabrics, prior to bulk printing, to ensure the end print result is acceptable.

3. Shrinkage

Some fabrics are prone to slightly higher shrinkage than others due to the nature of their construction and differences in the manufacturing processes and routes. Brook International takes every precaution possible to eliminate or minimise shrinkage. In an effort to eliminate or achieve minimal shrinkage in the length or width, all fabrics are heat-set at an elevated temperature. With the application of heat during further processing of the fabric, for example pressing when transfer printing, further shrinkage may occur. Any further heat applied to the fabric during the print process may have an effect on previous heat settings.

4. Moiré

Under normal circumstances fabrics can be printed without producing a moiré effect. However a moiré effect may occur as a result of a combination of factors including certain types of print machines, the print heads and the physical surface structure of the fabric. It is not possible to change the fabric structure to avoid this occurring and no liability can be accepted for moiré as some print machines, files and images may be prone to producing a moiré effect. Should moiré occur stop printing immediately and check and change the print resolution and the orientation of the print heads and image being printed i.e. turn the image 90 degrees if possible. A slower print mode may also help eliminate moiré. In extreme cases printing on the opposite side of the fabric may eliminate this effect.

5. Print Performance

All associated processes can affect print performance during fabric printing. This includes a combination of factors (machine/printer and its processes and further processing, inks, software, storage, environmental conditions / relative humidity) that cannot be guaranteed by Brook International. Should any of these factors be changed, then its effects on the fabric print performance must be thoroughly tested by the customer.

6. Washing Instructions

As a general guideline where washing / cleaning of printed fabric is required this should be carried out in accordance with your chosen ink supplier and washing detergent manufacturer's instructions.

Brook International however recommends, where possible, to spot clean affected areas only, taking precautions as appropriate. If laundered, use a synthetic washing cycle with a washing temperature no higher than 40°C. Line dry or press using a gentle temperature.

If fabrics are to be dry-cleaned this should be carried out by a qualified dry cleaner and in accordance with ink manufacturer's guidelines. On completion of dry cleaning allow sufficient time for any residual dry cleaning chemicals to fully evaporate or in accordance with your chosen dry cleaners recommendations.

7. FR - Flame Retardant Finish

Most of the Brook International FR fabrics have either a durable FR treatment applied or are inherently flame retardant. To safeguard the FR integrity of Brook International FR treated fabrics, they should only be washed if absolutely necessary. Should the fabric be washed then it is recommended it is re-tested to ensure it maintains its FR integrity and will satisfy the required FR performance for the intended end use. The FR test reports Brook International can provide are for unprinted fabric.

Due to many further processes carried out on fabrics supplied, if there is any doubt as to the fabrics FR integrity, Brook International recommends further FR testing after processing.

8. Defects

We strive to keep faults to an absolute minimum but certain defects are unavoidable. Small stains, stop marks, yarn breaks in weaving and knitting are inevitable in bulk textile fabric manufacture. Faults are usually tagged in rolls of fabric supplied by Brook International. It is advisable that where possible fabric is monitored during further processing i.e. during the printing process etc.

9. Tolerance

All fabrics are prone to variation from one batch/ dye lot to the next.

Where possible, to keep such variation to a minimum, fabric from one batch should be used for a particular process. If this is not possible then the fabric from each batch/ dye lot should be tested for print performance.

It is advisable to keep tickets supplied with the rolls so any anomalies can be traced back through the process route.

Slitting of rolls is done at the customer risk. Due to the method of the slitting process, variation of up to 1cm can occur.

10. Storage

The careful storage of rolls of fabric supplied by Brook International will help ensure smooth and efficient printing and further processing. It is recommended that rolls of fabric are carefully stored flat and horizontally when not being used, together with its unique piece ticket including its batch number details and should be carefully kept with the roll of fabric at all times. It is further recommended that rolls of fabric are stored in dry conditions and out of direct sunlight.

Prolonged storage may have an effect on the performance of the fabric and print quality. It may be necessary to test a roll of fabric that has been in storage for a prolonged period of time, prior to production to ensure that its print performance has not deteriorated and that the end result is satisfactory.