

Quality of printing inks

Information on tolerances and production

Marabu has manufactured printing inks for around 40 years and now has a range of over 70 inks for digital, screen, and pad printing. In screen and pad printing, in particular, the emphasis is on ink systems for industrial applications in very differing segments such as automotive, membrane keyboards, scales etc. This variety is handled through our internal Marabu Management system, which forms the basis for our regular DIN 9001 and DIN 14001 certifications.

A further guarantee of our success is the expertise of our production personnel, the high quality of our printing inks with very narrow tolerances, our modern production machinery and the final controls of all products through the 10 personnel in our Quality Control department.

We wish to provide more information here on the areas of ink quality and tolerances.

Ink production and tolerances

Each ink series and each shade is manufactured according to a pre-defined production plan and is released using a separate test procedure. These internal test plans are adapted to the segment, i.e., according to the end use of the printing inks and to the test methods which can vary from one ink type to the next.

Furthermore, we exclusively use raw materials from renowned, certificated manufacturers, to ensure that we have a long-term supply of materials with the lowest tolerances possible.

This is a factor of considerable importance for major companies who have been using our inks for many years.

Optical tolerances

We have recently received isolated enquiries about transparent ink formulations with different dates of production (e.g., 409, 904,

910 and 911) or white shades that can have a different optical appearance in their tins.

All printing inks contain a large number of different components that are subject to their own tolerances. Optical differences can arise from “batch to batch” upon addition of the components to yield the product ready for use (see image below).

Separation of the individual components can also cause the optical appearance of the ink in the tin to vary. It is, therefore, necessary to stir the contents homogeneously before assessing the color.

In summary, variations in shade are possible in the tin, but the original color proof is decisive and not the appearance of the ink in the tin.

