HP Latex 500 series Printers: Tips and Tricks when printing on cellulose-based media

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Scope of this document

Papers are hygroscopic materials. They can absorb or lose moisture depending on external humidity conditions. This can affect how the media behaves during printing. In this document you will find some tips & tricks to be able to print successfully on these types of media.

Note:

- This document does not refer to all papers, but only to those that are cellulose based
- Non-woven or PVC based Wallpapers are not covered in this document

About Cellulose-based media

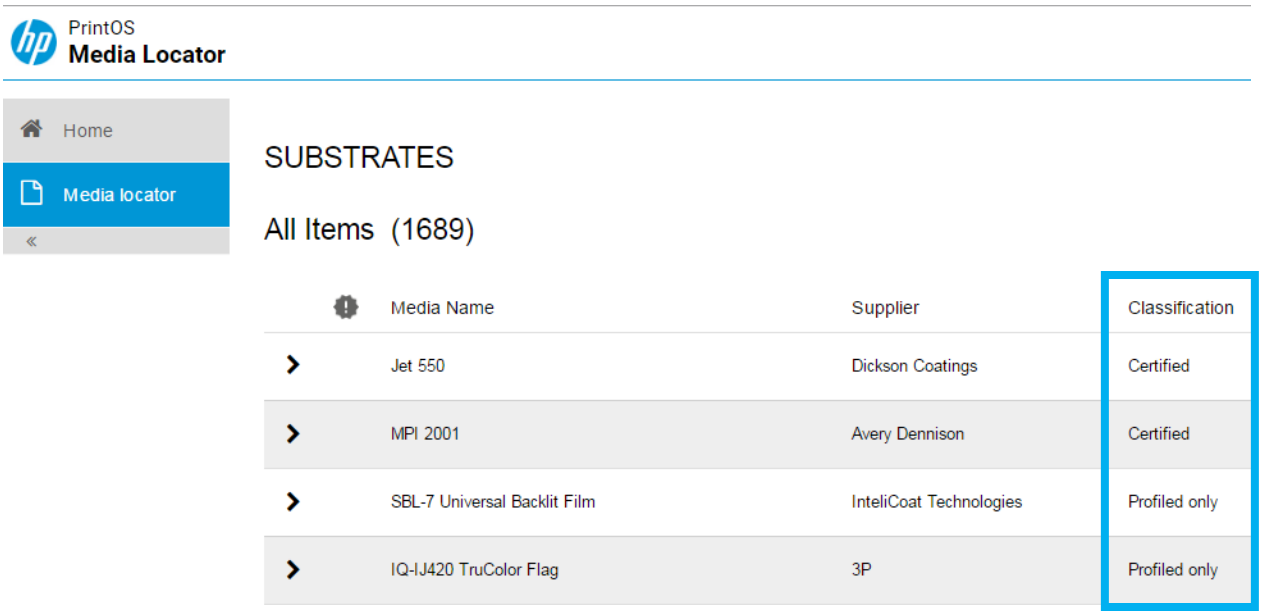
Certain papers are greatly affected by temperature & humidity, as well as the storage method. Therefore, many media vendors recommend specific storage and printing conditions, as well as applying front tension to the media.

Tips & Tricks for printing on the HP Latex 500 series

The 3rd generation of Latex can print on a wide variety of media, including papers. However, the lack of drying in the print zone can make printing a bit trickier since the water content in the ink is not fully evaporated until the curing area. However, following the recommendations below, you should be able to print successfully on papers:

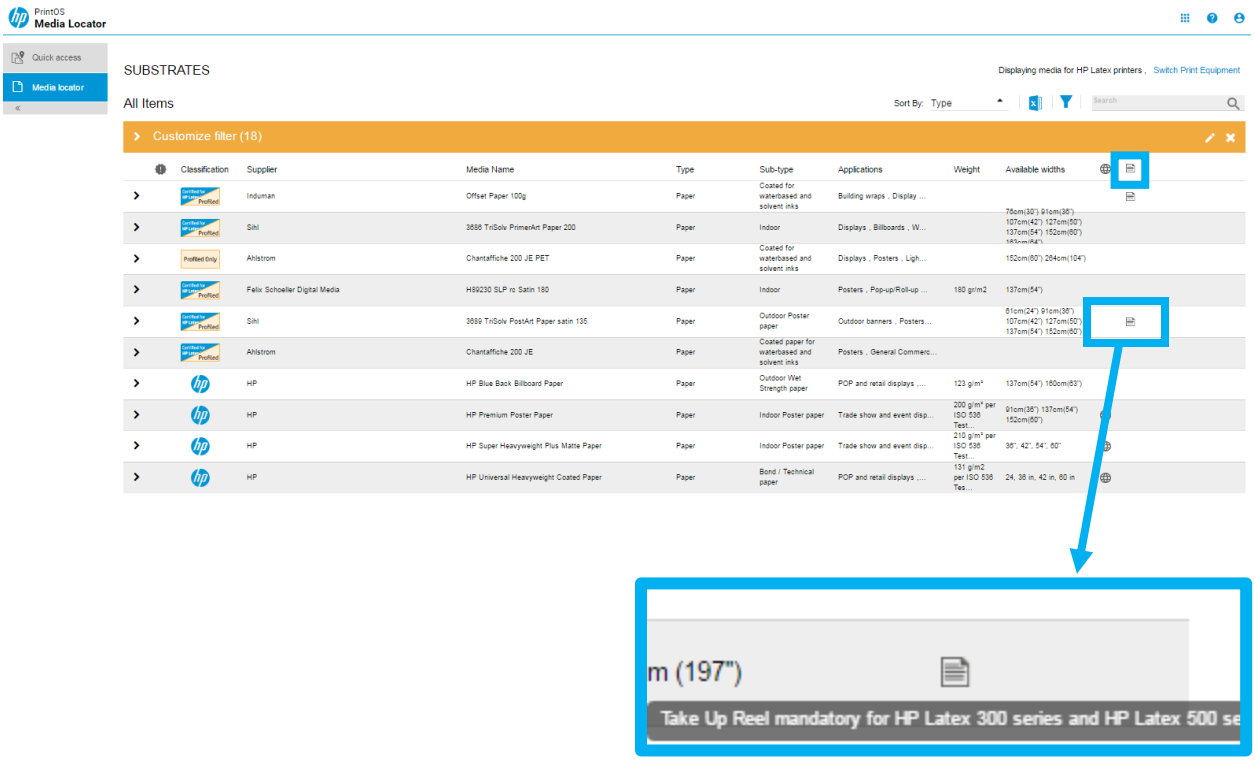
1. HP Latex Certified media

Always check the media locator or the online search for media that have been Certified for Latex printers:



- **Certified**: Certified compatibility with specified HP Latex printers and inks. Certified media testing is based on key areas such as print quality, printer-media interaction, and image processing and handling.
- **Profiled Only**: Material with a media preset available that is not Certified by HP.

In the media locator you can also find recommendations for specific media in the **Notes** section:



For example in this media it is recommended to use the Take-Up reel.

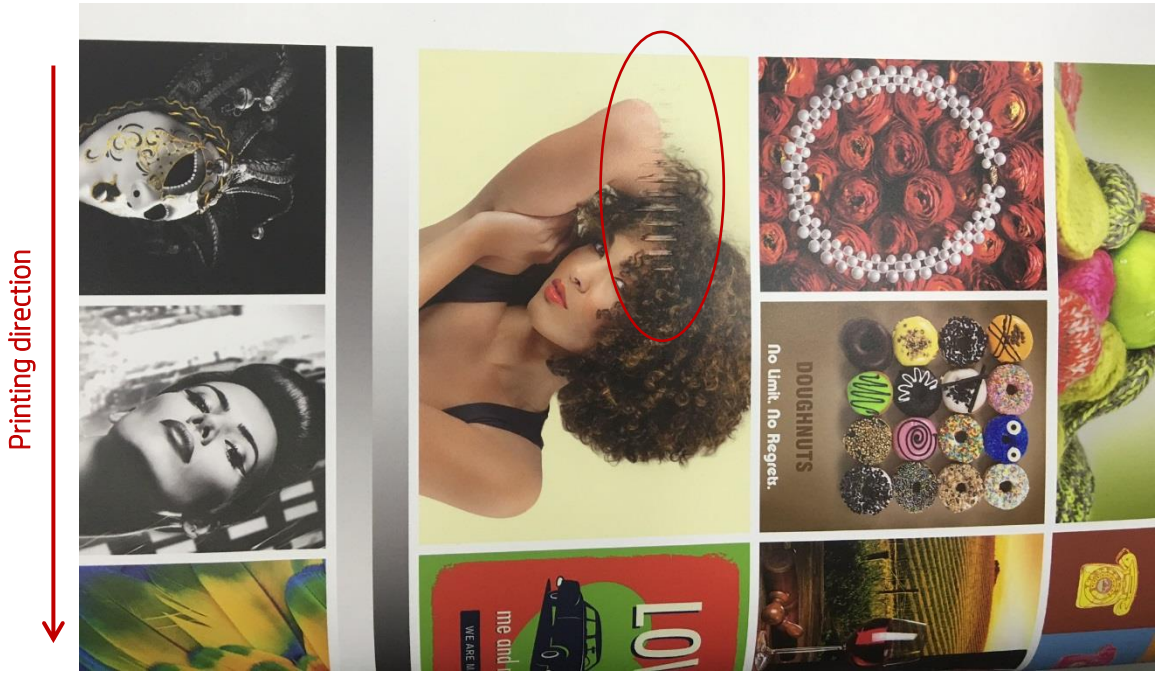
2. Control Relative humidity

A low level of substrate's moisture and external relative humidity is always recommended when printing on cellulose-based materials.

Although printer recommendations for best IQ are between 40% and 60% RH (relative humidity), for cellulose-based media, the recommended external RH (relative humidity) is between **25% and 50%.**

3. Use Take-Up reel to apply front tension

Smears and crashes on some papers (mainly thick and rigid media) can occur in the curing module, when not using the Take-Up reel:



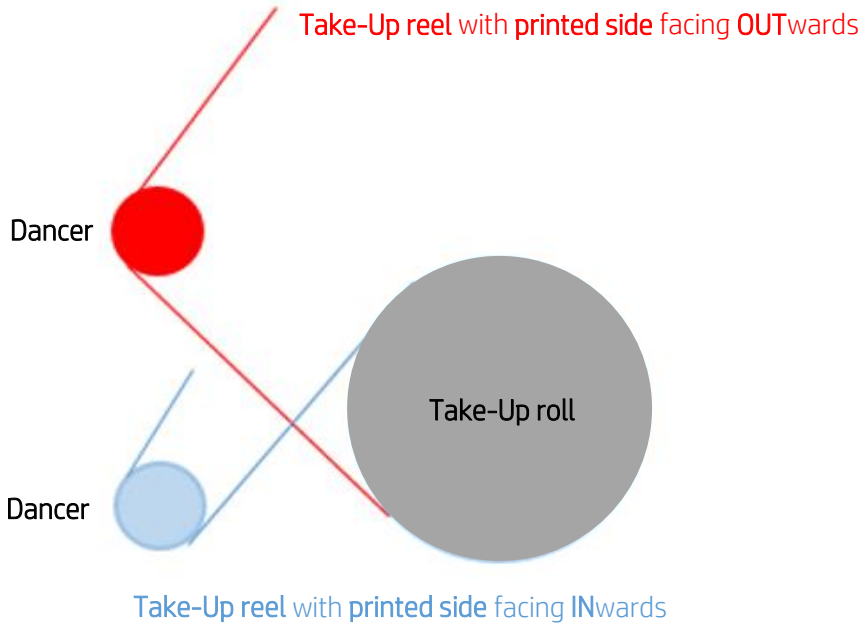
If you are experiencing smears or crashes due to humidity conditions try to use the Take-Up reel to apply front tension and control the media.

Please check the technical notes in the Media locator for recommendations for each specific media.

4. How to apply different front tensions?

Different front tension can be applied playing with the dancer positions:

- Using the take-up reel with the printed side outward, will provide more front tension
- Using the take-up reel with the printed side inward, will provide less front tension



5. Advance media at the beginning of the plot

In some very specific cases, where the media is extremely rigid (HP Premium Poster like), the behavior can be worse using the Take-Up reel.

In this case it is recommended to advance the media before starting to print until it is hanging outside of the curing module. Do not connect the Take-Up reel in these specific cases.

Please check the technical notes in the Media locator for recommendations for each specific media.