

## TECHNICAL TUESDAYS

TOPIC: Roller printing and its faults.

REF: TT/ Dec 2016/ WK 2

### **Definition of roller printing?**

Roller printing, sometimes associated as cylinder printing, machine printing or engrave roller printing, is a continuous printing technique which is commonly adopted presently. During this printing method, a heavy copper cylinder (roller) is engraved with the print design by carving the design into the copper. The roller imprints the engraved design over the fed fabric.

### **Few common roller printing faults:**

#### **- Scratches:**

These are caused by the presence of gritty particles that are present in the color paste, which cut the surface of the roller deep enough to show defects on the fabric when printed.

#### **- Snappers:**

Snapper are large double stripes of colour running along the length of the cloth, usually two stripes of colour with a white centre. These are caused by the presence of loose threads from the cloth escaping under the lint doctor or bits of the dried up paste and other hard particles.

#### **- Lifts:**

These are also called as minute snappers, occurring usually at regular intervals, which are normally caused by hard particles, like a metal piece, getting embedded in the engraving of the roller and protruding from it, thereby lifting the Doctor blade temporarily.

#### **- Scumming:**

Soiling of the cloth by one or more colours due to insufficient scrapping of the print paste from the engraved portion causes scumming. The cause of such a fault is due to rough doctor blades, improper adjustments of doctor blades, faulty faced roller or defective printing paste preparation.



**- Scrimp:**

Creases remaining in the cloth while printing give rise to defects of non-printing underneath the fold. These faults are called scrimp.

**- Uneven printing:**

Uneven pressure due to faulty lapping or improper feed of the print paste or excessive polishing of certain parts to eliminate scratches, results in uneven impressions on the fabric.

**- Lobbying:**

Lobbying is an uneven print over the fabric surface due to slippage of the roller around its mandrel. In certain cases improper fitting in the machinery can also cause this effect.

**Wishing you a great week ahead!**

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