



Postage Meter Ink Specifications

1. General

The purpose of fluorescent tagging is to enable appropriately designed machines used in CPC Mail Operations to determine the presence of the indicia on standard lettermail items and, by means of this information, to perform facing and cancelling operations.

2. Ink Specifications

Subject to the approval of CPC, any phosphor which complies with the requirements of this specification may be used.

Note- tag recognition systems at CPC are arranged to respond to the light emitted by fluorescent (as opposed to phosphorescent) chemicals.

The predominant wave length of the irradiating UV light is 254 nm

Tagging phosphors and their manner of application shall not cause excessive abrasion to mail processing equipment.

The current standard for measurement of tagging signal intensity is Starbrite paper (E.B. Eddy Co. Ltd.). When excited by UV light and detected through a 580 nm sharp cut red pass filter (such as the Fuji light filter SC-58 or equivalent), the intensity of the emission from a given area of tagging must be at least 10 but not more than 20 times the intensity of the emission (as background noise) from an equal area of Starbrite paper or card. This comparison is termed Signal to Noise Ratio (SNR).

Phosphor tags must maintain a minimum 10:1 SNR (or better) for a least one year under the storage conditions.

Temperature: 23 +/- 5 degrees C
Humidity: 10 to 95% RH

The format of postage meter impressions is subject to Canada Postal Guide Part 1. All postage meters must employ approved, non-toxic, fluorescent inks which should be applied in such a manner as to yield best possible density and clarity of impression.

It is the responsibility of the postage meter supplier to ensure that the fluorescent inks they supply meet all applicable health and safety requirements.



The fluorescent ink used for current meter impression designs shall generate a minimum of 10:1 SNR (ore better) to ensure successful detection of all metered mail in the CFC.

Metered mail is not stored for any appreciable time before forwarding, thus the specified period for maintenance of adequate SNR (min 10:1) of an actual impression shall be at least one month.

When fluorescent ink used to replenish inking rolls or reservoirs in postage meter,

- a) the ink shall not settle or change its SNR over a period of at least one month and,
- b) the ink when printed shall yield a min. 10:1 max 20:1 SNR over a period of at least one month.

3. Exposure to the Public:

The postage meter tapes will be fully exposed to the public during use. Therefore, all components of the ink, tapes and release liners shall be free from toxic chemicals and shall be harmless to the public.