The X-Rite Graphic Arts Standard (XRGA)  
Frequently Asked Questions

How do I decide whether or not I should update my instruments to XRGA?
If you have questions about whether or not to update your serviceable X-Rite instruments, please contact X-Rite Customer Success to discuss your situation in detail. Some guidance that we can deliver in general is that if you own both former X-Rite and GretagMacbeth instruments, you will probably want to update all instruments to XRGA to ensure the best possible inter-model agreement within your workflow. Note that it is not possible to update instruments that have been discontinued by X-Rite, see below for details.

When can I update my instrument?
X-Rite will be updating instruments and software beginning Q3 2010. Exact implementation date will vary by product. As we get closer to this date, specific information will be posted to www.xrite.com/xrga. Please check here for details.

Can I update discontinued instruments like ATS/ATD, 938 or Komori’s PDC-S?
There will be no transform possible for any legacy products that have been discontinued by either X-Rite or GretagMacbeth. Note that the measurements of old X-Rite products will most likely fall within tolerance of the new XRGA standard. To best take advantage of XRGA, we recommend that you replace discontinued instruments. Please contact your local X-Rite sales representative for trade in promotions and options.

Will XRGA make me ISO compliant?
A printer needs to have and maintain a rigorous process control procedure in order to achieve ISO compliance. All X-Rite solutions - including those that conform to XRGA - will simplify a printer’s ability to achieve and maintain ISO standards provided they are following an ISO process control specification (GRACoL, SWOP, PSO, Japan Color, etc.).

Is there a cost to upgrade my existing instruments to XRGA?
In most cases, upgrades will be freely available as downloadable software and firmware updates. There may be costs associated with returning a unit to X-Rite for service. Please check with your local X-Rite Sales or Service Center.

I am an owner of an X-Rite embedded sensor (ILS, SOL), purchased as part of a partner solution. How can I upgrade that sensor to XRGA?
Please contact the manufacturer of your printer or press. They would need to provide you with an update, if available. X-Rite cannot guarantee that 3rd party manufacturers will update existing embedded sensor technology.

There will likely be customers with a mix of instruments in 2010 and 2011 until XRGA is updated within the complete X-Rite graphic arts product portfolio. In order to avoid confusion, is there a way customers can differentiate old data (which does not conform to XRGA) from new data (which conforms to XRGA)?
Existing instruments that have been updated to XRGA are labeled. These will have an internal check (that varies by instrument) that software can verify to check the XRGA compliance of the instrument. Updated software can take advantage of this information.

**Will SpectroEye customers using NetProfiler2.x be able to support the old standard and the new standard?**

Upon availability of SpectroEye with XRGA support, there will be two NetProfiler 2.x packages; one package supporting the old SpectroEye standard and one package supporting the new XRGA standard. Customers will need to order the appropriate NetProfiler package. Note that SpectroEye and NetProfiler need to be updated at the same time.

**If I send in my SpectroEye for service or re-certification, will it automatically be updated to the new XRGA standard?**

Customers will need to request to be updated to the new standard. Downloading the firmware alone will not allow conversion to the new standard, as verification of instrument performance needs to be determined in advance. The instrument must be sent in for service and the customer must explicitly request to be changed to the new XRGA standard on the RMA.

**Once my SpectroEye has been updated to XRGA, will I continue to be able to report old data?**

Once the SpectroEye has been updated, it will measure according to the new XRGA standard. If you have a need to measure to the old standard, firmware that will enable you to work to the old standard will be available for download at www.xrite.com. You will need to switch firmware versions each time you wish to switch reporting old data or new XRGA-compliant data.

**What happens to my density measurements when applying XRGA standard?**

The difference in density measurements between XRGA and either old standard in an unpolarized mode is .01D or less. If measuring with polarization, the differences should be .015D or less.

**Does this mean that my current measurements are wrong?**

No, your current instruments were maintained to the company standard as it was defined prior to X-Rite and GretagMacbeth coming together. Each company maintained their standard over time to ensure compatibility of measurement data across instruments. Now that X-Rite and GretagMacbeth are one company, the new XRGA is optimized for advances in color technology with the ability to measure even closer to NIST standards.

**If I implement XRGA across my workflow, can I swap instruments and expect the same results?**

Implementing XRGA does not negate the need to use instruments for their intended purpose. For instance, an i1Pro is designed as a prepress instrument, to be used in a relatively clean prepress environment on dry, inkjet proofs. If you were to choose to use that i1Pro in the pressroom, it is likely that measurement quality would be impacted over time as the optics become dirty with paper dust and ink. The i1 Pro is not designed for the unfriendly environment more commonly found in the pressroom. You may be able to calibrate it on its white tile but you wouldn’t know that it’s no longer measuring correctly because of dirt on the tile or components that have shifted within the device. The device cannot prompt you that it needs to be
recertified. Alternatively, X-Rite’s pressroom handhelds are designed and built for the rugged requirements of the pressroom. The optics and white tiles are incorporated to withstand pressroom conditions. If you drop a 530 for example, it’s built to withstand the impact and will maintain reliability over time better than an i1Pro.

We strongly recommend that regardless of your choice to update your workflow to XRGA, that you continue to use instruments according to their proper intent.

For more information on XRGA, please visit xrite.com/xrga
While xrite.com/xrga is live as of May 2010, it is X-Rite’s intention to maintain only basic information on the site until our scheduled public launch in September 2010.