

PDF/X-1a and Acrobat 6.0 Professional

A Reliable Way to Deliver Print-ready Documents

Adobe® Acrobat® 6.0 Professional's ability to create and preflight PDF/X-1a files makes it easy for graphic arts professionals to greatly improve the reliability and efficiency of their document delivery. PDF/X-1a is a standard file format specifically designed for the blind exchange of final print-ready pages. It is one of the most predictable ways to deliver documents bound for press.

Several industry organizations have been working for many years to ensure that graphic arts files be written in a way that will reproduce on press exactly the way the content creator intended. Although this goal sounds simple enough, it is not. With the plethora of platforms, operating systems, software applications, color spaces, font types, file formats, and media to choose from, achieving successful blind communication between two or more production environments is a daunting task.

What is PDF/X-1a?

PDF/X is a subset of the Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) specification that is intended to reflect best practices in graphic arts file exchange. PDF/X-1a restricts the content in a PDF document that does not directly serve the purpose of high-quality print production output, such as annotations, Java Actions, and embedded multimedia.

PDF/X-1a also eliminates the most common errors in file preparation. According to a GATF (Graphic Arts Technology Foundation) survey conducted in January 2002, among the 10 most common errors in client PDF files were the following:

- Fonts not embedded
- Wrong color space
- Images missing
- Overprint/trap issues

Sending your document as a PDF/X-1a file will guarantee that these errors do not occur because for a file to be confirmed as complying to the PDF/X-1a standard:

- All fonts and images must be embedded
- All elements must be encoded as CMYK or spot
- The file must be identified as trapped or not trapped

In addition:

- MediaBox and TrimBox or ArtBox must be defined. BleedBox is optional.
- The output intent* must be specified either by stating a Characterized Printing Condition or identifying an ICC output profile

* The output intent identifies the press condition the file is prepared for, such as type of press, and inks and paper that will be used.

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If you send PDF/X-1a compliant files, you will never again have to worry about being asked to supply missing fonts or images. You will never again have to be concerned about an image being converted from RGB to CMYK without seeing the results. Decisions about whether or not the printer should trap your file will be based on reliable information. And finally, the printer will know if the file was prepared properly for the press it is going to print on.

By adopting a PDF/X-1a workflow, not only will you gain the confidence that your print-ready files will reproduce as you intended, you will save time and money as well. Every document that is returned because it is not prepared properly requires additional time to correct. Additional time costs money, and either you absorb the cost or the client pays for it. Either way it is an unwanted expense that the adoption of PDF/X can greatly reduce and possibly even eliminate. Of even greater concern is the poorly prepared document that does not get returned. The failure to meet the client's expectations may mean the loss of that client.

Preparing PDF/X-1a files

Let's take a look at what is involved in writing PDF/X-1a files and in adopting a PDF/X workflow. We will review the process from page layout preparation through validation of the final file. Although Acrobat 6.0 and Acrobat Distiller® 6.0 offer several ways to approach this, what we present here is an efficient, best-practice guide to creating, preflighting, and validating PDF/X-1a.

When broken down step-by-step, the workflow is comprised of numerous procedures. Although these may appear time consuming, once the workflow is established, many of them can be automated and the files batch-processed. In the end, most of the work will happen without your intervention. Only the files that fail preflight will require individual attention. If the recommendations below are followed, those files should be few and far between.

Start with a solid foundation

Prepare native application

Although distilling PostScript to PDF/X-1a greatly increases the chances of producing an error-free file, it does not guarantee it. The resulting PDF/X is only as good as the files used to create it. Errors will eventually be caught when preflighting the PDF/X-1a file in Acrobat 6.0 Professional, however, it is preferable that the native application and PostScript files are properly prepared from the outset. Because the most efficient workflow is one in which a process is never repeated, a solid foundation must be built to support the final outcome. It all starts with a properly constructed native application file.

Before proceeding, it is recommended that the file be preflighted to check for possible errors.

Print PostScript

To ensure the success of the final file, it is also important to write good PostScript. The PostScript Driver and PostScript Printer Description must support the intended printing condition. Often publishers, prepress providers, and printers recommend a particular PPD.

The Adobe Acrobat Distiller PPD (which is automatically installed with Acrobat) ensures that device-independent PDF files are created for printing to more than one device. Choosing a PPD from another printer may result in PDF files that do not contain appropriate color, font, or page size information.

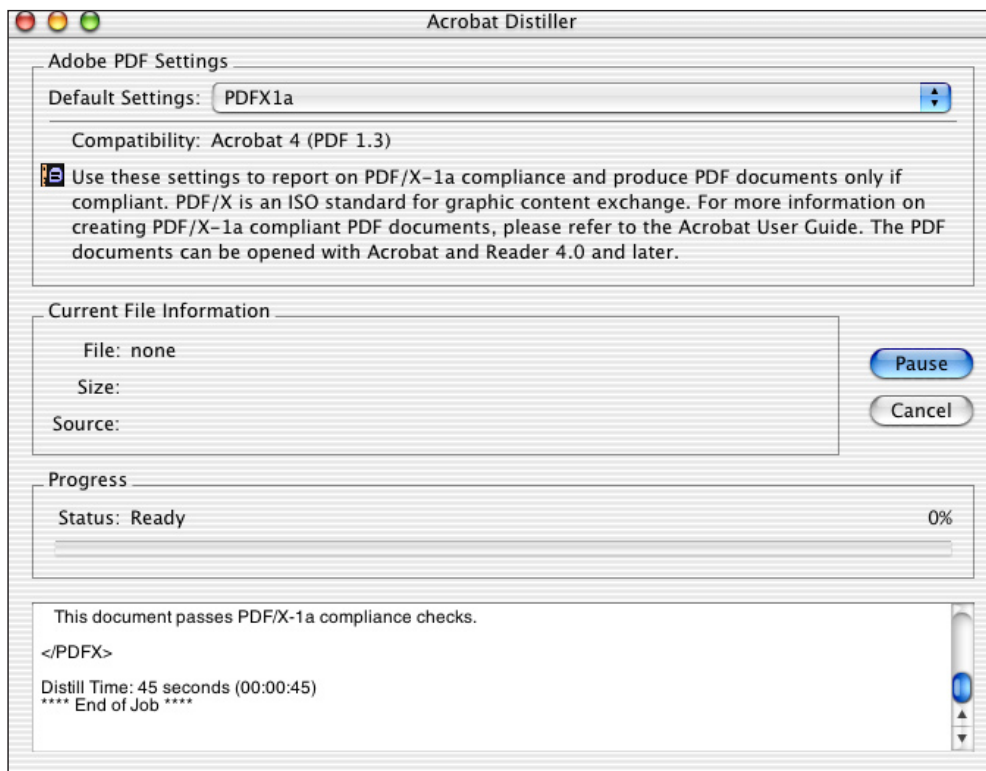
NATIVE APPLICATION CHECKLIST

The authoring application should be built based upon the following:

- All color is defined as CMYK or spot. (Spot colors that are created from a spot color library, such as Pantone, must be based on CMYK process colors, unless arrangements have been made special inks.)
- All fonts are available
- High-resolution images are linked and updated.
- Mechanical specifications, such as trim and bleed, are correct.
- Transparencies, if used, are flattened. (Ensure all transparent objects are in CMYK for proper flattening.)
- Fonts are not stylized with bold, italic, and underline formatting.
- Minimum text size is appropriate for the printing condition.

Write PDF/X-1a

PDF/X-1a out-of-the-box, preconfigured settings



Adobe has made it very easy to distill a PostScript file to PDF/X-1a. Previously, a page layout application extension, Acrobat plug-in, or third-party software was required. Now it can be accomplished with Acrobat Distiller 6.0 in a simple one step process.

For the resulting file to comply with the PDF/X-1a Standard, Adobe PDF settings must be set up correctly. There is a preconfigured PDFX1a default setting that ensures this happens. If the PostScript file does not meet the requirements, the default is set to cancel the job.

As a safety measure, the PDFX-1a setting is locked and it cannot be edited. If you try to save altered job options as PDFX1a, you get an error message explaining that the file cannot be overwritten. You can save altered PDF/x-1a settings under another name for future use. (See Edit PDF/X-1a settings.)

If the file to be distilled is prepared for SWOP (Specifications Web Offset Publications) and is to be printed on a web offset press on coated stock, there is no need to change the default PDFX-1a settings since it is preconfigured for this particular output condition. However, not every job meets this criterion.

Customize your settings

If your file is prepared for another press condition, such as uncoated web offset or coated sheetfed, you need to edit the Adobe PDF/X-1a setting. Altering the job options should be approached with caution. For a file to pass PDF/X-1a verification, certain requirements must be met.

Because only a few job options need to be altered for press conditions other than SWOP, it is recommended that the PDF/X-1a setting be saved under another name, such as PDF/X-1aUSWeb Uncoated, so that all the preconfigured, PDF/X-1a compliant settings are retained. This also will ensure that the resulting file is verified against the standard.

Edit PDF/X-1a setting

If the preconfigured PDF/X-1a setting must be edited, you should be aware of the following:

- What is required by the Standard and must not change
- What is required by the Standard, but may change within a set of narrowly defined options

Below are a list of required job option settings, a description of the PDF/X-1a specification they refer to, and a step-by-step guide to altering the various parameters.

To edit the Adobe PDF settings:

1. Launch Acrobat Distiller 6.0.
2. Select PDF/X-1a from the Default Settings pull-down menu.
3. Choose Settings > Edit Adobe PDF Settings.
4. In the Adobe PDF Settings: PDF/X-1a dialog box, save the setting under another name, for example, PDF/x-1aWebUncoated. The new setting becomes the default.
5. Choose Settings > Edit Adobe PDF Settings again.

Although not a requirement of the PDF/X-1a specification, handling overprint correctly is essential for the success of any PDF/X-1a workflow.

It is recommended that:

- Overprint settings are preserved when distilling the file (Distiller 6> Advanced> Preserve Overprint Settings)
- Overview Preview is selected when viewing the file in Acrobat (Acrobat Professional 6> Advanced> Overview Preview)

To ensure that your PDF/X-1a file is handled correctly once it leaves your site, it is recommended that you place the PDF/X Overprint Control Strip outside the trim or bleed area of your document. When proofed or printed, the control strip indicates whether the overprints were rendered correctly. You can download the control strip from www.ddap.org. The Adobe PDF Settings will display the newly named set. The following message in the Description box will ensure that your file will be checked for compliance to the PDF/X-1a Standard:

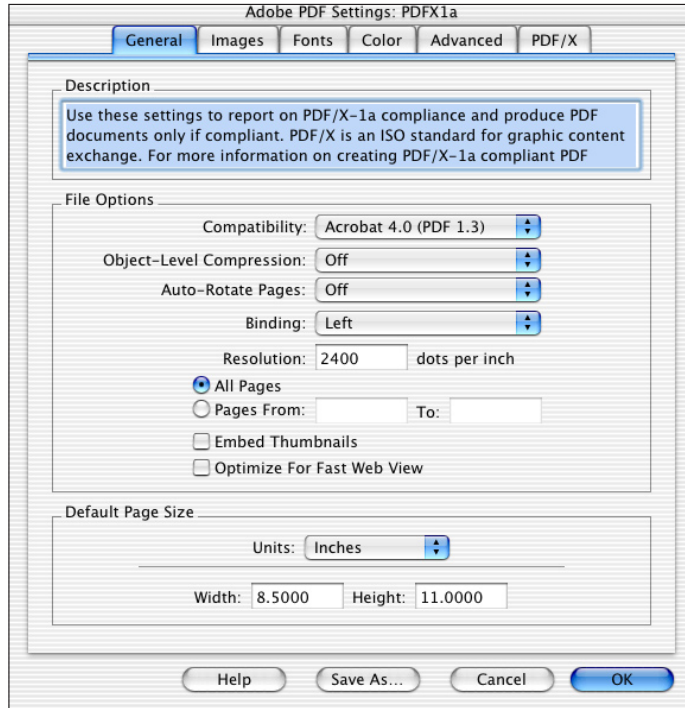
“Use these settings to report on PDF/X-1a compliance and produce PDF documents only if compliant...”

We will now take a look at the default PDF/X-1a settings and review those job options settings that are required by the standard.

POSTSCRIPT CHECKLIST

- If the page is built to trim, indicate bleed if applicable.
- Select a PPD.
- Select the media (paper) size, keeping in mind area for marks and information.
- Scaling is set at 100%.
- Color is indicated as Composite CMYK, unless spot colors are to be used.
- Resolution is appropriate for the intended output device. (2400 dpi for most image setters. Check with your print service provider for details.)
- Picture output is Binary, OPI images included.
- On Mac OS deselect all PostScript options, such as Substitute Fonts, Smooth Text, Smooth Graphics.
- PostScript level is 3. (Recommended if file is to be rendered on a PS level 3 RIP.)

Required for PDF/X-1a compliance

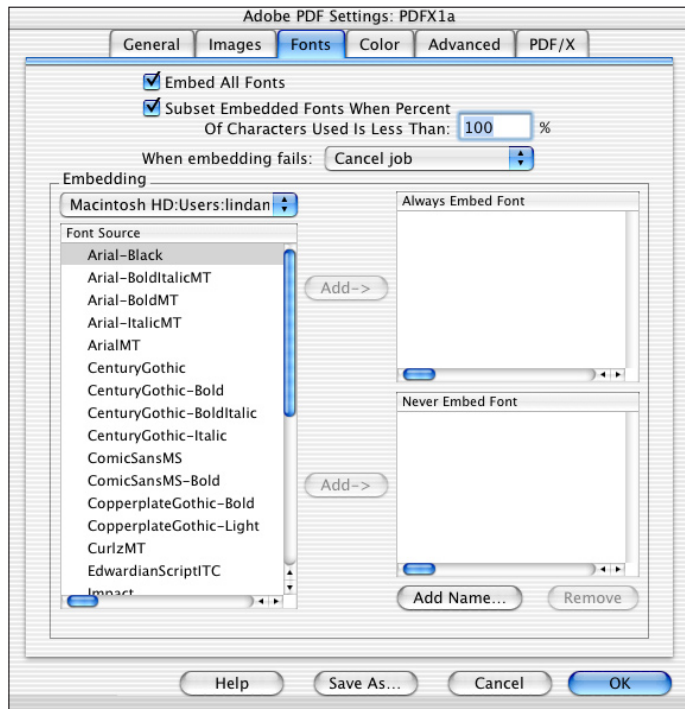


GENERAL TAB

Compatibility: Acrobat 4.0 (PDF 1.3)

The PDF/X-1a Standard was based on PDF 1.3 and extended by Technical Note #5413. Any features added in later versions of PDF (PDF 1.4 and PDF 1.5), such as transparency, are not supported and may affect the final print reproduction.

For PDF/X compliance, use PDF 1.3.



FONTS TAB

Embed All Fonts - checked

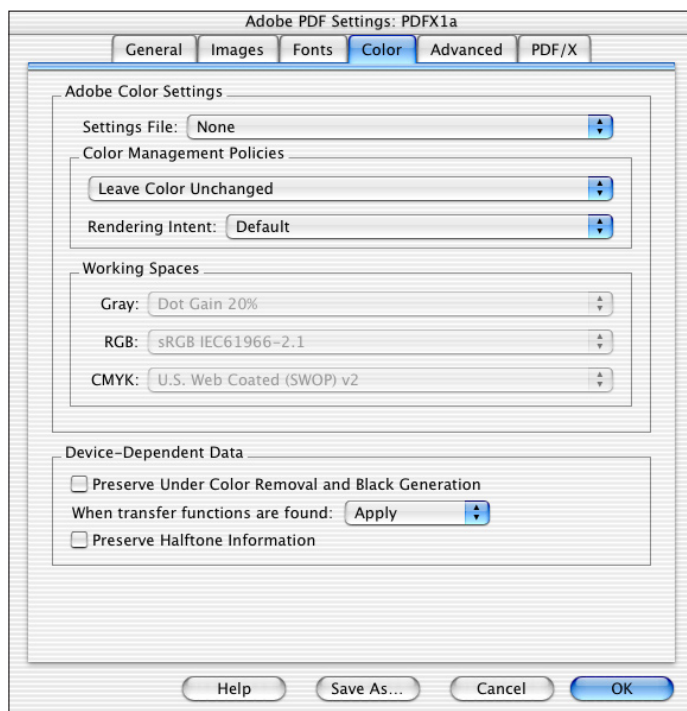
The PDF/X-1a Standard reduces the probability of font-related problems by requiring all fonts to be embedded.

For PDF/X compliance, select Embed All Fonts.

Subset Embedded Fonts - checked

When Percent of Characters Used is Less Than: 100%

Subsetting embedded fonts reduces the file size by embedding only those characters used in the document, rather than the entire character set. It also avoids potential name conflicts that occur when fonts with the same name, but slightly different metrics, are used when documents are assembled from disparate sources to create a single page or a press form. Although subsetting fonts is not required by the Standard, it is recommended.



COLOR TAB

Settings File: None

Color Management Policies

Leave Color Unchanged

The PDF/x1-a Standard limits the use of color to CMYK and spot, and prohibits the use of color management and three-part color spaces.

Required for PDF/X-1a compliance, but may be changed with limited options

For the correct portion of the file to be rendered and for pages to be automatically placed, a MediaBox and ArtBox or TrimBox (but not both) are required by the PDF/X-1a specification. However, unless you know how to determine the correct offset values, it is recommended that you leave these settings as is. When printing from InDesign® or QuarkXpress, Distiller can recognize the trim and bleed boxes based on the page size and artwork. When printing from these applications, the trim and bleed box are defined by the bleeds created in these applications.

We will take a look at the default settings and review those job options that are required for PDF/X-1a compliance, but may be changed within clearly defined parameters.

PDF/X tab

Bounding boxes

If Neither TrimBox nor ArtBox are Specified

☐ Report as error

☒ Set TrimBox to MediaBox with offsets (Inches):

Left: 0 Right: 0 Top: 0 Bottom: 0

If BleedBox is Not Specified

☒ Set BleedBox To MediaBox

☐ Set BleedBox To TrimBox with offsets (Inches):

Left: 0 Right: 0 Top: 0 Bottom: 0

If Neither TrimBox nor Art Box are Specified

- Set TrimBox to MediaBox with offset (inches)
Left: 0, Right: 0, Top: 0, Bottom: 0

If BleedBox is Not Specified

- Set BleedBox to MediaBox

Output intents

Listed below are settings that convey the printing condition for which the file was prepared, such as a sheetfed press printing coated paper or a web offset press printing newsprint.

The information may be communicated in two ways:

- An ICC output profile, which affects the viewing, proofing, and rendering of the file. The ICC profile used should describe the printing press or final output device where the file will be printed.
- A characterized printing condition, which is strictly informational. The condition may be one of seven listed at the ICC Characterization Data Registry found at www.color.org. It is also permissible to name a customized printing condition, however, it should point to the URL where it is registered.

According to the Standard, use of both an output profile and characterized printing condition is legal, however, only one is required.

The Acrobat Distiller 6.0 PDF/X-1a Default Setting utilizes the SWOP output profile and CGATS TR001-characterized printing condition. If your document was prepared for no. 5 paper printing on a web offset press, you do not have to change a thing. However, if it was not, you will have to provide the correct information.

OutputIntent Profile Name: U.S. Web Coated (SWOP) v2

This parameter identifies the ICC output profile. The pull-down menu contains the names of some of the more commonly used profiles. You must select one. Selecting None result in a violation—“The output intent profile was not specified”—and a PDF/X-1a file will not be produced.

CAUTION—The selected profile must represent the output condition for which the file has been prepared. Consult with your printer to obtain the correct profile for the output environment that you will be using.

OutputCondition:

This parameter identifies the characterized printing condition. You may find registered conditions at the ICC Characterization Data Registry at www.color.org. If you leave the box blank, Distiller will automatically place an OutputCondition in your file based on the OutputIntent Profile Name you selected.

It is recommended that you either leave the OutputCondition box blank or name an OutputCondition based on the OutputIntent Profile you selected.

Trapping

Trapped: Insert False

The Standard states that the content creator must communicate whether or not the file is trapped. This data is strictly informational; it does not affect the contents of the file. However, it should be noted that if Trapped is set to Insert True, the assumption is that the entire file is trapped, that is, every component contained within it. As most native applications do not do this, it is recommended that the default PDF/X-1a setting Insert False be used.

Note: Selecting Leave Undefined results in a violation—“The output intent profile was not specified”—and a PDF/X-1a file will not be produced.

Advanced tab

None of these settings are specifically required by the PDF/X-1a specification. As the name implies, they are advanced and before changing them it is recommended that the pros and cons of the various parameters be discussed with a prepress professional.

Because proper viewing and processing of overprints is not always handled correctly, it is recommended that Preserve Overprint Settings not be changed. (See overprint.)

OVERPRINT

Although not a requirement of the PDF/X-1a specification, handling overprint correctly is essential for the success of any PDF/X-1a workflow.

It is recommended that:

- Overprint settings are preserved when distilling the file (Distiller 6 > Advanced > Preserve Overprint Settings)
- The Overview Preview is selected when viewing the file in Acrobat (Acrobat Professional 6 > Advanced > Overview Preview)

To ensure that your PDF/X-1a file is handled correctly once it leaves your site, it is recommended that you place the PDF/X Overprint Control Strip outside the trim or bleed area of your document. When proofed or printed, the control strip indicates whether the overprints were rendered correctly. It may be downloaded from www.ddap.org.

Other settings

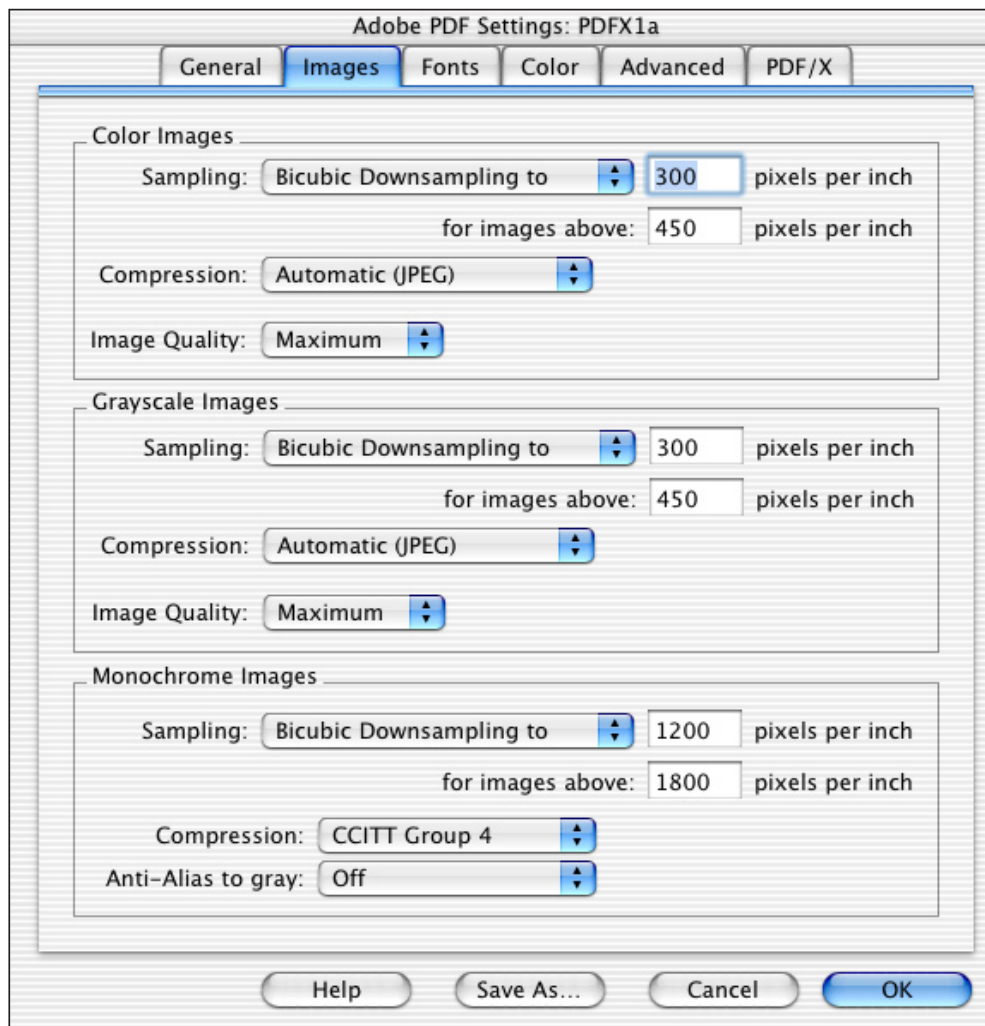
Although settings not mentioned above may be changed without affecting compliance to PDF/X-1a, they most likely do not need to be altered.

- General > Resolution: Resolution is generally set by the PPD.
- Authoring application will override these values, therefore they do not need to be changed.

Of all the settings, Compression has the most latitude. It is advised that you consult with your prepress provider or printer regarding the appropriate values, or thoroughly test the various options before making a final selection.

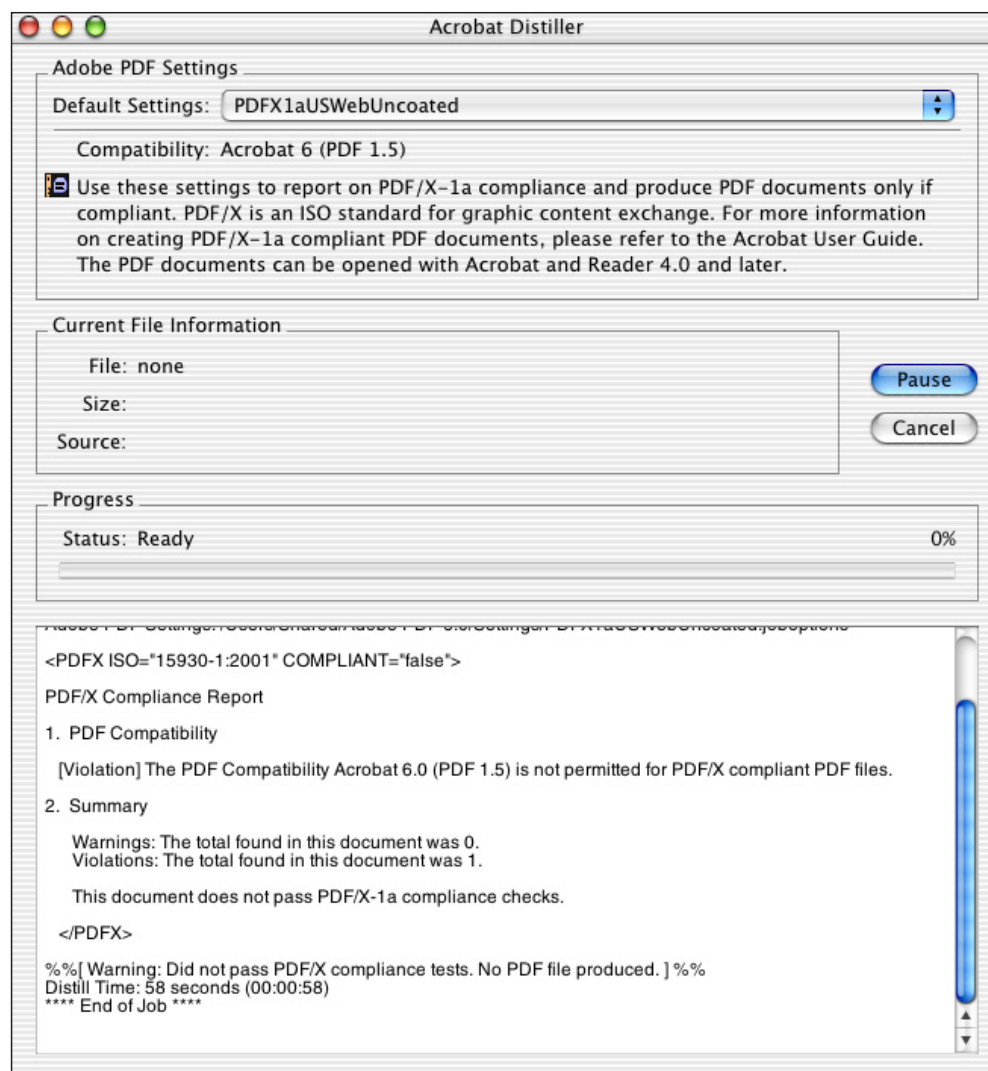
Congratulations! You now have a customized PDF/X-1a setting. To test whether it complies with the Standard, distill a PostScript file that meets the required conditions:

- All fonts are embedded.
- All images are embedded.
- Color is CMYK and spot.



To distill the PostScript file double-click on it (double-clicking on a PostScript file will launch Distiller if it is not already open) or drag it over the Acrobat Distiller 6.0 dialog box. In Windows®, you can right click a PostScript file to distill the file. The file will begin processing immediately. A log at the bottom of the dialog box informs you of the proceedings. When completed, you will get a summary of Warnings and Violations. It is recommended that the job option “When not compliant: Cancel Job” (PDF/X tab) be retained. Acrobat 6.0 Professional installs a desktop printer, named Adobe PDF Printer, from which PDF/X-compliant files may be generated. Because the Adobe PDF Printer uses Distiller to create PDF files, the settings you configure in Distiller can also be used by the printer. This provides an easy method of creating PDF files; you can simply print to a PDF file from virtually any application.

If everything was prepared in conformance with the Standard, you will get a message stating: This document passes PDF/X-1a compliance checks. If not, you will get a message stating Warning: Did not pass PDF/X compliance test. No PDF file produced. The PDF/X Compliance Report in the log at the bottom of the Acrobat Distiller dialog box will identify the error.



Add a PDF/X-1a setting

It is also possible to add an Adobe PDF setting that is supplied by someone else, such as a publisher, prepress provider, or printer. Perhaps they've configured a customized setting to meet the profile of their presses, as well as the particular job you are submitting. For instance, if they are a commercial printer who knows the job will print on a 60 lb. coated number 3 paper on a sheetfed press, they can define the OutputIntent accordingly and select compression settings based on their quality requirements.

Note: the setting must be named something other than PDF/X-1a.

To add an Adobe PDF setting:

1. Open Acrobat Distiller 6.0.
2. Choose Settings > Add Adobe PDF Settings. Add Adobe PDF Settings
3. Select the setting you want and click Open.
4. The setting will appear as the default setting.

or

- Drag the Settings file onto Distiller and it will load automatically.

Distill PostScript

To create a PDF/X-1a file:

1. Open Acrobat Distiller 6.0. Make sure the Default Adobe PDF Setting is the one you really want, especially if you use several settings for a variety of output conditions.
2. Double click the PostScript file, or set of files. Distiller will begin processing the page. Or you can drag the PostScript file, or set of files, over the Acrobat Distiller dialog box to start processing.

The log at the bottom of the screen will summarize the Warnings and Violations. If everything was prepared according to the recommendations, you will be told, “This document passes PDF/X-1a compliance checks.”

Note: The compliant PDF/X-1a file does not have a special extension. It will appear as filename.pdf.

If the file fails, the error will be identified in the log located at the bottom of the dialog box.

Learning not only that a file failed PDF/X-1a verification but also why this early in the final file preparation process is a great benefit. It saves you from having to go from PS > PDF > PDF/X-1a Conversion > Verification before finding out that the file was not properly prepared. Even if you are accustomed to preflighting the PDF file before converting it to PDF/X-1a, Distiller 6.0 performs the conversion and verification process in just seconds. If you are not accustomed to either converting your PDF file to PDF/X-1a or preflighting the file before it is sent out, you are really much better off. No longer are you dependent on an unknown source to identify the file’s failures. Even worse is when it is the printing press that finally brings the problem to light. By then it is too late.

Note: Once the file is distilled as a PDF/X-1a, make sure not to encrypt or secure it. The PDF/X-1a standard does not allow security.

Take it to the next level

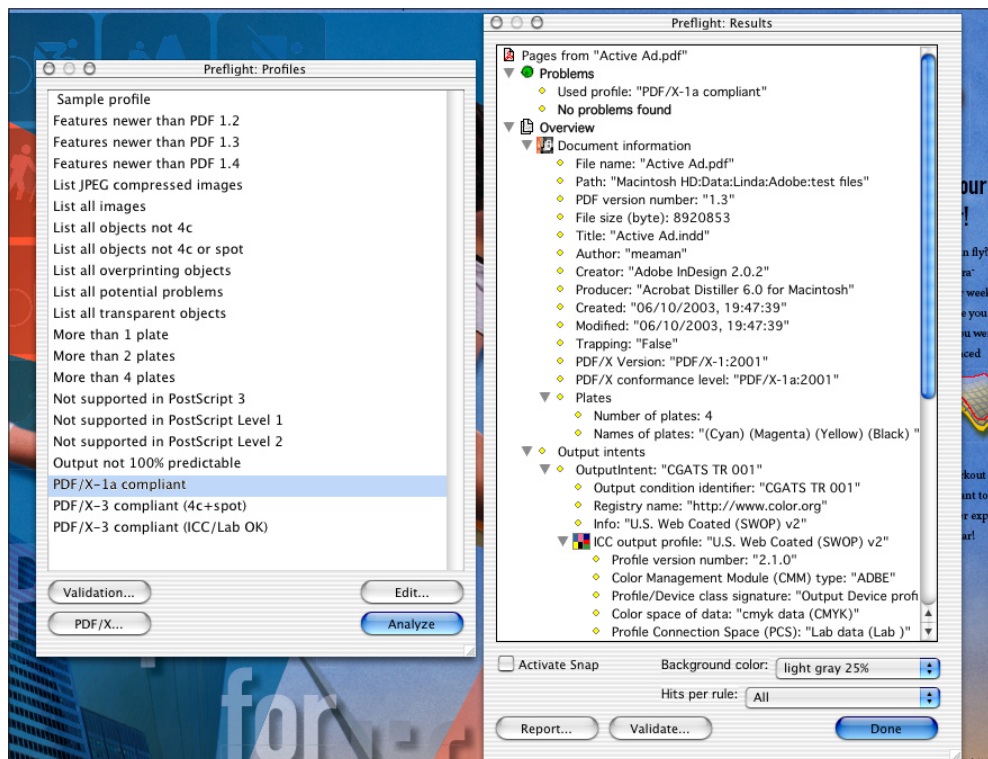
Although verification against the PDF/X-1a Standard eliminates many common file preparation errors, it does not eliminate them all. For instance, the Standard places no limit on resolution. A file containing a 72 dpi placer image will make it all the way through the verification process. And although it is legal to include a fifth color, if the document is to be printed on a four-color press, it doesn't matter that it is a compliant PDF/X-1a—the file is wrong.

As the content creator, it is highly recommended that you verify, analyze, preflight, and validate your files before they are released. You will find these features in Acrobat Professional 6.0 under Document on the menu bar. The very last item on the list is Preflight. When you click on Preflight, a host of new features become available.

Analyze

To check whether your PDF/X-1a file conforms to the Standard, double-click “PDF/X-1a compliant” in the list of Preflight Profiles or highlight PDF/X-1a compliant and click the blue Analyze button. When the operation is complete, a Preflight Results dialog box opens. The results are presented in a multilayered hierarchical list with four main subcategories: Problems, Overview, Pages, and Preflight.

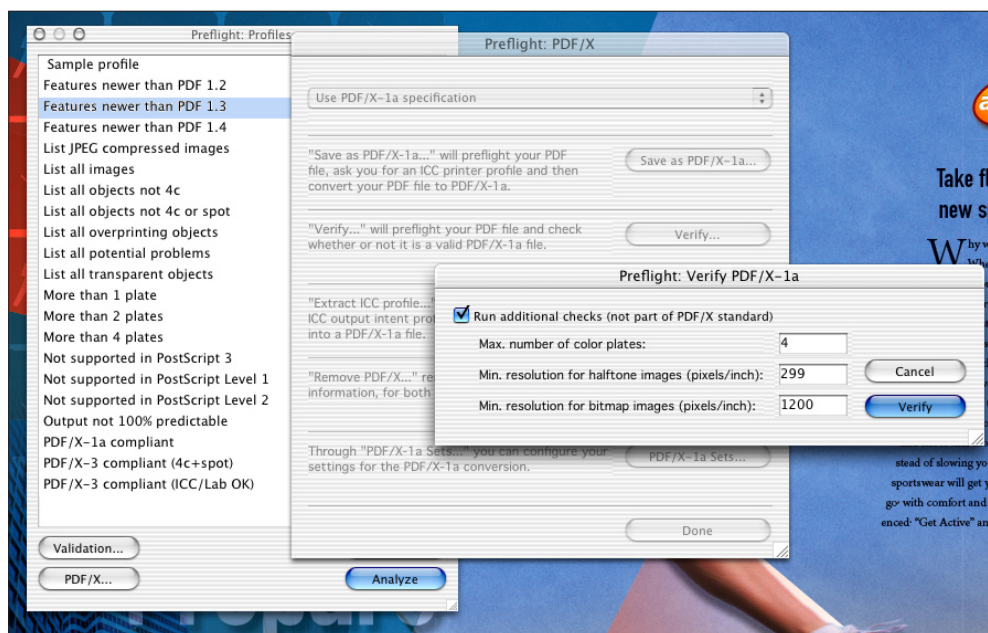
If the analysis indicates that no problems were found based on the profile you selected, for example PDF/X-1a, a green button appears next to Problems. Of course, if the file was created by using a compliant Acrobat Distiller 6.0 PDFX-1a setting, no problems will be found.



Verify

As mentioned earlier, although the PDF/X-1a Standard eliminates many of the common errors associated with file preparation, it does not eliminate all of them. For instance, there is no limit on file resolution or number of plates used. Acrobat 6.0 offers a simple way to check for these two additional parameters.

Click on the PDF/X button at the bottom of the Preflight Profiles dialog box. A Preflight: PDF/X box will appear. Select the Verify button. You now have the option of not only verifying that your file conforms to the PDF/X-1a Standard, but that the image resolution and number of plates meet the requirements of the output condition. Although these parameters are not part of the Standard, they are critical to any graphic arts operation. For instance, if you know the document will be printed on a four-color press, a file containing a fifth color will either be rejected by the recipient or converted by them to process colors, possibly without you ever seeing a proof. Neither situation is desirable. In the first instance, you have wasted time and incurred unnecessary costs. In the second, you have lost control over your process.



You may also check to make sure that low-resolution placer files, or images prepared for another media, such as the Web, were not embedded in the final document. Because resolution is not part of the PDF/X-1a standard, a perfectly verifiable PDF/X-1a file may contain a 72 dpi image. In some instances this may be acceptable, for instance, if the image is a screen shot. However, if it is a photograph, it is not.

Check “Run additional checks” in the Preflight: Verify PDF/X-1a dialog box. Fill in the appropriate values and click the blue Verify button.

Note: Due to rounding imprecision in the printing process, some images may be downsampled to values that are less than what was specified by the user. For example: if the setting is 300 pixels/inch, a file containing an image that is 299.998 pixels per inch will fail. You can avoid this by allowing a small margin for rounding during the distillation process or during the preflight operation.

If the file passes, a dialog box displaying a green button appears. Not only do you have a verifiable PDF/X-1a file, you also have a file that does not exceed the number of available plates or contain an image with a resolution that does not meet the minimum.

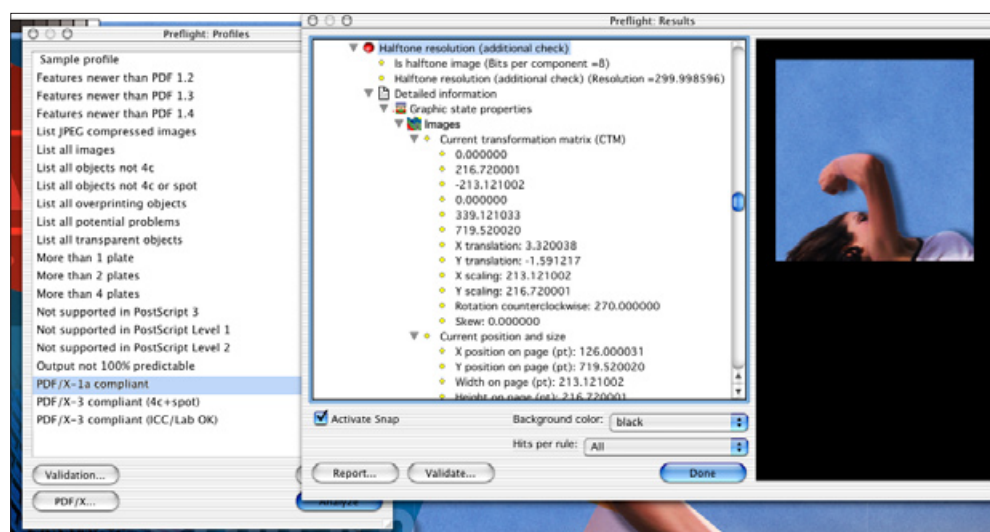
If the file does not pass, the dialog box displays a red button informing you that Verification failed. Click on Report to find out what went wrong. A Preflight: Results dialog box appears with the same list that was displayed when the file was Analyzed. Due to the hierarchical format, the report allows you to research the problem at a level you are comfortable with. If you are a designer whose knowledge of complex file structure is somewhat limited, you can review the first few layers to ascertain what went wrong. If, however, the key to the problem exists at a level that is beyond your expertise, you can generate a report to send to a prepress professional.

Report

There are several features that make reviewing problems identified in the Preflight Results Report easier. At the bottom of the Preflight: Results dialog box you will find Activate Snap, Background color and Hits per Rule.

- **Activate Snap:** To view problematic objects, check this box. Then go to the Problems subcategory in the Preflight Results and open each layer until you find the red button indicating a failure. When highlighted, the problematic object appears in a dialog box to the left of the Preflight Results.
- **Background Color:** You can select the background color against which the objects will be displayed from a pull-down menu.
- **Hits per Rule:** This feature allows you to limit the hits per each rule. For instance, if you forgot to replace 10 low-resolution placer files with high-resolution images, most likely you do not need to be informed of the infraction 10 times. In addition, if you intend to print a copy of the report, perhaps for the person who will make the corrections, it is best to limit the reiterative information.

To generate a report, click on the Report button at the bottom of the Preflight: Results dialog box. A Preflight: Report dialog box appears. You have the option of saving it as ASCII text, XML, or PDF. Select one and click OK.

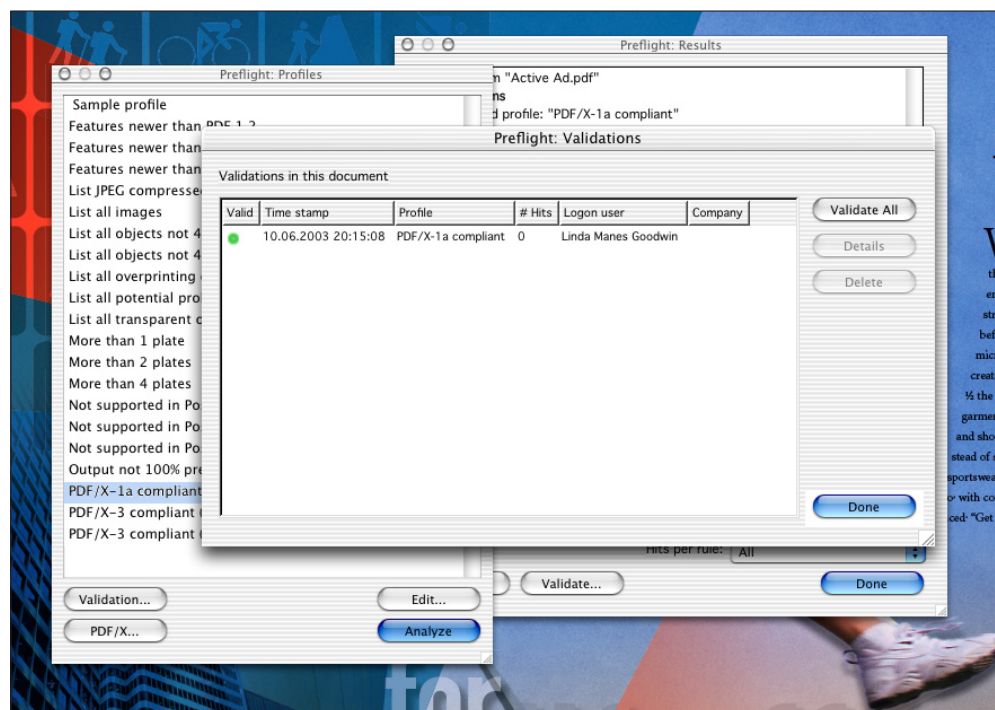


Validate

When the Preflight Results indicate that you have a compliant PDF/X-1a file, or a compliant PDF/X-1a file with the correct image resolution and proper number of plates, you can choose to validate it. The validation process embeds the preflight profile and the results of the preflight report, as well as a time stamp that can be checked to see whether the document has changed since the preflight inspection was performed. The recipient of the file can view the embedded Preflight Report by selecting the Validation option in Acrobat 6.0 and clicking on Details.

To validate your file, click on the Validate button at the bottom of the Preflight Results dialog box. You will get a message alerting you to the fact that “This will append a Validation stamp to the document and save it” and asking you if you want to continue. Click OK and a validation dialog box will appear.

Whether submitting your PDF/X-1a file via a Web browser or placing it on a CD and sending it along with a hard-copy proof, it is an excellent idea to include the Validation Stamp. The recipient will know immediately that the file has been prepared to an internationally accredited industry standard. If you opted to perform the additional checks, they will also know the total number of plates used and the minimum image resolution. Not only may they handle the file differently, they may offer a lower page-handling rate based on the increased efficiency they will experience in their workflow.



PDF/X-1a for all your documents

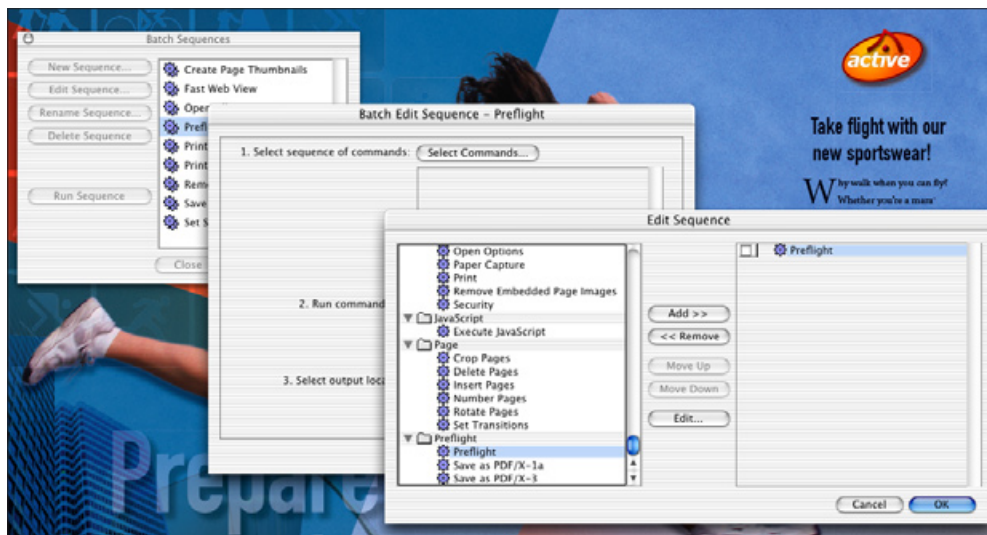
By now you should be convinced, of how beneficial it is to deliver your documents in the PDF/X-1a format, and how easy it is to create them. If you would like to analyze, verify, preflight, validate, and report all your final print-ready files, Acrobat 6.0 has a feature that allows them to be batch processed in an automated sequence.

To batch process the preflight files against the PDF/X-1a compliance check:

1. Open Acrobat 6.0.
2. On the menu bar select Advanced > Batch Processing.
3. In the Batch Sequences dialog box, click on New Sequence.
4. Choose a name for the sequence and click OK. A Batch Edit Sequence dialog box appears.
5. Click on Select Commands. A list of commands appears to the left. Highlight Preflight and click on the Add button to move it to your sequential list.
6. Click Edit. A Preflight dialog box appears. Select PDF/X-1a as the appropriate preflight profile. There are several other features to select from as well, such as type of report or whether to create or show a PDF report. When you have completed your selections, click OK. You will return to the Batch Edit Sequence dialog box.
7. Select the appropriate action from the Run Command On pull-down menu. If you select Select File or Select Folder, you must specify their location.
8. Specify the location from the Select Output Location pull-down menu.
9. Click on Output Options for additional features, such as file naming and output format. When done, click OK for both dialog boxes and Close for the Batch Sequence dialog box.

To run batch preflighting of PDF/X-1a files:

1. Open Acrobat 6.0.
2. Choose Advanced > Batch Processing.
3. In the Batch Sequences dialog box, click on Run Sequence.



In conclusion

Once your customized default Acrobat PDFX-1a setting is established and your preflight batch processing setup, creating final print-ready documents in the internationally accredited standard file format is as easy as dragging your PostScript files over Acrobat Distiller 6.0 and activating the run sequence in Acrobat 6.0. Common file preparation errors will be eliminated from your workflow. The time you used to spend on correcting problematic pages can be put to more profitable use, such as taking on additional work or focusing on quality.

PDF/X-1a is quickly becoming the preferred file format for many advertising agencies, publishers, prepress providers and printers. They understand that a PDF/X workflow increases efficiency and profitability. Now who can argue with that?

Additional resources

Listed below are additional resources for learning more about PDF/X-1a:

- www.pdf-x.com
- www.ddap.com
- www.color.org
- www.direct2.time.com

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For a comprehensive overview of Adobe Acrobat 6.0 Professional, please visit <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/creativepro.html>

