World Association of News Publishers

# Definitions for International Color Quality Club 2026-2028 contest

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**Version 2.0**

# Table contents

**Title** **Page No**

**Introduction: ..... 3**

**1. General instructions ..... 3**

1.1 Who can participate? ..... 3

1.2 Registration and Dates ..... 3

1.3 Downloads and the print test element – The Cuboid ..... 4

1.4 Pre-Check ..... 5

1.5 Shipping instructions ..... 6

1.6 Evaluation reports ..... 6

1.7 Club membership ..... 6

1.8 The Cuboid ..... 7

1.9 Evaluation criteria for International Color Quality Club 2026-2028 ..... 8

1.10 Evaluation set up and process ..... 10

1.11 Inter-instrument agreement ..... 10

**2. Evaluation and scoring system for different criteria ..... 11**

2.1 News-shade ..... 11

2.2 Mid-tone spread ..... 12

2.3 Dot gain ..... 12

2.3.1 Dot gain at nominal 40% ..... 12

2.3.2 Dot gain at nominal 70% ..... 13

2.4 Grey balance in print ..... 13

2.5 Color space ..... 14

2.6 Color conformity ..... 16

**3.0 General Print Quality (GPQ) ..... 19**

**4. Contest procedure, flow and annexure ..... 21**

4.1 Address for communication ..... 21

4.2 Contest work flow ..... 22

4.3 Annexures details ..... 23

## Introduction:

The International Color Quality Club (ICQC) membership will be presented to newspapers and magazines deserving recognition for their excellence in standardised and consistent quality printing. The focus of the club membership is to show the ability of newspaper and magazine printers to print consistently high quality according to international standards.

This competition is open to all newspapers and magazine publishers in the world. Successful participants are awarded a two years' membership in the club.

The quick flow of the contest is as follows.

*The above Dates and sample size is only for dailies, for other periodicals (weekly, fortnight and monthlies) are mentioned in section 1.2.*

# 1. General instructions

## 1.1 Who can participate?

The competition is open to all publications, independent of production process or types of substrates used. Distinct categories were created for this purpose:

- **Category 1**: Newspaper printed as per "ISO 12647-3: Coldset web-offset standard" on standard newsprint.
- **Category 2**: Newspaper printed using "Heat-set/ UV offset" on standard newsprint (semi-commercial).
- **Category 3**: Newspaper printed using "Heat-set/ UV offset" on GNP/ SC/ LWC paper (semi-commercial).
- **Category 4:** Printing under own standard or non-standard conditions (Ex: Printing on tinted paper).
- **Category 5**: Magazines printed in any printing process

**Registration Rules**

- Publishing or printing companies can register publication titles.
- Each title = separate registration; one company can register multiple titles.
- Same title printed at different locations can participate individually each time.
- Fees charged per registration**.**

**Evaluation Process**

- Based on objective analysis of participant's printed "Cuboid" target.
- Multiple quality parameters measured from Cuboid; results in structured report.
- Report details all evaluated parameters and evaluation methods.

**Categories**

- Different print processes use specific target values and evaluation methods.
- Category named for each criterion throughout instructions.

## 1.2 Registration and Dates:

***Registration:***

- Registration Opens (All category) on **12th Feb 2026**

  Register Now

- Registration Closes by **15th Apr 2026,** for all publication types and categories**.**

| CAT | Publication Type | Competition print run (Issue dates) | No. of samples to be submit-ted | Samples to reach WAN-IFRA by | Report & Membership Results |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **CAT 1,2,3,4 & 5** | **Daily** | 11th May 2026 To 15th May 2026<br>(OR)<br>18th May 2026 To 22nd May 2026<br>*(Choose any 1week for printing, Mon to Fri)* | 5 days X 4 Samples = 20 | **31st May 2026** | **31st Jul 2026** |
| | **Weekly** | 15th Apr 2026 to 26th May 2026<br>*i.e., week 17 through 21* | 5 Weeks X 4 Samples = 20 | **31st May 2026** | |
| | **Monthly** | Feb 2026 – June 2026 | 5 Months X 4 Samples = 20 | **10th July 2026** | |

Participant from all the categories should send **4 copies** for each of the issues ( day, week, month and we pick **2 copies in random out of 4** and evaluate the two for each **issue dates** (not printing date).

## 1.3 Downloads and the print test element – The Cuboid.

### 1.3.1 Downloads:

Files related to the below topic could be downloaded from Download section of [cqc.wan-ifra.org](cqc.wan-ifra.org)

Downloads

- ✓ ICQC 2026-2028 Contest Instructions/definitions for German and English
- ✓ Cuboid for Self-Check
- ✓ Cuboid for ICQC contest
- ✓ Online Registration guide for ICQC contest
- ✓ How to do self-Check – The guide to self-check
- ✓ Post contest materials of previous ICQC editions

### 1.3.2 Print test element – The Cuboid

1. Use the same Cuboid test element for contest and pre-check.
2. New/restructured cuboid from last competition; download new from **March 15, 2026**
3. Treat cuboid as supplied color ad: Place on any page of registered title, **non-scalable**, print size unchanged.
4. Print under standardized conditions in regular issue (or non-distributed part-run if preferred).

## 1.4 Pre-Check

***Pre-check is not mandatory for every participant, it's only optional.***

- Trial run simulating contest procedures/evaluation (results not counted for membership).
- One pre-check opportunity before contest; same instruments/workflow as main event.
- Helps assess readiness, identify deviations for improvement.
- Same Cuboid as contest (GPQ not evaluated).
- Available to registrations by **March 31, 2026. Its only optional to participate Pre-check, not mandate.**

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**Table 1.4, Pre-check schedule**

| Publication Type | Eligibility (Registered on or before) | Pre-check Period (Issue dates) | Samples to reach WAN-IFRA by | Report mailed to participants | No of samples to send |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **All Daily** | 31st Mar 2026 | 06-Apr-2026 To 10-Apr-2026 | 20th Apr 2026 | 04th May 2026 | All categories: 2 copies from each issue date, |

***Exceptions:***
- Optionally submit partial-day copies (not all five days)—for 1, 2, or 3 flexible days—with exactly two copies per day for the evaluation
- We'll share the reports only for the days on which copies are received (no reports for unsubmitted days)

**Copies for pre-check:**

Publications **should send 2 copies for each of the days for the number of days decided to send.** .

For **Cat 4 & 5**, average of measured values of the 5 days will be the target reference and points are calculated for the 2 copies (of 5 days) by measuring the deviation from the target reference.

## 1.5 Shipping instructions

**Packaging & Deadlines**

- Package print samples to protect from light and moisture to prevent premature ageing.
- **European publication can send to Frankfurt** and others ship to India directly
- **Samples received after last dates will not be evaluated,** unless any customs issue in India.

## 1.6 Evaluation reports

- Final evaluation includes 5 individual reports (one per submitted sample set: 5 days/weeks/months) plus overall summary.
- Two random copies per title evaluated for general printing quality from different competition months; results included in final report.
- Final report indicates Color Quality Club 2026-2028 membership status (strictly confidential, for participants only).

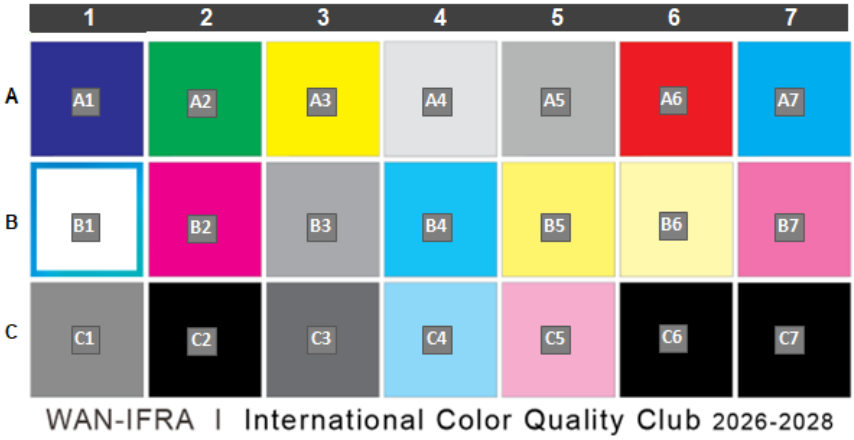
## 1.7 Club membership

- Achieved by titles with consistently high-quality printing meeting minimum points in instructions.
- New International Color Quality Club 2026-2028 members announced with final reports; honoured at IFRA World Publishing Expo ceremony.
- Each successful participation earns one "star"; 5+ stars over years enters "**Star Club**." Certification for Standardised Printing also adds stars.

## 1.8 The Cuboid definition

Actual Cuboid

Cuboid Patch Name Ref




← Picture 1.8

CMYK % - Patches

| A1 | A2 | A3 | A4 | A5 | A6 | A7 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 100% | 100% | 0% | 10% | 30% | 0% | 100% |
| 100% | 0% | 0% | 8% | 24% | 100% | 0% |
| 0% | 100% | 100% | 8% | 24% | 100% | 0% |
| 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |

| B1 | B2 | B3 | B4 | B5 | B6 | B7 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| NA | 0% | 0% | 70% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| NA | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 70% |
| NA | 0% | 0% | 0% | 70% | 40% | 0% |
| NA | 0% | 40% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |

| C1 | C2 | C3 | C4 | C5 | C6 | C7 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 50% | 0% | 0% | 40% | 0% | 52% | 44% |
| 42% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 40% | 44% | 38% |
| 42% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 44% | 38% |
| 0% | 100% | 70% | 0% | 0% | 100% | 100% |

- The size of the cuboid is 150.0 × 72.0 pt (52.9 × 25.4 mm). **Do not scale the cuboid while positioning in the publication.**
- The cuboid patches named as combo of Rows (A, B, &C) and Columns (1 to 7), so each patch represents unique name references that will be use across this document. The first row named as A1upto A7, second row starts at B1 up to B7 and last one from C1 up to C7 (Refer pic 1.8.
- Picture 1.8 also has the cuboid design and the CMYK % of each patch, the white space inside the borders of **patch B1** will be used to measure the LAB.
- The **patch C7 in the cuboid features 4-color black with 220**% TIC aligning with ISO 12647-3:2013 for **Category 1 of coldset printed in standard newsprint.**
- For **Categories 2, 3,4 and 5, cuboid with 240% TIC on patch C6** will be measured while calculations.
- Position the cuboid like a four-color ad on a publication page
- Use the cuboid in either horizontal or vertical format but avoid placing folds to prevent set-off/soiling impacts.
- Print publication-type content (text/editorial) on the reverse side of cuboid—no solid ads/images.

## 1.9 Evaluation criteria for International Color Quality Club 2026-2028

To be included in the International Color Quality Club 2026-2028, a minimum number of points must be reached within each test run and also each criterion (Sec 2.0 to 3.0) must meet the minimum points. Only if all the criteria in the following table have been met (**12 or 13 X YES**),then awarded as Color quality member

### Categories 1, 2 and 3

| Criterion | Max. points Test 1 | Max. points Test 2 | Max. points Test 3 | Max. points Test 4 | Max. points Test 5 | Max. points of all tests (A) | Min points needed for membership (B) | Actual points achieved (C) | Condition met on actual points achieved? successful? (C ≥ B) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2.1 Newsprint shade | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 150 | 100 | | Yes? |
| 2.2 Mid-tone spread | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 50 | 30 | | Yes? |
| 2.3.1 Dot gain 40% | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 50 | 30 | | Yes? |
| 2.3.2 Dot gain 70% | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 50 | 30 | | Yes? |
| 2.4 Gray balance | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 150 | 115 | | Yes? |
| 2.5 Color space in % | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 55 | 35 | | Yes? |
| 2.6 Color conformity Delta E | 49 | 49 | 49 | 49 | 49 | 245 | 180 | | Yes? |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| 3.0 General printing quality | – | – | – | – | – | 432 | 360 | | Yes? |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Maximum points | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 1182 | - | | - |
| Min points required for successful membership? | 120 | 120 | 120 | 120 | 120 | - | 880 | | - |
| >120 pts per day condition met? | Yes? | Yes? | Yes? | Yes? | Yes? | - | - | | 13 X "YES" |

### Categories 4 and 5

| Criterion | Max. points Test 1 | Max. points Test 2 | Max. points Test 3 | Max. points Test 4 | Max. points Test 5 | Max. points of all tests (A) | Min points needed for membership (B) | Actual points achieved (C) | Condition met on actual points achieved? successful? (C ≥ B) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2.1 Newsprint shade | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 150 | 100 | | Yes? |
| 2.2 Mid-tone spread | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 50 | 30 | | Yes? |
| 2.3.1 Dot gain 40% | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 50 | 30 | | Yes? |
| 2.3.2 Dot gain 70% | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 50 | 30 | | Yes? |
| 2.4 Gray balance | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 150 | 115 | | Yes? |
| 2.5 Color space in % | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | | NA |
| 2.6 Color conformity Delta E | 60 | 60 | 60 | 60 | 60 | 300 | 215 | | Yes? |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| 3.0 General printing quality | – | – | – | – | – | 432 | 360 | | Yes? |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Maximum points | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 1182 | - | | - |
| Min points required for successful membership? | 120 | 120 | 120 | 120 | 120 | - | 880 | | - |
| >120 pts per day condition met? | Yes? | Yes? | Yes? | Yes? | Yes? | - | - | | 12 X "YES" |

**A participant qualifies for membership only by meeting both horizontal and vertical conditions simultaneously:**

- **Horizontal Condition**: Achieve at least the Minimum Horizontal Points specified for each parameter (e.g., newsprint, mid-tone, dot gain) across all test days. Every parameter must show "Yes" horizontally.
- **Vertical Condition**: Earn a minimum of 120 points per month/contest with "Yes" status for each test day vertically. These points are independent of horizontal requirements—excess points from one criterion cannot compensate for shortfalls in another.
- Both horizontal and 120-point (vertical) thresholds are mandatory and evaluated separately.

**Total "Yes" Requirements:**

- **Categories 1, 2, & 3: 13 "Yes" across all parameters and test days**
- **Categories 4 & 5: 12 "Yes"**

## 1.10 Evaluation set up and process:

The objective evaluation is divided into the evaluation of the colorimetric data of the printed Cuboid and of the register measurement element. We measure all test copies under standardised conditions using a calibrated measuring instrument, so that the result can be assessed in a way that is as objective and comparative as possible. The evaluation of the Cuboid permits qualified statements in relation to the conformity of the criteria news-shade, mid-tone spread, dot gain at 40% and 70%, grey balance, color space, color conformity and color register precision.

Evaluation points are awarded in accordance with the degree to which the target values are satisfied. The closer the measured values are to the targets of the ISO and WAN-IFRA standards, the more points can be achieved. If the values are within the tolerance range, the points will be awarded in a linear fashion to the calculated deviations. No points are awarded if the tolerance values are exceeded.

The color and density measurement of the Cuboid is carried out with the aid of "Techkon" SpectroDens device. The color measurements are done in accordance with ISO 13655 with angle of observation 2°, light source D50, measuring geometry 45°/0° or 0°/45° and black backing. The density values are measured with status E, polarisation filter ON and relative to paper. Aperture size of the instrument is 3 mm. Dot gain is calculated by the Murray-Davies formula. We use the Techkon "RMS 910" to measure color register.

*"**Techkon SpectroDens** color measuring instrument (left)*

**General printing quality**: Three randomly issue days selected copies from the submitted sample copies. The first **12 four-color pages** of each newspaper copy are assessed. Refer section 3.0 for complete details

## 1.11 Inter-instrument agreement

In an international competition such as the ICQC, it is crucial to know how accurately the values measured by the WAN-IFRA spectrophotometer are and how instruments used by WAN-IFRA agree with those of the participants.

All participants will receive a sample Cuboid from WAN-IFRA and corresponding values measured from WAN-IFRA's spectrophotometer (Instrument, which will be used to evaluate the Cuboid during the contest period). Participants can compare the results of WAN-IFRA with their own measurement instruments. It's advisable to calibrate the instruments before beginning of the contest.

Participants who register the contest until **31st March 2026** will get the reference cuboid.

# 2. Evaluation and scoring system for different criteria

## 2.1 News-shade

Patch B1 will be measured for newsprint LAB.

Newsprint or paper shade (or color of the paper) is measured in accordance with light source D50, measuring geometry 45°/0° or 0°/45° and black backing.

Points are allocated based on the following criteria:

*For competition categories 1 and 2:*

| *Color values* | *Points per evaluation* |
|---|---|
| L* = 78 or more | 10 |
| L* = less than 78 | 0 |
| a* = between -2 and 2 | 10 |
| a* = less than -2 or more than 2 | 0 |
| b* = between -2 and 5 | 10 |
| b* = less than -2 or more than 5 | 0 |
| Total: | 30 |

*For competition category 3:*

| *Color values* | *Points per evaluation* |
|---|---|
| *L* = 83 or more* | *10* |
| *L* = less than 83* | *0* |
| *a* = between -2 and 0* | *10* |
| *a* = less than -2 or more than 0* | *0* |
| *b* = between -2 and 3* | *10* |
| *b* = less than -2 or more than 3* | *0* |
| *Total* | *30* |

*For competition categories 4 and 5 the following process applies:*

The reference is in each case the mean value of L*, a* and b* of all five test runs measured on the printed Cuboid. The color of the paper that is used should be within the tolerances listed in the table throughout the competition period. Delta L*, a* & b* represent the maximum permissible deviation from mean value.

| *Deviation from the mean value of the test runs* | *Points per evaluation* |
|---|---|
| *Delta L* less than or equal to 2* | *10* |
| *Delta L* more than 2* | *0* |
| *Delta a* less than or equal to 1* | *10* |
| *Delta a* more than 1* | *0* |
| *Delta b* less than or equal to 1* | *0* |
| *Delta b* more than 1* | *0* |
| *Total* | *30* |

## 2.2 Mid-tone spread.

The patches B3, B6, C4 and C5 of the Cuboid are used to measure the CMYK mid-tone spread. Difference in dot percentage between the color with highest dot gain and the color with lowest dot gain is called mid-tone spread. Points are awarded based on the deviation from the 6% production tolerance in the 40% measuring patch specified by the standard. It is not considered whether the dot gain is within the tolerances of the target Tone Value Increase (TVI) curve for all the categories.

*For categories 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5:*

| *Mid-tone spread* | *Points per evaluation* |
|---|---|
| *Less than or equal to 3%* | *10* |
| *Corresponds to 6%* | *2* |
| *Greater than 6%* | *0* |

Points are awarded in a linear process between 3% and 6%. The minimum no. of points is 2.

## 2.3 Dot gain

### 2.3.1 Dot gain at nominal 40%

The patches B3, B6, C4 and C5 of the Cuboid are used for measuring the CMYK dot gain in the 40% area. Each color is evaluated individually.

For category 1, 2 and 3, deviation from the reference value of 2% or less brings 2.5 points per color (4 x 2.5 = 10). In the case of a deviation between 2% to 5%, points are awarded in a linear process per color up to the minimum number of 1 point. With a deviation, more than 5% no points are awarded.

*For competition category 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5:*

| *Dot gain in the 40% patch per color (C, M, Y, K)* | *Points per evaluation* |
|---|---|
| *Deviation less than or equal to 2%* | *2.5* |
| *Deviation corresponds to 5%* | *1* |
| *Deviation greater than 5%* | *0* |

Points are awarded in a linear process between 2% and 5%. The minimum no. of point is 1.

*For competition category 1 the reference value is 26.2% dot gain in the 40% patch.*

*For competition categories 2 and 3 the reference value is 22% dot gain in the 40% patch.*

*For competition categories 4 and 5, the reference value is the average of the dot gain measurements in the 40% patch of all five test run measurements.*

### 2.3.2 Dot gain at nominal 70%

Patches B4, B5, B7 and C3 of the Cuboid are used for measuring the CMYK dot gain in the 70% range. Each color is evaluated individually.

For category 1, 2 and 3, a deviation from the reference value of 2% or less brings 2.5 points per color (4 x 2.5 = 10). In the case of a deviation between 2% and 5%, points are awarded in a linear process per color up to the minimum number of 1 point. With a deviation more than 5% no points are awarded.

*For competition category 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5:*

| *Dot gain in the 70% patch per color (C, M, Y, K)* | *Points per evaluation* |
|---|---|
| *Deviation less than or equal to 2%* | *2.5* |
| *Deviation corresponds to 5%* | *1* |
| *Deviation greater than 5%* | *0* |

Points are awarded in a linear process between 2% and 5%. The minimum no. of points is 1.

*For competition category 1 the reference value is 19.8% dot gain in the 70% patch.*

*For competition categories 2 and 3 the reference value is 17.6% dot gain in the 70% patch.*

*For competition categories 4 and 5 the reference value is as follows:*
*76% of the average gain from CMYK measurements in the 40% patch from all test runs.*

> *Example: The average dot gain from CMYK at nominal 40% is 25%. In such a case, the reference value for dot gain at nominal 70% is 19%, as 25 x 0.76 = 19*

## 2.4 Grey balance in print

The patches A4, A5, C1, B1 and C6 or C7 of the Cuboid are used for the measurement.

The reference grey (a* and b*) is calculated as follows: The lightest and darkest measured values (color of the paper, patch B1, and CMYK [4c black], patch C6 or C7 are connected via a straight line. This produces a reference grey axis in the color space that is used as an individual scale for the evaluation.

Based on the individually measured lightness value L* of light, medium and dark grey on the Cuboid concerned in each case, the color values a* and b* are mathematically calculated on the reference grey axis. These serve as targets for the measured a* and b* values of the grey patches A4, A5 and C1. We refer to the thus-calculated color difference as "Delta C* absolute".

For Category 1, patch C7 is measured for the L*a*b* values of 4-color-black. It corresponds to a TIC of 220%.

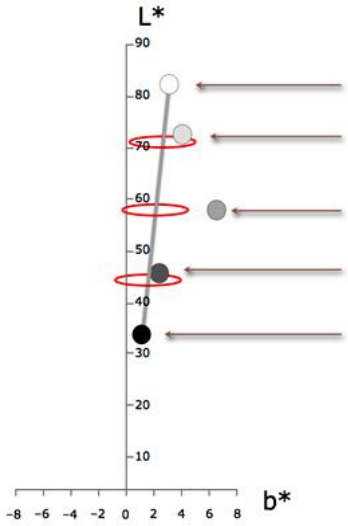
For category 2, 3, 4 and 5, patch C6 is measured for L*a*b* values of 4-Color black. It corresponds to a TIC of 240%.

Points are awarded based on the below table.

For competition categories 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5:

| *Deviation per grey patch* | *Points per Grey patch and evaluation* |
|---|---|
| *Less than or equal to 1.5 "Delta C* absolute"* | *10* |
| *Corresponds to 3 "Delta C* absolute"* | *2* |
| *Greater than 3 "Delta C* absolute"* | *0* |

Points are awarded in a linear process for deviation between 1.5 and 3 Delta C*.
Minimum no. of points is 2.




Paper

Light grey, here within the tolerance

Medium grey, here outside the tolerance

Dark grey, here within the tolerance

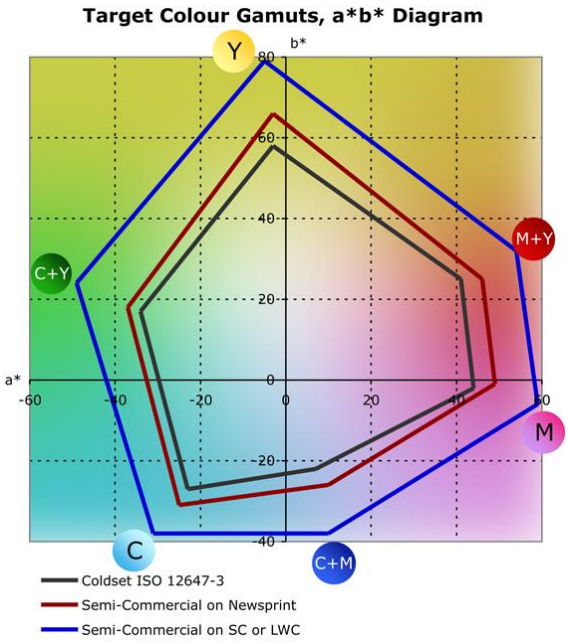
4-Color Black

The individual reference grey axis is the connection between the color of the paper and CMY K(4C black)

The grey axis is in most cases not parallel to the lightness axis L*, but instead at an angle to it because the typical yellow hue of newsprint is reduced in the shadows.

The printed CMY grey tones are compared to the reference grey axis. The deviation is referred to as "Delta C* absolute".

## 2.5 Color space




The L*a*b* values of the patches A6, A2, A1, A7, B2, A3, B1 and C6 or C7 of the Cuboid are used for the calculation. The size of the color space range, which results from the combination of the colors CMY and RGB as well as the paper white and 4C black, can be shown as a three-dimensional entity within the L*a*b* color space.

The a*/b* diagram shows the different target color spaces. The black color space corresponds to the standard cold-set newspaper offset process in accordance with ISO 12647-3:2013. With the aid of heat-set drying or UV curing it is possible to print a larger color space range (red) on the same paper. If in addition a higher-quality paper grade (SC or LWC) is used, this will further enlarge the color space (blue).

For category 1, patch C7 (TIC 220%) is measured for the L*a*b* values of 4-C Black

For category 2 and 3, patch C6 (TIC 240%) is measured for the L*a*b* values of 4-C Black.

For categories 4 and 5 this color space evaluation is not used.

The following color references apply for calculation of color space and color conformity (see section 2.6):

*Color reference values for competition **category 1***

| *Colors* | *L** | *a** | *b** |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Cyan* | *57* | *-23* | *-27* |
| *Magenta* | *54* | *44* | *-1* |
| *Yellow* | *78* | *-3* | *58* |
| *Black (K)* | *36* | *1* | *4* |
| *Green, Y + C* | *53* | *-34* | *17* |
| *Blue, C + M* | *41* | *7* | *-22* |
| *Red, M + Y* | *52* | *41* | *25* |
| *4c-Black, CMYK* | *34* | *1* | *2* |
| *White, news-shade* | *82* | *0* | *3* |

*Color reference values for competition **category 2***

| *Colors* | *L** | *a** | *b** |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Cyan* | *55* | *-25* | *-31* |
| *Magenta* | *51* | *49* | *-1* |
| *Yellow* | *78* | *-3* | *66* |
| *Black (K)* | *35* | *1* | *2* |
| *Green, Y + C* | *50* | *-37* | *18* |
| *Blue, C + M* | *35* | *10* | *-26* |
| *Red, M + Y* | *49* | *46* | *25* |
| *4c-Black, CMYK* | *30* | *1* | *2* |
| *White, news-shade* | *82* | *0* | *3* |

*Color reference values for competition **category 3***

| *Colors* | *L** | *a** | *b** |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Cyan* | *56* | *-31* | *-38* |
| *Magenta* | *50* | *59* | *-6* |
| *Yellow* | *83* | *-5* | *79* |
| *Black (K)* | *27* | *0* | *1* |
| *Green, Y + C* | *50* | *-49* | *24* |
| *Blue, C + M* | *33* | *10* | *-38* |
| *Red, M + Y* | *48* | *54* | *32* |
| *4c-Black, CMYK* | *26* | *0* | *1* |
| *White, news-shade* | *86* | *-1* | *2* |

For competition categories 1, 2 and 3, the following applies:

| *Measured color space* | *Points per evaluation* |
|---|---|
| *At least 90% of the reference color space* | *11* |
| *Corresponds to 75% of the reference color space* | *2* |
| *Less than 75% of the reference color space* | *0* |

If the color gamut is between 75% and 90% of the reference color gamut points will be deducted in the range from 11 to 2 points. If the color gamut is smaller than 75% no points will be applied.

In categories 4 and 5 the criteria and points of this section (2.5) are combined with those of section 2.6. You will find the detailed instructions in section 2.6.

## 2.6 Color conformity

***Calculation method for categories 1,2 and 3:***

See 2.5 (color space) for the target color values.

The L*a*b* values of the patches A6, A2, A1, A7, B2 and A3 of the Cuboid are used for calculation in all categories.

If the measured values of the primary and secondary colours lie within a defined color distance from the reference value (Delta $E_{LAB\ 76}$), 7 points per color are awarded. Therefore, a total of 49 points per evaluation can be achieved.

| *Color difference Delta E LAB 76* | | *Points per evaluation* |
|---|---|---|
| *Cyan* | *Less than or equal to 5* | *7* |
| | *Greater than 5* | *0* |
| *Magenta* | *Less than or equal to 5* | *7* |
| | *Greater than 5* | *0* |
| *Yellow* | *Less than or equal to 5* | *7* |
| | *Greater than 5* | *0* |
| *Black (K)* | *Less than or equal to 5* | *7* |
| | *Greater than 5* | *0* |
| *Red (M + Y)* | *Less than or equal to 8* | *7* |
| | *Greater than 8* | *0* |
| *Green (M + Y)* | *Less than or equal to 8* | *7* |
| | *Greater than 8* | *0* |
| *Blue (M + C)* | *Less than or equal to 8* | *7* |
| | *Greater than 8* | *0* |
| *Total* | | *49* |

If the measured color difference is greater than required, it is calculated in a second step whether the measured chroma ($C^*_{ab}$) is greater or smaller than the chroma of the reference color.

If the measured chroma is smaller than required, no points are awarded. If the measured chroma is greater than that of the reference color, a final check is carried out to establish whether the measured color lies within an acceptable color angle difference (Delta $h_{ab}$) from the target as well as whether the lightness is sufficiently close to that of the target color value (Delta L).

| *If color difference Delta E LAB 76 is exceeded, but the reference chroma achieved (in case of Black [K] unachieved), then:* | | *Point per evaluation* |
|---|---|---|
| *Cyan* | *Delta L less than 5* | *7* |
| | *Delta h less than 2.5* | |
| | *One of the requirements not satisfied* | *0* |
| *Magenta* | *Delta L less than 5* | *7* |
| | *Delta h less than 2.5* | |
| | *One of the requirements not satisfied* | *0* |
| *Yellow* | *Delta L less than 5* | *7* |
| | *Delta h less than 2.5* | |
| | *One of the requirements not satisfied* | *0* |
| *Black (K)* | *Delta L less than 5* | *7* |
| | *Delta h less than 2.5* | |
| | *One of the requirements not satisfied* | *0* |
| *Red (M + Y)* | *Delta L less than 8* | *7* |
| | *Delta h less than 5* | |
| | *One of the requirements not satisfied* | *0* |
| *Green (M + Y)* | *Delta L less than 8* | *7* |
| | *Delta h less than 5* | |
| | *One of the requirements not satisfied* | *0* |
| *Blue (M + C)* | *Delta L less than 8* | *7* |
| | *Delta h less than 5* | |
| | *One of the requirements not satisfied* | *0* |
| *Total* | | *49* |

***Calculation method for categories 4 and 5***

For Categories 4 and 5 the average of the L* a*b* color values of all five test runs constitutes the reference per color (C, M, Y, K, R, G, B). In this case, the color difference (Delta E $_{LAB\ 76}$) therefore represents the distance to the average of all five measurements.

The L*a*b* values of the patches A6, A2, A1, A7, B2 and A3 of the Cuboid are used for calculation in all categories.

Points are awarded in accordance with the following system:

| *Color difference Delta E LAB 76* | | *Points per evaluation* |
|---|---|---|
| *Cyan* | *Less than or equal to 2* | *8* |
| | *Greater than 2* | *0* |
| *Magenta* | *Less than or equal to 2* | *8* |
| | *Greater than 2* | *0* |
| *Yellow* | *Less than or equal to 2* | *8* |
| | *Greater than 2* | *0* |
| *Black (K)* | *Less than or equal to 2* | *8* |
| | *Greater than 2* | *0* |
| *Red (M + Y)* | *Less than or equal to 4* | *8* |
| | *Greater than 4* | *0* |
| *Green (M + Y)* | *Less than or equal to 4* | *8* |
| | *Greater than 4* | *0* |
| *Blue (M + C)* | *Less than or equal to 4* | *8* |
| | *Greater than 4* | *0* |
| *4c-Black, CMYK* | *Less than or equal to 4* | *4* |
| | *Greater than 4* | *0* |
| *Total* | | *60* |

## 3.0 General Print Quality (GPQ)

Each participating title will be evaluated as below,

- **Three random publication days** (out of 5) are evaluated for the **first 12 color pages** (excluding b/w) or spreads (magazines/tabloids)
- B/W pages excluded in evaluation.
- **Full-page innovations** (Full flaps, bookmarks, seamless spreads, UV/GNP covers) are evaluated
- **Half flaps** or smaller innovations are not considered for GPQ.
- Points start **at 432 points** (3 days × 12pgs X 12pts) and then deducted on defects, up to 12 defects (Table 3.0) max per page and each defect type is deducted only once in a page (e.g., multiple "plate edges" count as 1 deduction). So, the maximum possible loss will be 432 points (36 pages X 12 pts)
- Publication **must secure a total of 360 points least** to quality the color quality membership.

**Broadsheet publications:**
First 12 four-color pages of main product evaluated on each single day. A total 36 pages (3 editions × 12 pages) are evaluated.

**Magazines & Tabloids:**
First 24 pages (12 spreads – pair of two pages) of main product evaluated with 0.5 points per defect per page (1 per spread). A total 72 pages (3 editions days × 24 pages).

**Jury evaluates from expert viewpoint, decisions final.**

**Table 3.0**, GPQ Quality defects list

| Defect parameter (Each defect will deduct 1 point, Max pages - 12 color pages) | | | Max Deduction / page |
|---|---|---|---|
| Operation & Process defects | 1 | Ribbons overlap & Side **margin, Creasing** | 12 |
| | 2 | **Set-off**, Nipping & trolley marks | 12 |
| | 3 | **Show-through**/Print-through (by ink or paper) | 12 |
| | 4 | **Plate edge** marks | 12 |
| | 5 | **Toning** uneven (Over or under) & Scumming | 12 |
| | 6 | **Register** out (lateral/ circumference/ fan-outs) | 12 |
| | 7 | **Cut-off** register improper (Pins on image area) | 12 |
| | 8 | Hickeys/ Picking/ Piling (fluff) | 12 |
| | 9 | **Marks**: Roller mark/ Fingerprint mark/ abnormal stains | 12 |
| Image & Optimization faults | 10 | Contrast, Brightness & Color cast images/ Advt | 12 |
| | 11 | Highlights missing / Shadows closed images/ Advt | 12 |
| | 12 | Sharpness missing & low-resolution images/ Advt | 12 |

Despite every effort to ensure correct calculations, errors or faults cannot be excluded.

Please note the date of the instructions at the bottom of each page, as up to the start of the competition minor changes are possible. We remain at your disposal for

Yours sincerely,

**Prabhu Natrajan**
W A N – I F R A
Mob : +91.8792178292
E-Mail : prabhu.n@wan-ifra.org

**N.B.**

# 4. Contest procedure, workflow and annexures

## 4.1 *Shipment for **publications:***

**Address for EUROPEAN publications, ships to GERMANY**

**(Include both annexures. – 1 & 3 along)**

**Sarah Lesting**
**Director, WPF WAN-IFRA**
Pariser Strasse 1
60486 Frankfurt am Main
Germany
Email: sarah.lesting@wan-ifra.org
Tel: +49 151 29 49 6448

**Address for INDIAN / Non-INDIAN publications ships to CHENNAI**

**(Include both annexures. – 2 & 3 along)**

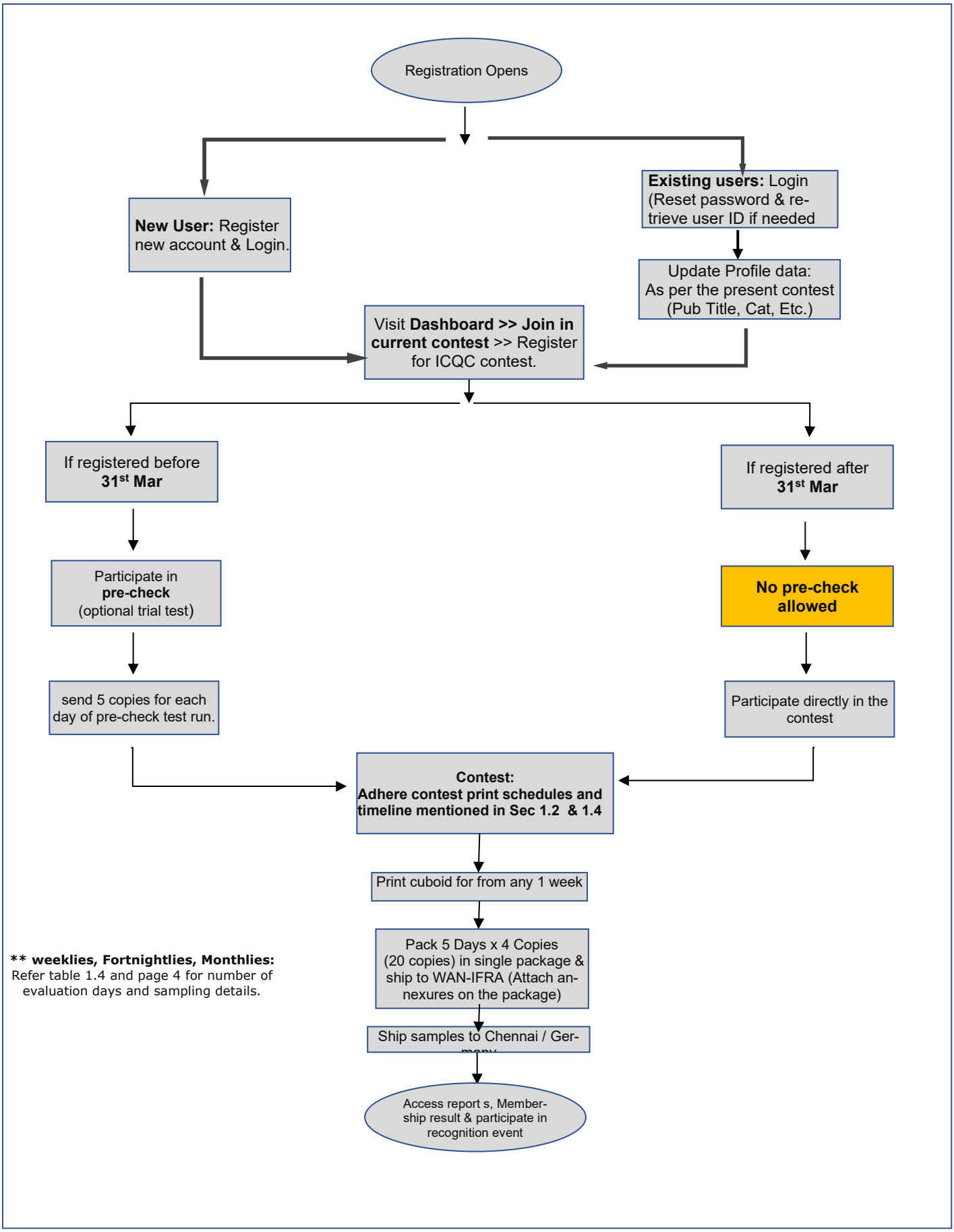
Prabhu Natrajan
WAN-IFRA South Asia Pvt Ltd
#54, 3rd floor, SIET Admin building (Bank of Baroda), KB Dasan Road, Teynampet
Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India,600018.

Mobile: +91.8792178292
Email : prabhu.n@wan-ifra.org

**Name / Person**: Prabhu Natrajan
**Company Name**: WAN-IFRA South Asia Pvt ltd.
**Door #:** #54, 3rd floor
**Building Name**: SIET Admin building (Bank of Baroda)
**Street Name / Area:** KB Dasan Road
**Area/Locality:** Teynampet
**City:** Chennai
**Postal /Zip code:** 600018
**State:** Tamil Nadu

**NOTE: Indian publications no need to attach annexure 2, but other countries must**

## 4.2 Contest procedure and Workflow




** **weeklies, Fortnightlies, Monthlies:** Refer table 1.4 and page 4 for number of evaluation days and sampling details.

## ANNEXTURE DETAILS FOR CUSTOMS & CONTEST HANDLING:

### ANNEXURE 1 (PAGE 26) :

To be attached (pasted outside package) by publications from **EUROPE who ships to GERMANY**

### ANNEXURE 2: (PAGE 28)

To be attached (pasted outside package) by publications from **ASIA, MIDDLE EAST & other NON-INDIAN publishers who ships to INDIA**

### ANNEXURE 3: (PAGE 29)

This must be submitted (kept inside) for each issue dates separately for all samples. This helps us managing the contest ease and error free.

## Which annextures you should attach?

| Publication Region | Ships to | Annex 1? | Annex 2? | Annex 3? |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Europe** | Germany (Frankfurt) | ✓ | | ✓ |
| **Asia, Middle East, other non-Indian publications** | India | | ✓ | ✓ |
| **India** | India | | | ✓ |

## Annex 1:

## Declaration letter for EUROPEAN Publications ships to GERMANY

(Next page)

**Declaration Letter**

Date: _____

To Whomsoever It May Concern:

In this package, contains copies of old Newspaper / magazine publications of _____ , issue dated _____. Worth of the material is only value ____ **Euro** and this **doesn't** attract any commercial value to the receiver**.** These samples are shipped to the following address **only for study and evaluation purposes**.

**Sarah Lesting**
**Director, WPF WAN-IFRA**
Pariser Strasse 1
60486 Frankfurt am Main
Germany
Email: sarah.lesting@wan-ifra.org
Tel: +49 151 29 49 6448

We kindly request clear the customs at the earliest.

Yours truly,

_____

Name / Signature of the person responsible

_____

Designation

_____

Company Seal

**Annex 2:**

## Declaration letter for Asia, Middle East & NON-INDIAN Publications ships to INDIA

**(Next Page)**

# Declaration letter for Customs

Date: _____

**Declaration**

To Whomsoever It May Concern:

In this package, contains copies of old Newspaper / magazine publications of _____ , issue dated _____. Worth of the material is only value ____ **Euro** and this **doesn't** attract any commercial value to the receiver**.** These samples are shipped to the following address **only for study and evaluation purposes**.

**WAN-IFRA South Asia Pvt Ltd**
#54, 3rd floor, SIET Admin building
KB Dasan Road, Teynampet
Chennai -600018, TN, India

Kind Attn: Prabhu Natrajan
Mobile: +91.8792178292
Email : prabhu.n@wan-ifra.org

We kindly request clear the customs at the earliest.

Yours truly,

_____

Name / Signature of the person responsible

_____

Designation

## Annex 3: Leaflet for Cuboid identification

Please insert the completed leaflet inside the package

| | |
|---|---|
| Competition month | |
| Publication title (registered) | |
| Technical category (Tick) | ☐ **Cat 1**<br>☐ **Cat 2**<br>☐ **Cat 3**<br>☐ **Cat 4**<br>☐ **Cat 5** |
| Company Name | |
| Printing site / City | |
| Country | |
| Cuboid printed on page No. | |