Direct Color Systems

DCS TechTips

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The Risks of Using Expired Ink

Quick Tips

- Keep a log for your ink. It's a good practice to know what ink is on hand and what has been loaded in case any problems occur.

- Use the FIFO *First-in-first-out.* inventory management method as you consume your ink inventory.

- DCS will never send inks that are within 6 months of the expiration date unless requested. It's best to keep maximum a 2 to 3 month inventory on hand.

- Follow the equipment maintenance schedule to keep up with filter change intervals.

Using Expired Inks Can Cause Printing Issues.

Expired inks can cause many issues with your printer. Many of these involve printheads and can lead to irreparable damage. Always check the *Use By* and *Expiration Dates* listed on the ink bottle. If you make this a regular part of your routine, you can avoid printhead damage and get the most out of your system.

See the examples shown below of how damage can manifest itself if expired or risky ink is installed. These problems can be avoided by using best practices listed in the Quick Tips section.

A VARIETY OF INK BOTTLES SHOWING THE LOCATIONS OF *EXPIRATION DATES* AND *USE BY* LABELS.

POSSIBLE DEFECTS FROM EXPIRED INK

OVERSPRAY

DAMAGED PRINTHEAD IN NEED OF REPLACEMENT

BANDING