

OFFICIAL BALLOT PAPER

Overview

The purpose of security paper is to validate authenticity. To be truly effective, security paper must contain features that are very difficult to replicate, and are easily identified and verified by the untrained inspector. With Hart's proprietary Official Ballot Paper, you get the assurance that ballots cannot be easily duplicated by unofficial sources.

Optimum Security

The true watermark in Hart's Official Ballot Paper is legible from both the front and the back. This watermark is produced during the paper manufacturing process, not merely printed on the paper. The image of a true watermark cannot be copied or scanned to duplicate the same effect. This inability to be copied or scanned provides a high level of security against ballot counterfeiting.

This paper was developed for optimum security and performance for users of Hart's Ballot Now paper ballot system and eScan digital, ballot-imaging precinct scanner.

100% Compatible

Extensive testing has been done to ensure the paper's compatibility with the Hart Voting System equipment as well as the printers and scanners that Hart recommends. The Official Ballot watermark is readable in any orientation, making it easy for your staff to identify, whether at the polling place or the central elections office.

Official Ballot Paper can exclusively be purchased from Hart. This ballot paper is available for sale to our Ballot Now and eScan customers, or to certified printers contracting with those customers.



Hart's Official Ballot Paper features an exclusive watermark that offers increased security for your elections.

Better Performance

The paper's toner adhesion feature (a mill treatment that allows optimum binding of toner and paper fibers) and other rigid manufacturing requirements improve its digital printing, mailing, and scanning performance. This capability allows jurisdictions to print their own ballots, or have them printed by a third-party vendor. Scanning is made easier as well, the printing on the ballot will not lose its sharpness due to repeated folding or other rough handling.

Specifications

Basis Weight: 28# Bond

Finish: Smooth Xerography

Grain: Short

Sheffield: 100-120

Brightness: 91-94

Content: Virgin wood fiber, no recycled content

Florescent Level: 4%

Moisture Content: 4.5%

Packaging: Moisture resistant ream wrap

Trim: +/- .025"

Squareness: +/- .0075"

Toner Adhesion: Mill treatment which allows optimum binding of toner and paper fibers

Standard Sizes (inches): 8.5 x 11, 8.5 x 14, 8.5 x 17, 11 x 17
Custom cuts are available for stubs, if needed.

Glossary of Terms

Grade Bond

Number 1 - Number one grade paper is produced with 100% cellulose fibers. The process of creating a number 1 grade bond paper removes all impurities from the fibers which can affect the appearance and performance of the paper. The smoother digital and bond grade papers provide the best image quality.

Basis Weight

28 # Bond - Paper weight is expressed in terms of basis weight, which is the weight of 500 sheets of a particular size. The 28 # is created with a thickness to allow enough flexibility without additional curl. The 28# bond, a lower basis weight paper, tends to have a smoother finish.

Finish

Smooth Xerography - The finish is the smoothness of the paper contour. Toner is fused to paper by a combination of heat and pressure. Lower smoothness levels prevent grainy images achieving acceptable toner adhesion.

Grain

Short - A paper's grain is the direction in which most of the fibers lie. If a sheet of paper is folded across both the long and short dimensions, the fold with the grain will be smooth. The fold against the grain will be cracked and rough. Ballot paper grain should be short so that folded ballots (usually across the short dimension) do not flake toner or paper particles at these rough spots.

Sheffield

100 - 120 - The smoothness of paper is determined by the Sheffield rating system. The smooth digital and bond grade papers provide the best image quality in digital printing applications.

Brightness

91 - 94 - Brightness is a measure of the amount of light in a specific wavelength that a sheet reflects. The more light it reflects, the higher the brightness. High brightness significantly improves image quality.

Content

The virgin wood fiber contains no recycled contents. This ensures impurities are removed from the paper which affect smoothness, moisture content and image quality.

Florescent level

4% - Florescent whitening agents improve paper quality by enhancing the visual appearance of the printed sheet. The whitening agents are essential in creating high quality white paper.

Moisture Content

4.5% - Almost all grade of paper has some percentage of moisture. The 4.5 % moisture content is the industry average while some grades of paper have much higher moisture content. Even a 1% variation of 4.5% can cause problems. The physical properties of the paper change as a result of variations in moisture content affecting its printability, performance and strength. Paper with high moisture contents tend to cause problems with post fuser curl, while papers with low moisture contents have a tendency to experience static causing problems with feeding and post print operations.

Packaging

The moisture resistant ream wrap ensures the proper moisture level of the paper is maintained.

Trim

+/- .025" - Allowable tolerance for trimming to specific sheet sizes.

Squareness

+/- .0075" - Allowable tolerance for squareness of the sheet. A simple example of squareness is folding a paper sheet in half and the corners line up exactly.