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TROUBLESHOOTING

PROBLEM: AFTER STRIKING THE IMPRESSION, THE PAPER FAILS TO RELEASE FROM THE PLATE AND PULLS BACK TOWARD THE FOUNTAIN

This problem generally appears when running larger plates with a lot of small copy, such as legal letterheads. Since large plates tend to spread the ram pressure, it is difficult to put enough pressure on the entire plate in order to adequately pull ink from every small line or dot on the plate, which causes breaks. Thus, there is a tendency to add more pressure in order to clear all the ink from the plate. By striking with so much overall pressure, however, the paper is stamped into the large area of engraving with such force that it does not easily release, hence it pulls back.

Remove pressure until the stamping is pulling most of the ink from the plate. Where there are areas that are consistently breaking, add patches to the counter to create localized pressure to clear those areas.

Pulling back can also be caused by plates that are engraved too deep. The solution to that is to check the depths with a micrometer and if this is the case, the plate should be re-cut.

Another cause for pulling back is when the ink is either over-thinned or the ink flow is barely adequate to fully ink the plate. Either of these tends to cause the ink to be slightly wiped out of the engraving and therefore it is not completely full of ink. This extra space allows the paper to be forced deeper into the engraving, which can then cause it not to easily release.

The ink may be too tacky, which can occur in some cases when ink has not been thinned or if tacking additives have been used. In this situation, sparingly cut the tack with water, but avoid excess in this direction as it can cause the over-thin problem described above.