

Book Cover Specifications

The cover file is submitted as one PDF encompassing the front and back covers and spine information.

For your reference in creating covers, the following guidelines are offered.

Sizing Specifications

The total number of pages of you interior pages affects the sizing of your cover. Before you create your cover, you must know the final page count of your interior pages.

- Covers print on 11" x 17" (27.94 cm x 43.18 cm) (also known as tabloid size) coverstock.
- The cover PDF consists of one landscape orientated 11" x 17" (27.94 cm x 43.18 cm) file which includes the back cover, spine and front cover.
- The cover image must be centred horizontally and vertically on the page.
- Do not include crop or registration marks.
- Do include a 0.25" (.635 cm) bleed area beyond the trim size on all four sides to allow for trimming. This ensures there are no unprinted white marks on the edges of your cover.
- All books are trimmed and bound individually and slight variations are not uncommon.
- Accordingly, it is prudent to ensure the edges of your cover design do not include text or necessary images.

Dimensions

Maximum cover dimensions are 10.75" x 16.75" (27.305 cm x 42.545 cm). This includes the front and back covers and the spine. Save Cover PDF as a landscape orientated 11" x 17" (27.94 cm x 43.18 cm) file.

Spine measurements and considerations

- The number of pages in the Book Interior determines the width of the spine.
- For books with fewer than 150 pages, do not place any text on the spine.
- Spine text should be oriented with text starting at the top of the book and the bottom of the text oriented towards the back cover.
- Ensure a minimum of 0.125" (.3175 cm) cushion on the top and bottom of spine text. E.g. On a 1" (2.54 cm) spine, the text should be no more than 0.75" (1.905 cm).
- General guidelines for spine widths, based upon printing the book interior on 24-lb. paper, are:
 - 60 pages: 0.125" (.36 cm)
 - 100 pages: 0.25" (.6 cm)
 - 200 Pages: 0.5" (1.2 cm)
 - 400 pages: 1" (2.4 cm)

Text and Design Considerations

- Ensure text and necessary graphic elements are at least 0.25" (.635 cm) within the trim margin..
- Do not include and bleed text or images.

- Extend background colour or graphic to the edge of the bleed area. [0.25” (.635 cm) beyond the trim margin.]
- As the cover wraps around the book block, avoid hard vertical lines separating the front and back covers and the spine.
- Ensure a minimum of 0.125” (.3175 cm) cushion on the top and bottom of spine text. E.g. On a 1” (2.54 cm) spine, the text should be no more than 0.75” (1.905 cm).
- Be consistent with fonts.
- Proofread your cover text.
- Use a minimum of 300dpi for all graphic elements. Higher resolution creates better results.

Photos and Illustrations

As with the text and interior photos and illustrations, you must be the copyright owner of any photos, illustrations used on the cover.

Photos and images should be 300dpi and in CMYK.

ISBN and Barcode

If you have an ISBN and Barcode, place it on the back cover.

Information on procuring an ISBN is available at Library and Archives Canada at <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/ciss-ssci/index-e.html>.

File Formats

Files can be created in any software program (Word, InDesign, Illustrator). However, all files must be converted to and submitted as PDFs. PDFs should be less than 25 MB and the Book Interior (book block) and the Cover should be separate PDFs.

Pricing information or general inquiries

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