PressCal – Offset Press Calibration Checklist
To be reviewed with management and production personnel

☐ Meet with management and production personnel to discuss the why and how of the calibration process

☐ Determine the calibration goal(s) (e.g. G7 certification, TVI, Optimal . . .)

☐ Choose an ICC profile as your color reference, typically the same profile used for proofs (e.g. GRACoL2013, FOGRA51)

☐ Download our example press forms http://optimalmethod.org/resources/Press_Forms.zip

    ☐ Choose the press form with the appropriate PressCal charts for your goal(s) and equipment

    ☐ Alternating stripes (50 K and 50 C 40 M 40 Y) give visual estimate of CMY color balance and provide ink load

    ☐ Add your own test images and important brand colors (images should be tagged with reference profile)

    ☐ No images should be placed in-line with the PressCal measurement charts

    ☐ Add standard company color bars

    ☐ Send a PDF of the completed test form to _____, for approval

☐ Determine digital front-end (DFE/RIP) _____ (load sample curves prior to calibration)

☐ Print a color managed Prepress Proof of the Press Form (matched to a reference CRPC)

☐ Verify Prepress Proof color aligns with the reference CRPC profile – use PressCal Grading and Curves Tools

☐ Make linear plates (no curves applied) – measure tone values on plates, if possible

☐ Choose test paper(s) - typically your regular house stock, and others (quantities for stable press-run)

☐ Mount the test plates and get the press ready (standard **C M Y** color rotation)

    ☐ Press mechanics (normal TVI, no slur or doubling on all units)

    ☐ Press blankets, dampening and inking systems in good condition

    ☐ Start with your regular house stock, use a coating if that is your normal practice

    ☐ Begin with standard densities (adjust color & register as a normal job – uniform densities across the press-sheet)

    ☐ Make colorimetric measures of chart, to determine overall **C M Y** ink balance

    ☐ Adjust solid ink densities using PressCal Ink Balance Tool, for balanced **R G B** overprints (likely several repetitions)

    ☐ Repeat with other paper stocks (coated first, then uncoated, which may have a different reference profile)

☐ Make colorimetric measures of test charts, to compare color difference with CRPC reference

☐ Calculate plate curves with PressCal to achieve stated goals (G7 certification, TVI, Optimal Match. . .)

☐ Load plate curves into DFE

☐ Output verification plates with plate curves applied

☐ Verification press run - operator makes normal press adjustments to verify a match to the stated goal

☐ The operator's skill is still required to produce a good overall result and match-to-proof for each job

☐ Run PressCal Grading Tool. Compare chart measures with reference goal aims (G7, TVI . . .)

☐ Recommend new solid ink density (SID) values as revised company standards for future new "makeready"