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Instructions

**PDF-X4
InDesign /
Illustrator®
instructions**

Why PDF-X4?

PDF/X-4 provides both the producers of printing artwork and printing shops with decisive advantages of which undoubtedly the most important is the support of native transparencies. The reduction in transparency, which is obligatory with PDF/X-1a and PDF/X-3, results repeatedly in problems, which cannot be corrected with even the very best workflow systems. However, as of now, levels in PDF/X can be employed and in addition new technologies such as JPEG2000 compression are permissible.

Since the first PDF/X standard was published by the ISO in 2001, both layout and graphics programs, and the prepress workflow system have been subject to further technical development.

Therefore, as a supplement to the existent PDF/X-1a and PDF/X-3 Standards, in 2008 the ISO published the PDF/X-4-Standard, which in 2010 was subsequently replaced by an upgraded version. There are already a number of standard programs (Adobe Creative Suite, Adobe Acrobat), which support this new PDF/X-4-Standard.

The two images below show the difference. In the PDF on the left, a separate image is generated wherever a transparency or a text frame occurs, whereas in the PDF-X4 version (right) this problem has been solved (native transparencies*). Accordingly, as at Ulikett all PDF files are read into and prepared for printing in ArtPro (a program that is used exclusively in label and packaging production), PDF-X4 constitutes a prerequisite for perfect further processing.

Standard PDF printing (incl. PDF-X3)

PDF-X4



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X-Press and PDF-X4

Owing to the fact that X-Press continues to be employed as the basis for the postscript code during PDF generation, PDF-X4 creation with native transparencies* as in InDesign and Illustrator is unfortunately not possible. Therefore, in the case of PDF files generated from X-Press, it is recommended that the pictures and logos also be provided.

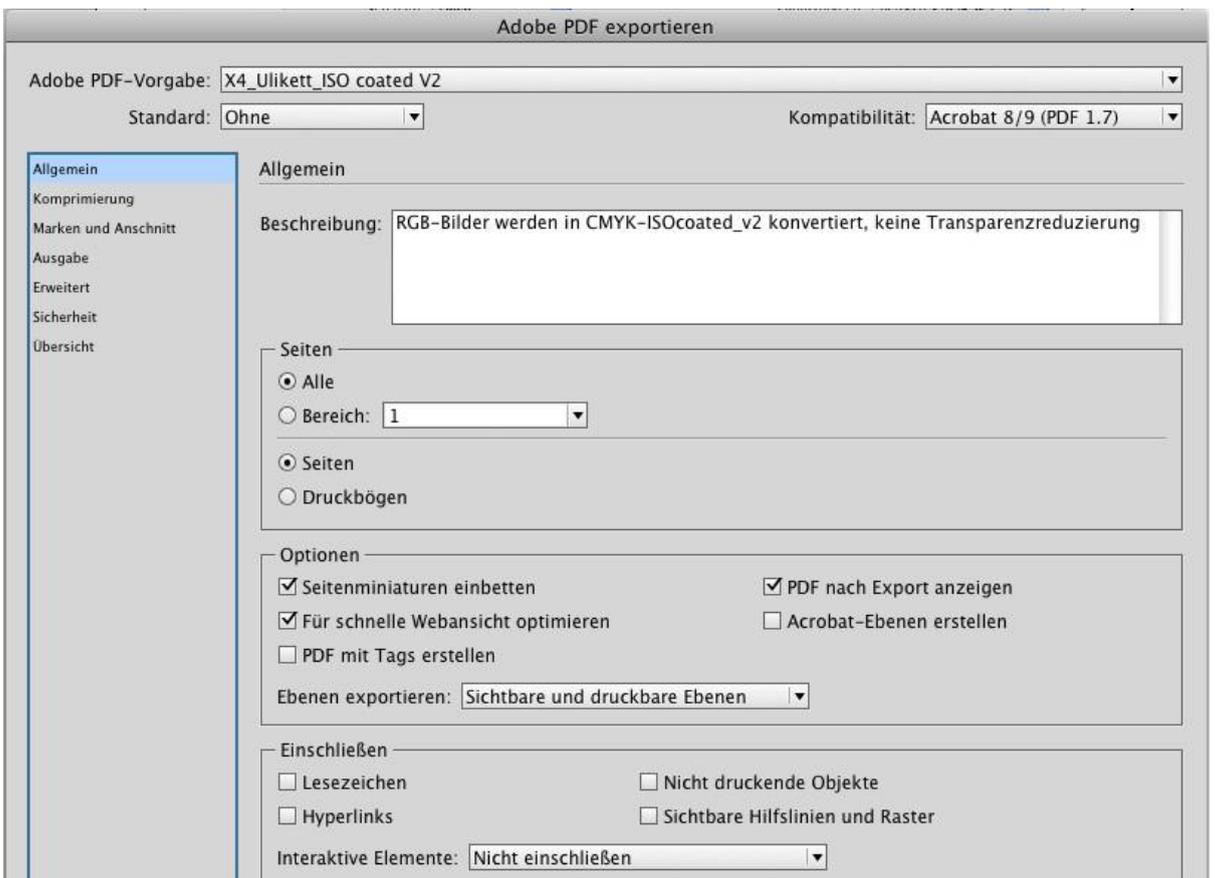
Below you will find those settings for the generation of PDF-X4, which we have found to be effective. May we add that as we work with ISO-Norm, we also recommend the use of the ISO Coated V2 Profile. A download is available at: http://www.eci.org/de/downloads - ECI_Offset_2009. If you are unsure as to which of these offset profiles you should employ, in cases of doubt the use of ISO Coated v2 300% (ECI) is to be recommended.

Adobe Distiller and PDF-X4

Like Adobe Postscript, Adobe Distiller is no longer being further developed and furthermore, as is the case with X-Press, it is not possible to generate PDF files with native transparencies.

* Native transparencies means that in a PDF document transparent image and text elements are stacked on top of one another on various levels.

PDF-X4 preparation for InDesign and Illustrator



The screenshot shows the 'Adobe PDF exportieren' dialog box. The 'Adobe PDF-Vorgabe' is set to 'X4_Ulikett_ISO coated V2'. The 'Standard' is 'Ohne' and 'Kompatibilität' is 'Acrobat 8/9 (PDF 1.7)'. The 'Allgemein' tab is selected in the left sidebar. The 'Beschreibung' field contains 'RGB-Bilder werden in CMYK-ISOcoated_v2 konvertiert, keine Transparenzreduzierung'. Under 'Seiten', 'Alle' is selected. Under 'Optionen', 'Seitenminiaturen einbetten', 'Für schnelle Webansicht optimieren', and 'PDF nach Export anzeigen' are checked. 'PDF mit Tags erstellen' and 'Acrobat-Ebenen erstellen' are unchecked. 'Ebenen exportieren' is set to 'Sichtbare und druckbare Ebenen'. Under 'Einschließen', 'Lesezeichen', 'Hyperlinks', 'Nicht druckende Objekte', and 'Sichtbare Hilfslinien und Raster' are unchecked. 'Interaktive Elemente' is set to 'Nicht einschließen'. A red number '1' is in the bottom left corner.

Adobe PDF exportieren

Adobe PDF-Vorgabe: X4_Ulikett_ISO coated V2

Standard: Ohne

Kompatibilität: Acrobat 8/9 (PDF 1.7)

Allgemein

Komprimierung

Marken und Anschnitt

Ausgabe

Erweitert

Sicherheit

Übersicht

Allgemein

Beschreibung: RGB-Bilder werden in CMYK-ISOcoated_v2 konvertiert, keine Transparenzreduzierung

Seiten

Alle

Bereich: 1

Seiten

Druckbögen

Optionen

Seitenminiaturen einbetten

Für schnelle Webansicht optimieren

PDF mit Tags erstellen

PDF nach Export anzeigen

Acrobat-Ebenen erstellen

Ebenen exportieren: Sichtbare und druckbare Ebenen

Einschließen

Lesezeichen

Hyperlinks

Nicht druckende Objekte

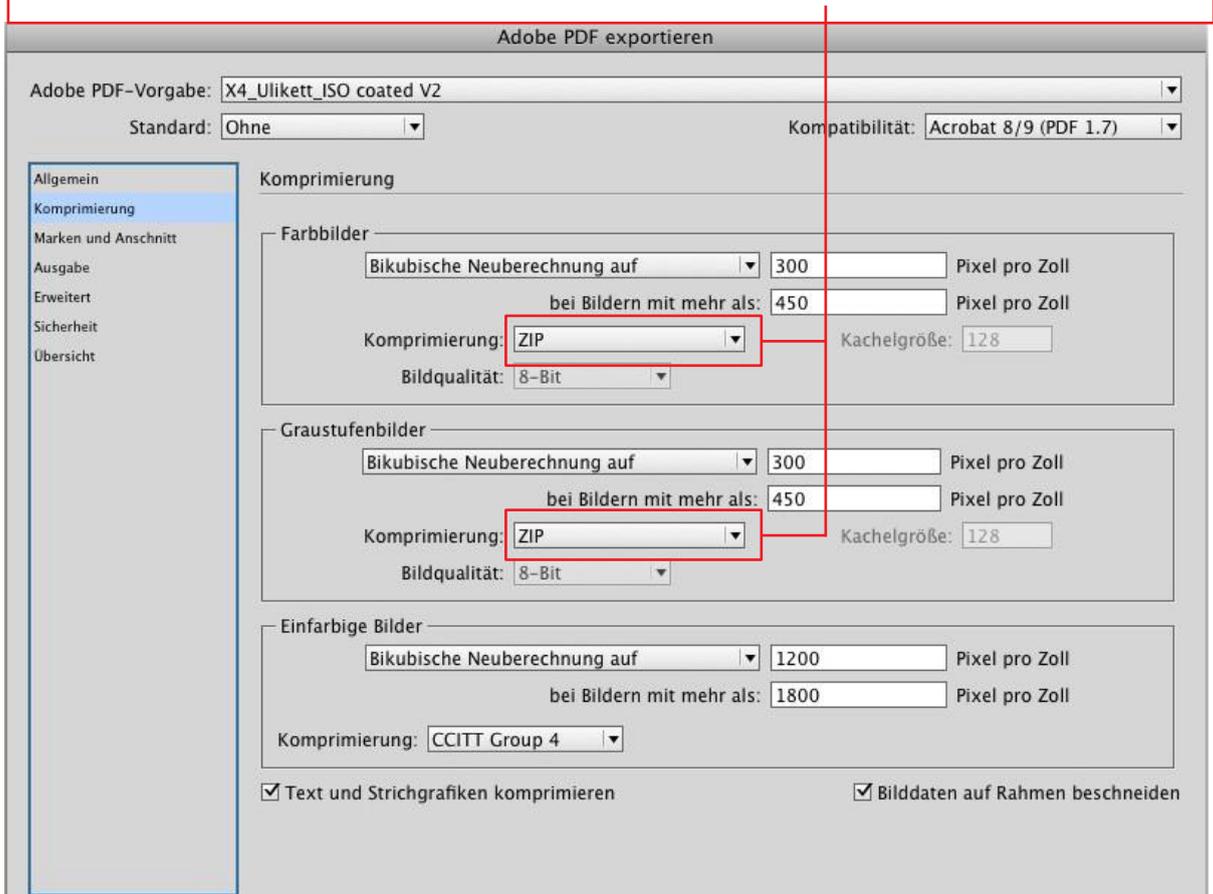
Sichtbare Hilfslinien und Raster

Interaktive Elemente: Nicht einschließen

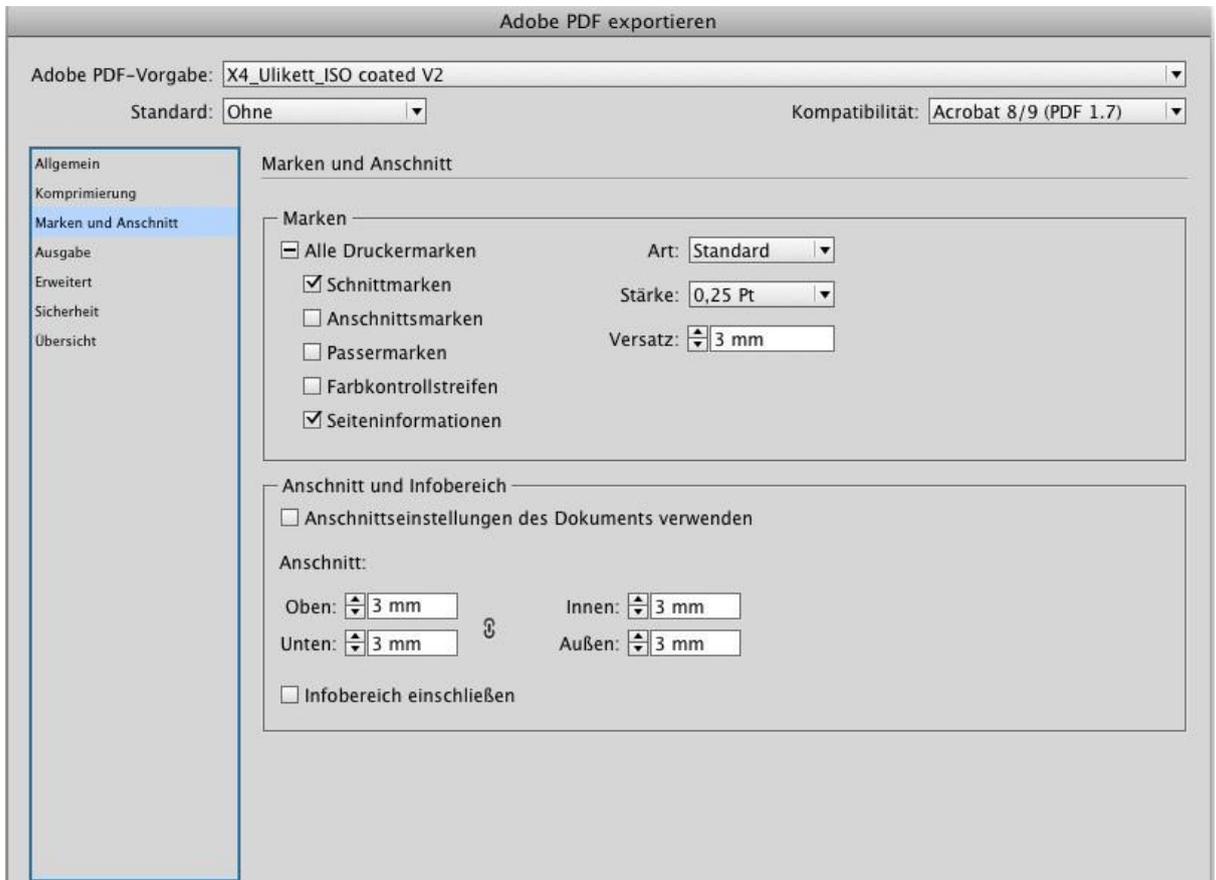
1

In order to obtain a smaller file size, JPEG compression can also be used (setting at maximum).

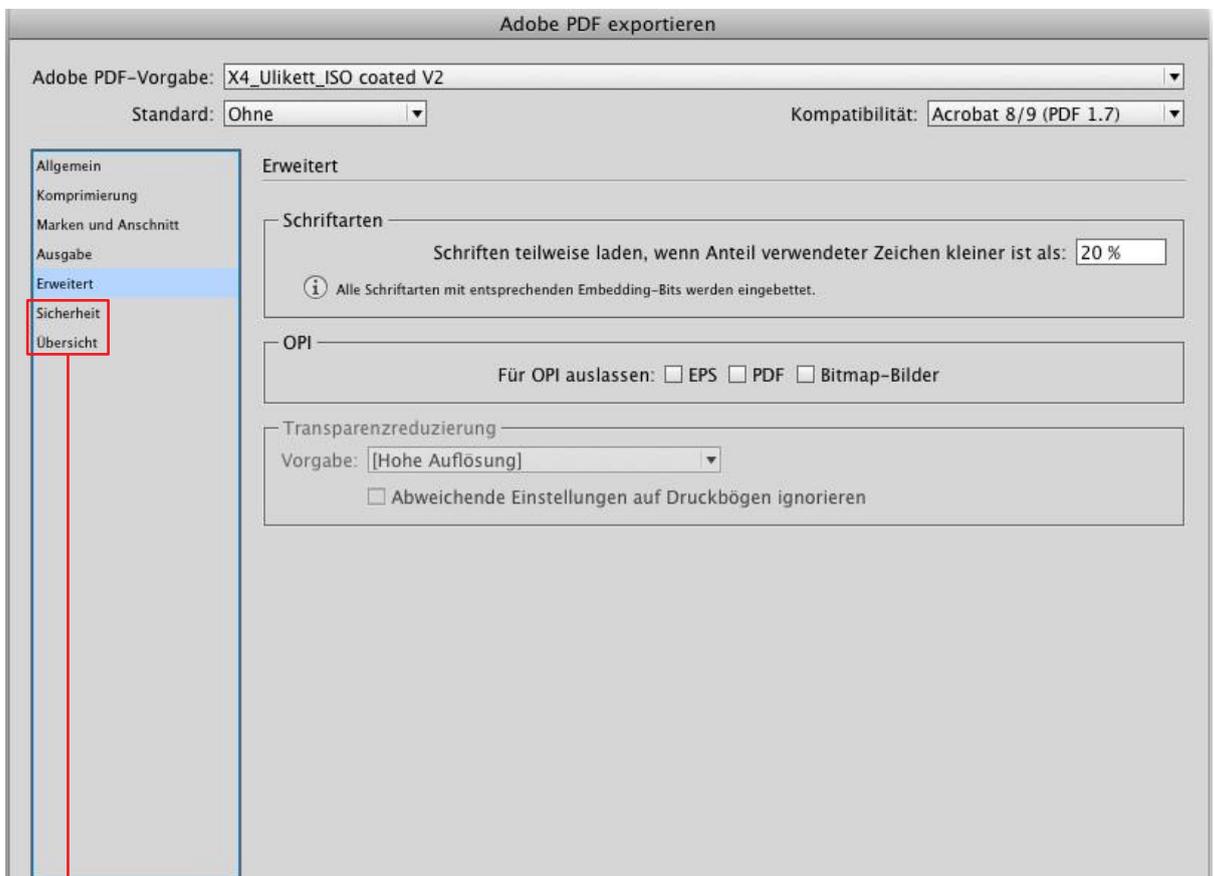
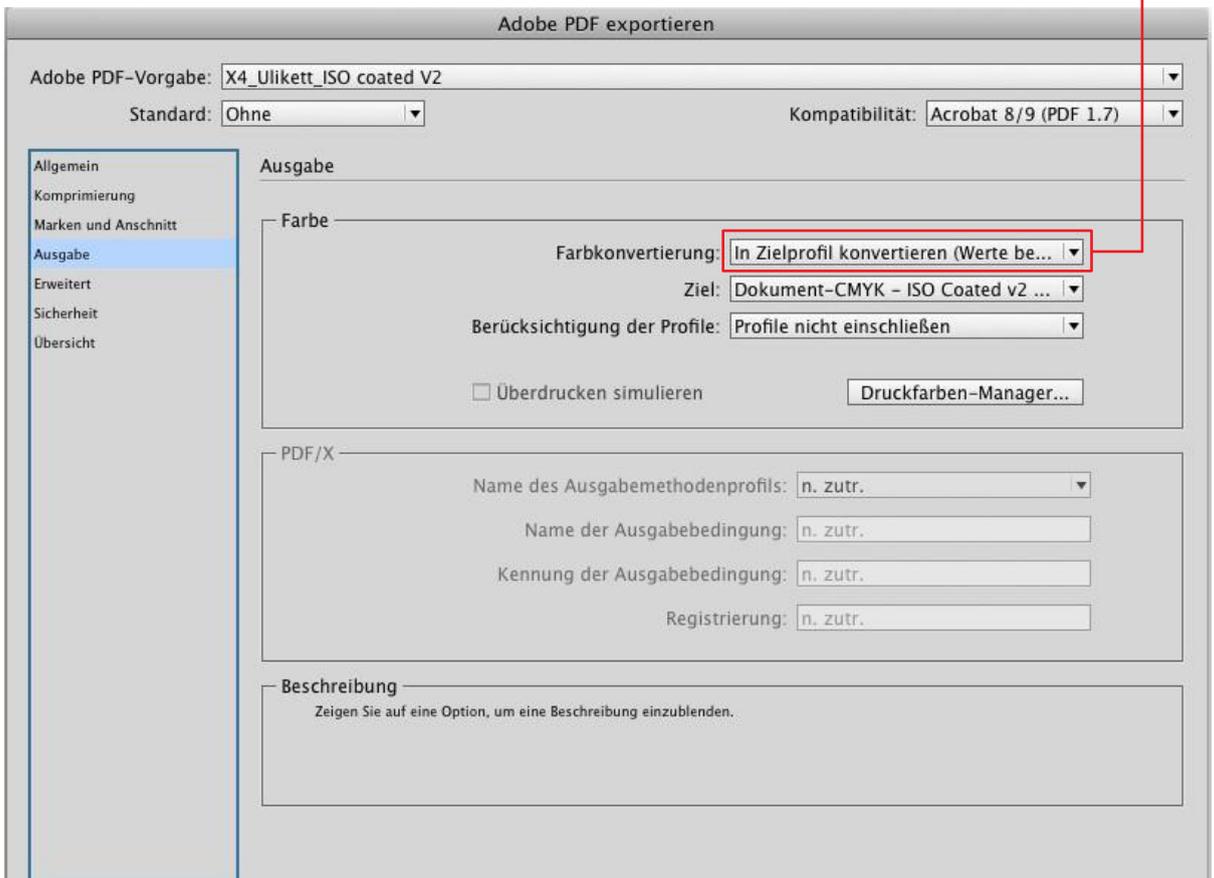
2



3



In this case always use colour conversion with “retain value” in order to avoid colour changes with regard to copy and all vector-based objects (logos, areas, contours, etc.)!



These two areas are of no relevance to the output.