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NCS Original Colour Sample Collections and colour samples developed and supplied by the Scandinavian Colour Institute (SCI)

Colour accuracy and consistency of the NCS Colour Samples

To secure the colour accuracy and consistency of the NCS colour samples the NCS Quality Management was developed together with a number of global leaders in the coatings industry. The nominal and reproduction tolerances are set to be the best in the world to secure the accurate colour communication globally in any industry. The NCS Quality Management has been adopted as National Standard in four countries and in a large number of industries.

To maintain a globally leading accuracy and consistency NCS colour samples are produced with the most stable pigments and opaque lacquers. In addition significant investments are made into further R&D and resources by the NCS Quality Centre each year. No material is 100 % stable, especially if the colour is exposed to frequent use, sunshine, extreme humidity or high temperature. SCI's own documented quality control shows that the quality of NCS colour samples, kept dark, in normal room temperature < 23 degrees Celsius and at normal humidity, will stay unchanged and consistent for many years.

Colour samples in three quality levels

Any colour differences is measured and comparison is made between the original deep frozen NCS Primary standard and its spectral curve is given in $\Delta E_{CMC(1:1)}$ units.

NCS Calibrated Matching Standard (CMS)

The CMS samples are calibrated at date of order and are guaranteed a maximum deviation of ΔE 0.5. The mean value of supplied standards during the last 10 years has reached a maximum deviation from the Primary Standard of ΔE 0.27.

Usage:

The CMS standards are supposed to be used where highest colour demands in accuracy and consistency is needed i.e. at laboratory, as measurement standards for formulation or quality control.



NCS Quality Level 1

The NCS 1950 Original Colour Sample Collections consist of 1 950 colours. The colours are supplied as A4, A6, or A9 samples or in collections with the same size, and are produced and controlled individually colour by colour in the start, middle and end of the production line. Colour tolerances are set very tight. In practice since 1995 94 % of the produced colours are within a tolerance of ΔE 0.6 and about 70 % less than ΔE 0.3. Our own archives do not show any significant changes for colours of more than 10 years. Based on SCI's records and 50 years experience the colour samples if handled properly will not be affected of ageing during five years from purchase (and probably not during the nearest ten years or more).

Usage:

The samples are used for colour design, communication and specification to ensure the customer, the manufacturer and the specifier to have “exactly” the same colour to avoid costly mistakes.

NCS Quality Level 2

These are NCS standardized design products such as colour fans, stripe cards etc where there are more than one colour on each leaf. The accuracy has during the last ten years been almost as good as for quality Level 1. However, these kinds of products are exposed to more heavy usage and are often damaged through that usage during a life time span of 3-5 years. However, kept under specifications as for quality Level 1 products, they will stay accurate and consistent.

Usage:

These products are the overview of the 1 950 colours and are handy to take away on the field.

Stockholm 2007
NCS Quality Centre