



Laminator Class The 5 Checkpoints

Overview

The purpose of the 5 Checkpoints are to eliminate any drift, wrinkling, or other problems with laminating that are a direct result of 'webbing' the laminator. These 5 Checkpoints are placed at specific points in the 'webbing' process where problems can arise. The 5 Checkpoints allow the operator to be aware of mistakes, correct problems, or start the 'webbing' process over, all before committing to laminating a job. The goal is spending extra time on the front end to avoid problems down the line, and to produce a higher percentage of successful laminated jobs.

Checkpoint 1

Separate the laminate from the release liner and tape the release liner to the take up reel. Be sure to use three (or more) overly large pieces of masking tape to ensure the release liner stays in place. The release liner should be tight and flat against the take up reel. The release liner on the take up reel should be in line with the roll of laminate. The exposed laminate should be draped smoothly over the rollers of the laminators with enough exposed laminate for later steps and the laminate separates from the release liner evenly.

Checkpoint 2

Adjust the laminator rollers to accept the thickness of the leader board. Force the leader board into the draped laminate and rollers evenly while "splitting the difference" of the laminate if the leader board is larger or smaller than the laminate. This action places initial tension on the laminate. The laminate should be smooth against the roll and enters into the laminator tight to the roll all the way in. Additionally, the steps in Checkpoint 1 should stay the same. If any of these steps have been compromised, start the appropriate checkpoint over.

Checkpoint 3

Run the laminator 2-3 inches, allowing the laminator to grab the leader board and pull it through the rollers. This action places set, mechanical tension on the laminate. The laminate should separate from the release liner evenly. The laminate is flat against the roll. There may be 'wobbles' in the exposed laminate making 'A's or 'V's. If this is the case, tension on the laminate roll needs to be adjusted.

Checkpoint 4

Run the laminator, leaving 4-5 inches of the leader board exposed. Any tension adjustments made in previous checkpoints can be seen in the laminate. At this point, the job (with leading edge) is attached to the leader board, centered and straight.

Checkpoint 5

Run the laminator past the edge of the leader board and onto the job, adjusting the roller pressure to the appropriate setting for laminating roll stock (vinyl, paper, etc.). Check that the laminate is still flat against the roll and all 'wobbles' have worked themselves out. Check for the job to be in line with the laminate to avoid drift and exposed laminate. If there is any uncertainty, remove the job and start the checkpoint process over.