

Videk IMB Verification System Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the IMB Verification System?

The IMB Verification System is a self-contained dedicated vision sensor that inspects the print quality of Postnet[®] and Intelligent Mail[®] Barcodes (IMB) immediately after the ink jet printing process. It is intended to serve as an “early warning system” to alert ink jet operators when the quality of their printing process has degraded to a degree that barcodes will not meet Postal standards.

2. What types of printers can it be used on?

The IMB Verification System is intended for use on any kind of ink jet printer. It can read codes on mail-pieces traveling up to 400 feet per minute (80 inches per second).

3. Why do I need an IMB Verification System?

- ✓ Have you ever been denied bulk-mailing discounts due to poor postal barcodes?
- ✓ Do your print heads ever clog?
- ✓ Are your documents ever streaky?
- ✓ Have you ever printed only to find the ink supply was empty?

The IMB Verification System examines the Postnet and IMB codes to assure the printing process has not failed.

Our research indicates that large mailers typically have 3 to 4 mailings rejected by the Postal Service each year, costing them roughly \$100K. Of the average 1%-2% spoilage in a mail shop, 80% is due to poor barcodes.

4. If I use the IMB Verification System, am I guaranteed to pass MERLIN?

Not necessarily. Although the IMB Verification System has not been endorsed by the US Postal Service, it has been shown to be effective in detecting those MERLIN errors which occur when ink jet quality problems arise.

5. Is the IMB Verification System used at the USPS?

The precursor to the IMB Verification System, the Verifier BX, is used nationwide by the USPS to read and monitor the ink jet print quality of UPU (4 State) codes applied to flats.

6. Why would my postal code be unrecognized?

According to the United States Post Office, this condition is present when neither the barcode analysis engine nor the barcode reader engine produces a favorable read. The possible causes for this error condition are:

- ✓ Erroneous check digit
- ✓ Incorrect barcode symbology
- ✓ More than 62 bars present
- ✓ Frame bars not present
- ✓ Improper bar height
- ✓ Improper barcode clearance zone
- ✓ Any barcode parameter that renders the barcode unrecognizable

7. Why would my Postnet be recognized but not analyzed?

According to the USPS, in this error condition, MERLIN's reader engine has detected a barcode but the print quality is poor enough that MERLIN's analysis engine is unable to perform measurements.



The sample barcode image above has a tilt problem. MERLIN's reader engine can detect and decode it, but the analysis engine will not be able to measure it. This condition would produce a "recognized but not analyzed" barcode error.

8. Is installation of the IMB Verification System time consuming?

No! Installation should take less than one hour if Videk's Mounting and Network Kits are purchased. Factory default settings can be changed in seconds using IMB Verification System application software.

9. What camera technology is the IMB Verification System based on?

The IMB Verification System uses line scan technology for high performance scanning.

10. Will the IMB Verification System print out a report?

The IMB Verification System records all detected Postnet and IMB quality errors into an "Error Log". The results of this log can be cut-and-pasted into other applications, such as Microsoft Word and Excel, to provide a printed report.

11. How will the IMB Verification System alert me that my postal codes are bad?

An indicator light and/or audible alarm turns on when bad codes are detected. The user also has the option to stop the ink jet printing process. The user decides how many "bad" codes in a row must be detected before either happens.