

# Total Area Coverage (TAC)/Ink Density

Total Area Coverage (TAC), or Ink Density is the total combined % value of the CMYK inks. This value should not be higher than 280% anywhere on the artwork. TAC over 280% can be an issue in raster images, text or vector art.

## Checking for High TAC

**InDesign:  
Separations  
Preview** with the Ink Limit set at 280%. Areas on the art that are above 280% will appear in red.



**Acrobat:  
Output Preview** with the TAC set at 280%. Areas on the art that are above 280% will appear in green.



## Raster Images

If an image has more than 280% Total Area Coverage, the TAC can be reduced by using **Gray Component Replacement** (or GCR) in **Photoshop**.

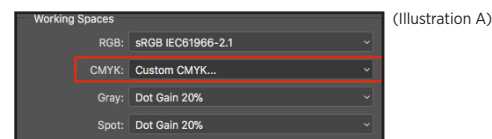
*Follow the steps below:*

### Step 1

Open the image in **Photoshop**, and **Convert the image to RGB** with Image menu>Mode.

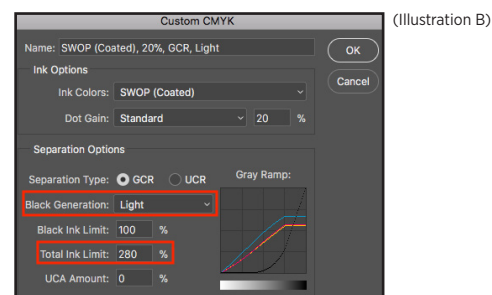
### Step 2

Go to **Edit>Color Settings**. Change the **Working Spaces>CMYK** drop-down menu to: **Custom CMYK** (Refer to Illustration A).



### Step 3

In the Custom CMYK window, change **Black Generation** to **Light** and change **Total Ink Limit** to **280%** (Refer to Illustration B).



### Step 4

Click **OK twice**, **Convert the image to CMYK**, then **SAVE** the file.

## Text or Vector Objects

If text or vector objects have more than 280% Total Area Coverage, the TAC can be reduced in **Illustrator or InDesign**.

*Follow the steps below:*

### Step 1

Open the image in **Illustrator or InDesign** and select the text or object.

### Step 2

Move the sliders in the color palette, for each color, to change the values so that the total equals 280% or less.

